

"The Glasgow Highlanders":

How should the dancing couples finish the last turn of the dance? Should everybody progress down/up the sides as though ready to start another turn of the dance, or should the dancing couples finish with the men on the men's side and the women on the women's side?

Answer

Glasgow Highlanders ends exactly as most 8x dances do, i.e. the finishing order is actually 1, 2, 4, 3, with everyone on their own side.

Only the 2nd and 4th couples contest the last 32 bars. 1C are already back home, own side, at the top, after 7 repetitions, 1W curving left into top place, own side, on the last two bars, 1M pulling L shoulder sharply back after passing 4M L shoulder for the 2nd time, at the end of bar 22. 3C, likewise, are already finished, in fourth place, own side.

At the end of bar 24, 2C and 4C are in a line across the centre of the set, facing partners, men back to back, 2C occupying the "women's side" end of the line, 4C, the "men's". After a 6 bar reel of 4, 2W curves left up to 2W's place, 4W curves left across the dance to 3W's place, 4M follows her to 3M's place, and 2M pulls his LS sharply back immediately after passing 4M LS for the second time, and curves left about into 2M's place.

The key to everything is that it MUST be a six bar reel of four every time. For the men that is out (1 bar), right about (1 bar), in and pass other man L Shoulder (1 bar), out (1 bar), right about (1 bar), in and pass other man L Shoulder (1 Bar). Nothing less will do. Unfortunately, a six bar reel of four is very rare, and most are taken by surprise by the speed necessary. Particularly the "Working Up" woman !! For her, it does not have to be a six bar reel. A standard 8 bar reel will suffice for her, as she is more or less in the right place after 24 bars. A majority of "Working Up" women thus tend to dance a standard 8 bar reel of four, oblivious of the pile up behind them as everyone else scrambles desperately to cover far more ground.