

## THE TWO ROSES

A 32 bar Strathspey for 4 couples in a longwise set.

**1-4** 1C with 2C, 3C with 4C set and link.

**5-8** 1C with 2C, 3C with 4C dance 4 hands round finishing with 1C facing 2C and 3C facing 4C on the sides.

**9-16** The 4 men and the 4 ladies dance a “Half Turn and Cast Reel”. To wit (described for the men from the current positions, name 2M facing 1M, 4M facing 3M in order from the top, the ladies similarly):

**1-2** 2M half turn 3M with two hands and face each other on the sidelines, while 1M dances to 1M position looping (and passing 2M) right (1M is dancing the track he would follow in bars 1-2 of a normal reel of 4), while 4M loops by the right to 4M position again as in a a reel of 4. 2M and 3M should approach each other in a *round* fashion, like the petals of a rose.

**3-4** 2M pulls back RS and casts into 4M place, 3M pulls back RS and casts into 1M place, while 1M and 4M two hand half turn and face each other on the sidelines.

**5-8** Repeat 1-4 from new positions to finish in original positions with 1M facing 4M.

**17-24** 1C and 4C dance an Espagnole The 1W and 4W should begin this with 1W crossing 4W in front, 1W using RL and 4W RH, so that they flow from 7-8 into the figure, and don’t need to change hands.

**25-32** 1C with 3C; 2C with 4C dance the all round poussette.

Finishing order 2,4,1,3. Repeat from new positions.

**Notes.** Devise 16/1/2023. The half turn and cast reels resemble the rose progression, and here the idea is that these celebrate the two roses, Lancaster and York, to form the Tudor rose, which is represented by the Espagnol. The tune “The Banks of Spey” as recorded by Muriel Johnston and Keith Smith as track 12 of Campbell’s Birl works quite well for the dance.

## A TANGLED TALE

A 32 bar Strathspey for 4 couples in a 4C longwise set.

**1-8** 1C with 2C and 3C with 4C dance the knot, finish with 2C facing 1C and 3C facing 4C on the sidelines.

**9-16** All dance 8 bars of *Axum Reel*. To wit (described as an 8 bar phrase which is here described as if the set was in normal starting position: 1,2,3,4 on own sides) every dancer each two bars dances to the next position along a track 1M, 2W, 1W, 3W, 4W, 3M, 4M, 2M, 1M. All pass left shoulder each time.

**1-2** 2M dances up to 1M place, passing 1M left shoulder as he dances to 2L place and faces up; 2L dances up to 1L place passing 1L left shoulder, 1L dances down to 3L place in front of 1M and faces down. The other end is diagonally symmetric: 3L dances down to 4L place and faces up passing 4L by left shoulder, 4L dances across to 3M place and faces down. 3M dances down to 4M place passing 4M left shoulder and in front of 4L. 4M dances up to 2M place and faces up.

**3-4** Repeat from new positions.

**5-8** Repeat from new positions. (At the end of this, 1M will be in 4L place, for example.)

For the current dance, the finishing order will be 3,4,1,2 with everyone on opposite sides.

**17-18** All take hands on the side and set.

**19-22** All turn partner with two hands  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times to finish on own sides.

**23-24** All take hands on the side and set.

**25-32** 1C and 2C change places with the figure *Untie the Knot*. To wit:

**25-26** 1M and 2M dance across the set to turn partners into allemande hold; their partners take a small step forward and slightly down as the take right hands with their partners to begin the turn. Both couples finish on the sidelines facing down.