

DANCEBOY'S LIST OF BEST DANCES - Updated 21/5/2024.

(the latest revision is shown in the page footer at the end of this document).

This is a list of proven dances which have been enjoyed 'on the night' by those present. Without exception all dances on the list have been danced by me at some time or another. All dances are from programmes danced in RSCDS Branches and Clubs throughout Scotland - amongst others, Glasgow, Stirling, Alva, Hamilton, Blairgowrie, Pitlochry, Troon, Dufftown, Beaully, Linlithgow and Edinburgh.

All the dances quoted here are brilliant or above average and many have exceptionally good music associated with them. A few of the dances have been included principally because of the music associated with the dance but it will still be a good dance! None of the dances have been selected solely because their titles have some association with the dance event i.e. Follow Me Home for a last dance or Christmas this or Christmas that during the Festive Season. I hope you, as I do, disapprove of 'oh so clever theme programmes' where we are obliged to dance third rate dances chosen because of a certain meaning or reference in the title.

If you are making up a programme in any part of the world this list should be of help in ensuring your customers have a great night!!

Dances which have a '#' before and after it are dances which perhaps should NOT be included in an average dance programme unless time has been allowed for the dance, or a movement within a dance, to be taught on the night. They might be included in a dance programme under the description 'Dance of the Month' or 'Instructor's Choice' with an experienced caller on hand.

All the others are dances which may be a bit of a challenge but could be included on any dance programme. Many of the dances in this list will still require some homework before the event. U-tube is increasingly providing very helpful videos of dances accessible via the link below:-

<http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/dance-cribs.html>

Alternatively, ask your class teacher to teach the dance at a class meeting.

Apologies - occasionally I include a dance the source of which is not known. In these cases I will publish at the end of this document my best memory of the dance - please make of it what you can. If you find an error and can provide a source document please let me know - I will see you get full credit for providing the correction!! Topsy Turvy was such a dance - although initially I 'got it wrong' input from fellow dancers allowed me to eventually apply the necessary corrections. When I'm not sure I will say so!

Use of the list below is free of any charge or commission - Good Luck & Happy Dancin'!!!

THE BEST DANCE LIST

192 MILES HOME---(Sq)---J4x48* (Good fun dance - Bk 50)	Argyll's Farewell to Stirling	#Bannockburn 700 (J8x40)#
Ageing Gracefully (S8x32)	#Arcadian Jig (J2x48)#	Bauldy Bain's Fiddle (R8x32)
#Aird of Coigach (J4x48)#	Auchinellan Jig J8x32)	Bearsden Jig (J8x32)
Airie Bennan(J5x32)	Auld Friends Meet (S8x32)	Beauty of the North (S8x32)
Alex T. Queen (R4x48)	Auld Lang Syne (S8x32)	Bees of MaggieKnockater
Anna Holden's Strathspey (S8x32)	Australian Ladies (R4x32)	Belle o' Bon Accord (S4x32)
Anne McArthur (S3x32) (simple filler dance)	Aviator (The) (J8x32)	Bert McCroskie (R5x32)
Another Piece of Silver (R8x32)	Back to the Fireside (R8x32)	Best Set in the Hall
	Baldovan Reel	Birlin' Sporrans (R8x40)

