

THE BEES OF MAGGIEKNOCKATER

(Scotland)

Maggielockater is a hamlet two miles from Craigellachie. There in a field beside the road is a large sign: "Maggielockater Apiary," hence the name of the dance. This jig for four cpls, devised by John Drewry, was presented by C. Stewart Smith at the 1975 Hidden Valley Folk Dance Teachers' Institute.

MUSIC: Original melody: "Forres Country Dance." Any 4 X 32 bar jig may be used such as: Talisman STAL 5007, Waverly SZLP 2122, Parlophone PCS 7060. 6/8 meter.

FORMATION: Four cpls in longways formation, ptrs facing each other. M have L shldr twd head of hall.

STEPS: Skip Change of Step: (one meas). Hop on L, lifting R leg fwd with toes pointed down, knee straight and turned out (ct 6 of preceding meas); step fwd on ball of R ft (ct 1); step on ball of L ft with L instep close to R heel and toes turned out (ct 3); step fwd on ball of R ft (ct 4). Next step begins on ct 6 with a hop on R and lifting L leg fwd. This is the basic step used throughout the dance and always starts by hopping on L ft and lifting R leg fwd.

Reel of Three: (8 meas). This is a figure of eight, traditionally danced by 3 people, consisting of 2 loops, one loop made CW and the other CCW. All 3 dancers go along the track of the figure of eight in the same direction. In this dance 2 people in promenade pos act as one dancer. The identity of this unit changes every 4 meas so that only the 2nd and 4th M and W actually dance the traditional Reel of Three. Two Reels of Three are danced consecutively (16 meas) along the sides of the dance (M line, W linw). Specific directions for passing are given in the body of the dance description.

Promenade Position: Dancers side by side facing in same direction. Hands are joined, R with R, L with L. R arms are above L arms.

Move Up: (2 meas). Described for M, W does counterpart.

Step diag fwd L on L (ct 1); step R across in front of L (ct 4); step diag bkwd L on L (ct 1); close R to L (ct 4).

STYLING: The body is erect by not stiff, chest high, arms held loosely at sides with thumbs fwd. W may hold skirts with thumb and first two fingers. All dancing is done on balls of the ft. Ptrs dance with each other, communicating by means of tension in the arms and by looking at one another. Throughout the dance M leads W in a polite and courteous manner, acknowledging her as a favorite ptr.

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

Chord M bow from waist, hands held at sides. W curtsy by rising on ball of R ft, simultaneously placing ball of L ft close to R heel with toes turned out and, keeping back straight, bend both knees slightly. Straighten knees and then lower heels to resume orig pos.

I. CAST AND STAR

1-4 1st cpl give R hands in passing, cross over to opp side, cast down into 2nd place. 2nd cpl Move Up on meas 3-4

5-8 1st and 3rd cpls take R hands across in a star and dance once around. On meas 8, 3rd W turn twd 1st M retaining hold of his R hand, then join L hands with him in promenade pos facing out twd W side of set. 1st W dance similarly with 3rd M so as to end facing out twd M side of set.

II. REELS OF THREE ON THE SIDES

9-12 1st M and 3rd W in promenade pos dance half a Reel of Three on W side with 4th and 2nd W; pass 4th by R shldr to begin. 1st W and 3rd M in promenade pos dance a similar half Reel of Three on M side with 2nd and 4th M; pass 2nd M by R to begin. On meas 12, active cpls (1st M, 3rd W; 3rd M, 1st W) meet in ctr of the set, drop hands and join hands with own ptr in promenade pos. 1st cpl face out

twd M side; 3rd cpl face out twd W side.

- 13-16 Continuing the Reels of Three on the sides, 1st cpl dance half a Reel of Three on M side with 2nd and 4th M, passing 2nd M (in 4th place) by the L shldr. 3rd cpl dance half a Reel of Three on W side with 4th and 2nd W, passing 4th W (in 1st place) by the L shldr. On meas 16, active cpls meet in ctr of set. 1st M and 3rd W join hands in promenade pos facing M side; 1st W and 3rd M join hands in promenade pos facing W side.
- 17-20 Continuing the Reels of Three on the sides, 1st M and 3rd W dance on M side passing 2nd M by the R; 1st W and 3rd M dance on W side passing 4th W by the R. On meas 20, active cpls (1st M, 3rd W; 3rd M, 1st W) join hands with own ptr in promenade pos. 1st cpl face out twd W side; 3rd cpl face out twd M side.
- 21-24 Continuing the Reels of Three on the sides, 1st cpl dance on W side passing 4th W by the L; 3rd cpl dance on M side passing 2nd M by the L. On meas 24, 1st and 3rd cpls meet in ctr of set; 1st cpl facing down, 3rd cpl facing up.

III. TURNS AND PROGRESSION

- 25-28 1st M turn 3rd W by the L hand 1 1/2 times to leave her in 2nd place; similarly 1st W turn 3rd M by the R hand. On meas 28, 1st cpl dance down crossing over (W in front of ptr) to face 4th cpl on own sides.
- 29-32 1st M turn 4th M by the R hand 1 1/2 times to leave him in 3rd place; similarly 1st W turn 4th W by the L hand. 1st cpl end in 4th place.
- Repeat entire dance 3 more times with a new top cpl each time.