

## Turn of the Tide

(England)

Turn of the Tide was written by Ron Coxall in 1999 to the tune Moonlight Moorings, written by Heather Bexon in 1998. Heather composed the tune after watching moored boats gently moving to waves in the harbor. This dance was presented by Bruce Hamilton at the 2022 Stockton Folk Dance Camp held at University of the Pacific.

Music: 3/4 meter CD: *Bare Necessities, A New English Ball*

Video: Do an internet search using the keywords “Turn of the Tide English dance.”

Formation: Duple minor longways set, 1s improper.

Dancers begin in long lines, M with L shoulder to the front of the hall, W facing the M. Dancers join hands in 2-couple (4 dancers) groups, starting from the top. This numbers the couples 1, 2, 1, 2, etc., away from the front of the hall. The man and woman in each couple numbered “1” change sides to begin. See Fig. 1

Steps & Styling: Smooth, lilting. Each measure is one waltz step, walking one step per beat of the music. When they are joined, hands are at about chest height. There is a very slight emphasis or “pulse” at the beginning of each two-bar phrase, and a very slight de-emphasis on the final beat, in keeping with its representation of boats swaying back and forth with the waves.



Fig. 1

Meas	3/4 meter	PATTERN
2 notes		INTRODUCTION. No action. Prepare to move.
	I.	FIGURE I. CIRCLES, LEAD DOWN, CAST UP.
1-2		In groups of four, join hands, and use two waltz steps to circle L half way around.
3-4		Join hands only with ptr. Use two waltz steps to circle L half way around. The two couples have switched places.
5-8		The new top couple joins inside hands and uses four waltz steps to dance down the middle of the set, and then moves to the outside and up toward the top of the set (cast up).
9-16		Repeat meas 1-8, with the original first couple dancing down between the other couple.
	II.	FIGURE II. DOWN THE CENTER AND BACK.
1-4		Top couple joins near hands and uses four waltz steps to dance down the center of the set, between the other couples.
5-8		Same couple makes a half-turn twd each other and joins new inside hands, then uses four waltz steps to continue down the center of the set, backing up.
9-16		Same couple repeats meas 1-8, moving up through the center of the set to beginning position.
	III.	FIGURE III. TURNING POUSETTE.
1-2		Each couple joins hands across the set. M dances two waltz steps fwd; W dances two waltz steps bkwd.
3		Each couple uses one waltz step to rotate in place ¼ CW so each is facing up or down the set.
4		Repeat meas 3, rotating ¼ CW again so each is facing across the set.
5-6		M dances 2 waltz steps bkwd; W dances two waltz step fwd.
7-8		Each couple uses two waltz steps to circle L half way around. Having progressed one position up or down the set, each couples faces a new couple and forms a circle with them.