

Mary MacNab Dances in Diagram Form  
by Angus Henry 2006

# Preface

This booklet has been designed for teachers and dancers who like and are able to use the quick access to information provided by diagrams rather than always working through text.

The diagrams are not just “aide-memoires” but endeavour to present all the salient points of each dance, many of them quite long and complicated, while at the same time condensing the information into a space which can be seen as a whole.

After their first publication by the RSCDS in the “Traditional Scottish Dances” leaflet series, starting soon after World War II, some dances continued to evolve for a few years while the vaguer details were sorted out in practice. These diagrams, therefore, do not always necessarily match the printed instructions in the leaflets (or in the later two volumes of “Scottish Dances collected by Mary Isdale MacNab” which came later and largely followed the leaflets); nor do they represent later interpretations, or adaptations for specific demonstration purposes.

Instead, they are an attempt to represent as closely as possible the way the original dances were usually danced after their initial settling-in period, which seemed to me to be a reasonable representation of the dance. For this task I sought out dancers around the world who had long-standing experience of the dances from earlier times, especially any who had been involved in the original classes and development at St. Andrews with Mary MacNab and Jean Milligan.

Acknowledgement and grateful thanks are due and given to those who responded to the cries for help, with outstanding assistance being provided by Bill and Atsuko Clement and Mary Murray.

Acknowledgement is also made of the original notation system of the Pillings Committee, which is well known and understood and on which basis these diagrams were developed.

My own rôle in deciding the form of the dance (as opposed to the technical work of translating them into diagrammatic form and preparing the images) was purposely restricted to acting as impartial referee when the experts disagreed.

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*NOTE: The MacNab dances were originally published in a series of leaflets together with some other dances. All of these have since been republished in other publications with the exception of two: “The Duke of Gordon’s Welcome to Aberdeen” which was collected by Mrs MacNab, and “Tir nan Og” which was not a MacNab dance, having been collected in the island of Lewis.*

*For this reason these two dances have been included as an Appendix to this booklet of MacNab dances, for your information.*















**MACLEOD OF HARRIS** [Square Set] MacNab I 9 R144

1 3 SS:RA NH to middle: 8 bars	12+43 TR <sup>3/4</sup> LA to orig. places	2 4 R R bars 1-16 to orig. places	14+23 R (to) bars 1-16 to orig. places		-ALL- S <sub>2</sub> T <sub>B</sub> to orig. places	ALL CHAIN T <sub>R</sub> Tulloch	ALL R 8 bars to orig. places
1 TR <sup>1/2</sup> (to 2 2) to ALL H	2 TR (to 1 1) to ALL H	3 TR <sup>1/4</sup> (to 1 1 2 3) to ALL H	4 TR <sup>3/4</sup> (to 1 2 3 4) to ALL H	ALL CHASE NOTE: p.d.b. forward p.d.b. back advance 2 sk ch - danced 4 times Prom. H 16 bars	(to 4 3 2 1) 	music faster: crossed hands spin back to orig. places each couple wave farewell at end of spin; all at end of dance	2 3 4 R:R to orig. places

**ROTHESAY AT THE FAIR** [Square Set] MacNab II 11 R240

WOMEN ALL; WOMEN S <sup>1</sup> to middle to face corner	T <sub>B</sub> to corner's partner's place	R R R to orig. places	WALK forward; four steps to face opp. woman	SRA to face opp. woman	-ALL- S <sub>2</sub> T <sub>B</sub> <sup>3/4</sup> new partner but (to square) set	R bars 1-16 S <sub>2</sub> L <sub>A</sub>	1 3 T <sub>B</sub> <sup>1/4</sup> (to 2 2) person facing	ALL T <sub>B</sub> to person facing; but 1 1/2	-ALL- S <sub>2</sub> R bars 5-8 to person facing; but 1 1/2
			ALL P 1/4 round, to places	R bars 1-32 but 2C, 4C to face 1C, 3C then 3 over 2 & 4 over 1, then 1 over 3	NOTE: 2C, 3C make first arches 	WOMEN S T to middle; face out; to places	R SS: S <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub> NH to middle; face in	MEN ALL S <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub> NH (to	
ALL P 1/4 round, to places	S <sub>2</sub> to 2 2	R R with 3C with 4C to NH	1 2 T <sub>B</sub> <sup>1/2</sup> to NH	2 R 16 bars	3 R 16 bars	4 R 16 bars (Last 4 bars all T <sub>B</sub> to)	ALL PROM clockwise to places	S <sub>2</sub> T <sub>B</sub>	

**LOCHANSIDE** [3 steps/bar] MacNab II 6 W72

ALL walk forward 6 steps, to	ALL walk 6 steps to partners place, & face in	S R S <sub>1</sub> X <sub>R</sub> (walk 6 steps)	R bars 1-4 (to 1 2 3 4)	R bars 1-8 on sides, with facing couple (walk 6 steps)	12+34 RA NH men walk 3 forward, 3 back
R bars 1-4 (LA)	2 3 R bars 1-8	12+34 R bars 1-8	ALL S X <sub>R</sub> long p.d.b. (walk 6 steps) R, L on sides	ALL R bars 1-4	
					ALL NH up middle 12 walking steps; all in line on step 10. RH bow & curtsey



<b>LERWICK REEL</b>		MacNab II 5		S128	
<p>ALL T B 6 bars to places</p>	<p>MEN 3 Rocking steps X<sub>R</sub> ↑ (to 1-2-3-4) ALL Hold to places</p>	<p>1 3 2 4 couples in ALL Hold end R sh. pass in middle to places</p>	<p>MEN WOMEN 1st Fling step Glasgow H'landers with turning</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 T R R R (to 1 2 3 4)</p>	
<p>ALL HST<sub>B</sub> 6 bars to face in</p>	<p>R R R R 3 bars with next man (to end as)</p>	<p>MEN WOMEN dance X-over step clap 1-1-2-3-4-4 2</p>	<p>MEN end in middle facing partners. (WOMEN) clap</p>	<p>ALL HST<sub>B</sub><sup>1 3/4</sup> to face partner</p>	<p>ALL CHAIN 16 BARS</p>
				<p>ALL HST<sub>B</sub><sup>2</sup></p>	

<b>MISS FIONA MACRAE OF CONCHRA</b> [ <sup>2x</sup> 3 couples]		MacNab I 11		S64	
<p>START: both sets dance simultaneously →</p> <p>1st set 2nd set W2 S.U. (to No H) 6 bars to places</p>	<p>1 2 3 X<sub>R</sub> to places</p>	<p>1 2 3 (to 1 2 3) ST B long steps for 1st set</p>	<p>1 2 3 (to 1 2 3) 6 1st set 2nd set to</p>	<p>ALL 12 Bar 5: W3 S2 leads line to R, to</p>	
<p>3C 2nd set 2C 1C 3C 1st set 2C 1C in 1 line across all facing top, NH ← 16 bars →</p>	<p>WINDING UP outsides lead string under arms end dancer turns under arms to face down</p>	<p>2nd set: 1 2 3 1st set: 1 2 3</p>	<p>2nd set: 1 2 3 1st set: 1 2 3</p>	<p>2nd set: 1 2 3 1st set: 1 2 3</p>	<p>ALL arms crossed turn under arms bar 20 M1 Set 1 leads string of 12 round &amp; off</p>