

The Wind on Loch Fyne

(Scotland)

This Scottish Country Dance was devised by John Bowie Dickson, and is a 32-bar strathspey done in a triangular set of three couples. Loch Fyne is about 40 miles long and accordingly is the longest loch in Scotland that is connected to the ocean. It opens into the Firth of Clyde, and is about 47 miles west of Glasgow. "Fyne" is reported to mean wine or vine, but the loch is a very long way from any wine grape growing area. Speculation is that the reference to wine calls attention to the high regard folks have for the loch, or perhaps it is simply descriptive of its long winding course.

We learned this dance from Bruce Herbold who taught it on January 26, 2014 at a Berkeley Folk Dancers' retreat held at Monte Toyon, Aptos, California.

Music: 4/4 meter The tune is "Scotch Mist." Herbold recommends music by the Lothian Scottish Dance Band on an LP called *Second Celebration*, and a CD by Sandy Nixon and his Scottish Dance Band labeled *The Luckenbooth Brooch*.

Formation: Three cpls are arranged as the sides of an equilateral triangle. Cpl no.1 has backs to the music; Cpl 2 is to their left, and Cpl 3 is to their right. The size of the triangle must be sufficiently large that dancers can readily pass between partners.

Steps: The basic strathspey step is done throughout except for bars 25-26 where a strathspey setting step is done, first to the right and then left, with partners holding inside hands.

Measures	4/4 meter	Pattern
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INTRODUCTION. 1 chord

1-8 Cpl 1 dances figures of 8 around the other two cpls. M1 leads W1 across in front, taking her L hand in his L (or R). W1 then dances between M2 and W2 and proceeds in large loop around M2, goes back between M2 and W2 and loops around M2 passing L shldr to return to top of set. At the same time, M1 dances mirror-image starting between M3 and W3. Active cpl can momentarily join inside hands as they meet at the bottom of the set (bar 4). On bar 8, cpl 1 takes R hands and turns half around to face ptr, M facing CCW; cpls 2 and 3 also turn to face.

9-16 All dance circular and interlocking reels of four, passing R shoulder with their ptr to begin. Then pass the next person by the left shoulder, and dance around the third person to begin to head back to starting pos. Everyone acknowledges ptr (bar 12) when they curve around to head back twd original positions. On bar 16 give R hand to ptr and turn half around so M move from outside into the ctr of the set; W move from inside to outside.

17-18 M take L hands across and dance 2 bars circling CCW to end two places ahead (for example, M1 would end approximately in cpl 2's starting position). W dance CW on outside of circle to meet ptr (for example W1 would travel from cpl 1 starting place to cpl 2 starting place).

Errata: Should be "W2"

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- 19-20 All turn ptr once around by the R hand.
- 21-24 Repeat bars 17-20, to finish one place to the R of original positions (for example cpl 1 would end in cpl 3 starting place).
- 25-26 Joining inside hands with ptr, each cpl dances strathspey setting steps in a straight line.
- 27-28 All join hands in circle and dance 2 bars to the L (CW).
- 29-30 Continuing CW progression, turn ptr once around giving both hands.
- 31-32 Repeat bars 27-28, ending in new starting positions.

Dance repeats twice more. At the end of the first time through, cpl 1 will end up in cpl 3 pos and the original cpl 2 will be in the head position. Thus, each time through the dance each cpl rotates one position CCW.
