

GRENOSIDE SWORD DANCE.

The present side has developed by gradual loss and replacement from a team formed just after World War II. A number of Grenoside and Ecclesfield lads who had learned the dance in the Rover Scouts, became the active side replacing an older team that had largely fallen apart. The post war team received instruction from two brothers, Colin and Harrington Houseley whose father had been an earlier dancer. The present captain Ted Frost, was one of the Rover Scouts who formed the side. He and three others are still in the side after 25 years whilst the remainder have served various terms from 20 years down to about 4 or 5 years.

The uniform has not been consistent. One team between the wars wore Officers Mess jackets in pink calico rather like the Handsworth jackets - lion tamer style. The present uniforms are tailor made from the pattern devised by loving housewives from Paisley pattern furniture fabric kept in the house for furniture repairs or making settee covers. Clogs being the normal footwear not only for working in the pits and quarries, but for ordinary outdoor wear too, it was natural that the dance should be structured to accomodate stepping. There used to be much more stepping in the dance, and there was also an item of entertainment that earlier teams offered called "Ring o' Roses" where each man in turn offered a clog step.

The instructions in Sharp's Sword Dance Book Part I are rather out of date in some minor respects but the main structure is unaltered. The characteristic steady tramp remains and the climax is achieved by the increasing tempo in the roll but older dancers watching the dance performed on Boxing Day can usually find something to grumble about in the way the "break" is performed or what is the correct foot to start on. In this side at least tradition is not static. Subtle changes occur almost without conscious effort. Other changes are deliberate when men feel there's an improvement to be made and it's rather the luck of the draw which changes stay and which changes are discarded.

		<u>The Dance.</u>
General Form	Part 1.	1. The Captains <u>Song</u> . 2. Ring, Lock and Clash.
	Part 2.	1. Over Your Neighbours Sword. 2. Single Sword Down. 3. Single Sword Up. 4. Double Swords Down. 5. Double Swords Up.
	Part 3.	1. Tantiro (pronounced <u>tantairo</u> ) 2. The Reel. 3. The Roll. 4. Jolly Lads.

1.1. The Captains Song.

O Ladies and gentlemen, I'll have you make room  
Contented awhile for to be  
It is I an myself that has brought us along  
And my trade you will quickly see.

4 3

Whilst in foreign parts we rambled  
All both proper stout and tall  
Though we passed through many dangers  
And at length I caught a fall.

5 Capt. 2

6 1

Wounded by a charming lady  
Her charms I almost dread  
To die for her I am quite ready  
And at length I conquered her.

Six stout lads have I abye me  
Both of honour and renown  
Festive time 'tis drawing nigher  
And since we've come in this town.

## Grenoside Sword Dance cont:

Since that we have all come hither  
 Fiddler draw thy strings advance  
 PLAY beside us HERE to guide us  
 And these lads will show 'em a dance.

(On PLAY, men take hold, hilt and point. On HERE, men step into circle, swords over right shoulder.)

(All men now silently say one.)

1.2. Ring, Lock and Clash.

Immediately after saying "one" all march round clockwise 3 steps to the bar, starting left foot and transferring swords from shoulder to shoulder on each mainbeat.

In your head say or sing the rhythm:-

1 di diddly diddly 2 di diddly diddly etc - - - (9/8 time)  
 5 di diddly diddly 6 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. (All turn inwards 6 steps and march counter clockwise)

1 di diddly diddly 2 di diddly diddly etc - - -  
 5 di diddly diddly 6 (Make lock R over left round captain's neck still tramping on the spot.)

Men tramp round clockwise round to places (no particular count) turn inwards and march back to places counter clockwise.

Meanwhile the captain displays the lock then kneels with it round his neck. All draw swords, the captain falls dead, No. 2 endeavouring to tip off his animal head. Men clash swords in pairs (1 & 6, 2 & 3, 4 & 5) marching clockwise to places, turn inwards and clash back to places. The musician judges when the men are all in places and the music stops abruptly.

