

**27-28** 2C followed by 1C dance down and round to the right and up the middle to face up, 2C in third place and 1C in fourth place.

**29** Both men bring their partners round under their right arm, so that they face each other, with back to their own sides.

**30-32** Both couples drop hands, and pull back bottom shoulder (left to the women and right for the men) to curve down and and then casting back to their own sidelines.

Finishing order 3, 4, 2, 1.

**Notes** Devised 11/6/2024. I liked the idea of having a knot and an untie the knot in the same dance, as well as having a “knotty” central figure, the seldom done Axum Reel (from Book 18). The first version had 16 bars of Axum Reel but that did not appeal to me aesthetically. The “Untie The Knot” figure is by Tom Kerr (author of *Cape Town Wedding*), and I recall long ago doing it the first time it was danced in a demonstration organized by Tom for a Ceilidh at TAC summer school in Waterloo in 2005. (When we did this Tom had us give a little sigh at the end of bar 29, as it was a dance (“*Fare The Well*”) describing the events of his divorce. You can do this if you like and think of Tom.) Recommended tune is “*McGinty’s Meal and Ale*” (Willie Kemp) and the recording of “*Butterscotch and Honey*” by Colin Dewar is excellent. Otherwise a traditional-style Strathspey with strong 2 bar phrases.

## AXUM CHALLENGE

A 32 bar Jig in a longwise set for 4 couples

**1-8** All dance an Axum Reel. To wit 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.)

At the end, the order will be 4,3,2,1 all on opposite sides.

**9-12** 4C with 3C set and link, finishing with 3C facing 4C with nearer hands joined, 3C and 4C in the middle of the set; and similarly 1C and 2C. So 3C and 1C will be facing down.

**13-16** All set and link across the set, finishing on own sides in the order 3,4,1,2.

**17-24** All dance a *right shoulder* Axum Reel from the present positions.

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 1W, 2M, 1M, 3M, 4M, 3W, 4W, 2W, 1W. All pass right shoulder each time.

**1-2** 2W dances up to 1W place, passing 1W right shoulder as she curves down to 2M place and faces up; 2W dances up to 1L place passing 1L right shoulder, 1M dances down to 3M place in front of 1L and faces down. The other end is diagonally symmetric: 3M dances