

THE BIRLIN' BIRKIE

32 bar Jig for 3 couples in a 4 couple set

Bars

- 1-4 1st couple, dancing in slightly towards each other, cast off one place while 2nd couple set and cross up to first place on opposite sides.
- 5-8 1st couple turn 1¼ times with the right hand (or Birl) to finish in the middle of the set 1st man facing 2nd man, 1st lady facing 3rd man.
- 9-12 1st couple dance ½ reels of three across the set, 1st man with 2nd couple and 1st lady with 3rd couple; 1st couple begin the reels by passing right shoulder with the person they are facing.
- 13-16 1st couple, man above lady and in the middle of the set, turn 1½ times with the left hands (or Birl) to finish in promenade hold facing the men's side while 2nd man with 3rd lady and 3rd man with 2nd lady turn once round with the left hand to finish in promenade hold on the sidelines in second place position, facing each other across the set (men have ladies on their right.)
- 17-24 Reel of three across the set; 1st couple begin the reel by passing 2nd man and 3rd lady right shoulder. 2nd and 3rd couple finish on the sidelines, 2nd couple in first place on own sides, 3rd couple in third place on opposite sides (2nd and 3rd couple should stretch out in completing the last turn of the reel to dance into places on the sidelines.) 1st couple finish in the middle of the set facing down, 1st man with his partner on his right.
- 25-28 1st couple, dance down below 3rd couple, cross over and cast up one place on own sides, while 3rd couple set and cross over giving right hands to finish on own sides of the dance.
- 29-32 1st couple turn with the right hand once round (or Birl).

Repeat from second place.

Dance devised by Bob Taylor of Fochabers for John Cannon of Dufftown, a good friend and enthusiastic country dancer who likes nothing better than a dance which includes the chance to have a good birl!

For those less familiar with the Scots tongue, to 'birl' is to revolve rapidly and a 'birkie' is a lively, spirited fellow.