Part 2. The tune changes immediately to the last two bars of the Broken Time Hornpipe (Roxburgh Castle or Wonder Hornpipe). The men come in with a shuffle or break and take hold of swords hilt and point.

Shuffle:- L, r. toe, r hl, r. toe; R, l. toe, l hl, l. toe; r. toe,

Stamp R.

2.1. Over Your Neighbours Sword.

Beginning with No. 1 each man in turn steps over the sword on his left from inside to outside (L. foot in front, R. foot over). This takes 12 beats, then all shuffle. This manoeuvre is done six times, each man in turn beginning the movement.

2.2. Single Sword Down.

The sword between 6 & 1 goes down. Opposite couple lead over and separate, followed by middles, but 1 & 6 retire backwards without going over. Take 12 beats then all shuffle. The manoeuvre is done 6 times, Nos. 1 & 2 lowering No. 1's sword next, etc.

2.3. Single Sword Up.

The sword between Nos. 6 & 1 goes up. The holders mark time for 4 beats then pass over the heads of the opposite couple and middles who then separate as in single sword down. No. 6 & 1 turn in towards each other lead back to places and turn under their sword. Take 12 beats and shuffle. The manoeuvre is done 6 times as before.

2.4. Double Swords Down.

Preparation must be made during the shuffle.

No. 1 prepares to go down, both hands together. No. 6 prepares by changing his grip to dagger grip. He approaches No. 2 who also approaches him. No. 6 places his handle by the tip of No. 1's sword held by No. 2. No. 6 goes over in two beats L. foot in front of the two swords R. foot over the the swords. Each man in turn goes over, No. 5 following No. 6 taking 10 beats.

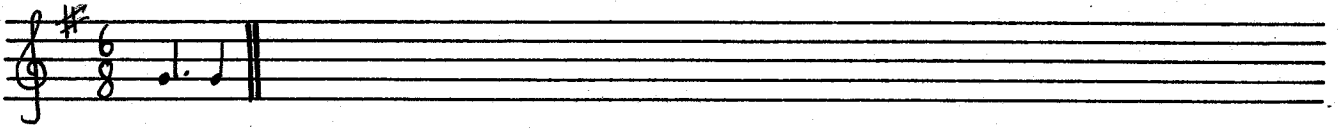


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WNF/SS/1982

VERSE 1.

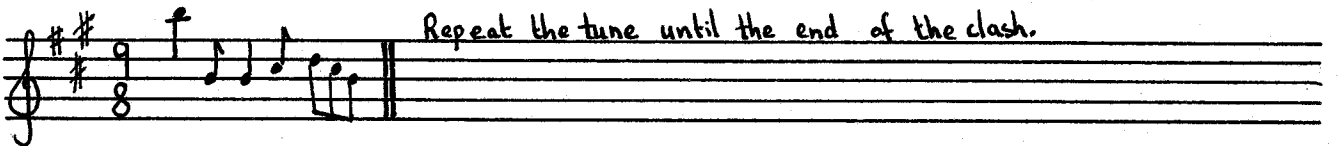
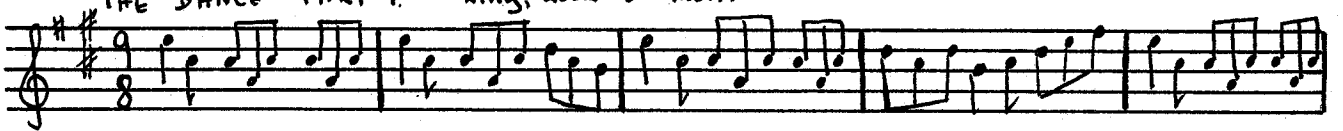
The Captain's Song.



VERSES 2, 3, 4 & 5



THE DANCE PART 1. Ring, Lock & Clash.



Introduction

PART 2.



Captain's Verse

PART 3.



TANTAIO (accomp. by Musician).



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THE REEL

THE ROLL -