

Dances for January 16, 2012

Remember this week we are at the Churchill recreation center. We will continue to work towards dances on the Welcome dance for the Ardbrae Ball. The dance Wisp of Thistle is also on the Beginner's Ball so that one will return to later in the year.

The Reel of the 51st Division

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set
RSCDS Book 13 – No. 10

Bars	Description
1 – 8	1st couple set to each other and cast off two places, meet below 3rd couple and lead up the middle to face first corners. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
9 – 12	1st couple set to and turn first corners with the right hand, finishing in a diagonal line by joining left hands with partner.
13 – 14	1st couple and first corners balance in line.
15 – 16	1st couple, releasing right hands with corners, turn each other one and a quarter times to face second corners.
17 – 22	1st couple repeat bars 9-14 with second corners.
23 – 24	1st couple cross to second place on own sides.
25 – 32	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance six hands round and back.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Devised by Jimmy Atkinson, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Peter Oliver, Seaforth Highlanders (London Scottish), with advice from Tom Harris-Hunter, Royal Army Service Corps while all were interned in the Prisoner of War camp at Laufen in

Germany.

Original tune: The Drunken Piper or Highland Rory Alex.
McLeod, c. 1880

The original instructions in the form of notes, written by Tom Harris-Hunter on a scruffy piece of paper when he was a prisoner of war, clearly show that the dance was intended for a five couple set as it is still danced in Perthshire.

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TACNotes:'

1-8 Set (no stealing) bars 1-2, cast bars 3-5, dance in to meet on bar 6, lead up on bar 7 to face corners on bar 8.

Wisp of Thistle

(Strathspey)

RSCDS Book XXXVII No.4

Music	Description
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Bars

1 – 4 1st and 3rd couples dance “Petronella turns” into the middle of the dance (1st man and 3rd woman back to back) and set to partners.

5 – 8 1st and 3rd couples dance a half reel of four.

9 – 10 3rd and 1st couples dance “Petronella turns” to own sides. (3rd couple are in first place and 1st couple in third place.)

11 – 12 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples set joining nearer hands on the sides.

13 – 16 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples turn partners with right hand to finish ready for allemande.

17 – 24 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples allemande.

25 – 28 1st couple cross over giving right hands and cast off one place. 2nd couple step up on bars 27–28.

29 – 32 1st couple dance a half figure of eight round 2nd couple.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Note: At the end of their second turn at the dance, 1st couple finish the half figure of eight by dancing down to fourth place while 4th couple step up to third place on bars 31–32.

Choreographed by Pat Kent in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, who, when she had seen the Scottish Country dancers perform in the Tattoo in Nova Scotia, stated that they looked like “wisps of thistle”.

Devised by Pat Kent (Nova Scotia Branch).