Birls Allowed (J8x32)	City of Stirling Reel (R8x32)	Elephant Stampede (J4x48) Sq
Black Black Oil (R5x32)	Clutha (R4x48) Sq	Falls of Rogie (R8x32)
Black Mountain Reel	Cocket Hat (The) (J8x40)	Faraway Isles (J4x48)
Blackwater Reel (R8x32)	Colin's Kilts (J8x40)	Farewell to Crumlin (J4x32)
Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord (Square) (S1x64)	Come Up to the Top (J4x32) Nice wee fill-in dance.	Farewell to Balfour Road (5 cple) J1x96 (Music good. It's different!)
Bonnie Tree (S8x32)	Compliments to the Lawsons S4x32	Far North Queensland (S5x32)
Bonny Bells of Heather (The) (6 cpls) (R6x32) Jean Attwood Alexander Bk8 (4s+5s+6s start on opposite sides)	Cooper's Wife (J8x40)	Father Connelly's Jig (J4x64)(now over-danced)
Bratach Bana (R8x32)	Countess of Dunmore's Reel (The) (R8x32)	Festival Man (The) (J8x32)
#Brecon in March (R5x40) Sq#	Cramond Bridge (R8x32)	Findlater Castle (R8x32) Music SHOULD be Findlater Castle 'A the Best Frae Bannshire' Colin Dewar
Brig Amity (The) (R8x40)	Crème de La Crème (J3x32) Music MUST be Ian Slater 'From Manse to Dance' Track No2	Fife Ness (R8x32)
Brisk Young Lad (J5x48)	Crossing the Line (R6x32) 3 cple	Finnan Haddies (S4x32)
Broadford Bay (R8x32)	Cuckoo Clock (The) (R8x32)	Fireworks Reel (R8x32) (bars 9,10 & 17,18 must be mastered)
Broadway (S3x32) Dance OK but Music MUST be 'Give My Regards to Broadway'	Cuillins of Skye (S8x32)	First Rain of Spring (The) (J3x32)
Buchan Lass (J4x32) Good +	Cullen Skink (S4x32)	Fisherman's Reel (R5x32) Sq
Burniboozle (R8x32)	Dagmar's Fancy (S3x32)	Flora's Cross (S8x32)
Burns Bicentenary Strathspey (S4x32)	Dancing in the Street (R4x32)	Flora's Fancy (J8x32)
Butterfly (R4x32) (Gaye Collin NZ) Recommended music is The Craven Twelvesome - CD 'A Tribute to Derek Haynes'.	Dancing Master (J1x96) Sq	Flower o' the Quern (S4x32)
Button Boy (The) (R8x32) W Zobel Allanton College.	Dancing Shepherds (The) (J8x32)	Four Score and Ten (S8x32)
Byron Strathspey (S3x32)	Dancing Spirit (J8x32)	Foxhill Court (S8x32)
Caddam Wood (R5x32)	Dandelion Picker (The) (R8x32)	Fraser's Favourite (R8x32)
Cadgers in the Canongate (R8x48)	#Deer Friends (S8x32)#	Freshwater Bay (J3x32) (Maggie Burns)
Campbeltown Loch (J8x48)	Diamond Jubilee (J4x32)	Gaelforce Wind (J8x32)
Cannadine Strathspey (S8x32)	Diamond Quarrie (R8x32)	Gavin's Reel (R5x32) (Sq)
Cape Breton Hornpipe (R4x32)	Don's Reel (R8x40)	Georgie's Jig (J4x32)
Capetown Wedding (S8x32)	#Dragonfly (The) (J8x32)#	Gin and Tonic (A) Mx1(S3x32+R3x32) Scott
Captain John Vancouver (J4x32)	Dream Catcher (S1x96) Sq)(now over-danced)	Glastonbury Tor (R8x32)
Captain MacBean's Reel	Duke of Perth (R8x32)	Glayva (R8x32)
Cat & the Fiddle (The) (J8x32)	Duke of Wellington (The) (R8x32)	Glenalmond Gamekeeper (R8x40)
#Carleton Jig (J4x32)#	Duncan Gray (R8x40)	Glen Pavilion (The) (S4x32)
Cashmere Shawl (S8x32)	Dunsinane (S8x32)	Golden Boy (J8x32)
Chasing the Eclipse (S3x32)	Earl of Mansfield (R4x48)	Golden Memories (S3x32)
Chequered Court (The) (J8x32)	Ederline (S3x32)	Golden Years (S8x32)
Christmas Ceilidh (A) (R8x40)	Elma McCausland MBE (J4x40)#	Gothenburg's Welcome (J8x32)
	Elphinstone Jig (J8x32)	Granny Knot (The) (R8x32)
	Endrick Water (S3x32)	

#Gypsy Dreams (S6x32) 3cple.#	King'sChapel (S8x32)	Miss Frances Martin Mx1(S32+R32)
Happiness is Scottish Country Dancing (H8x32)	Knotwork (J4x40)	#Miss Gabrielle's Reel (R8x32)(tricky)#
Happy Christmas (J8x32)	Ladies of Dunse (R8x40)	Miss Gibson's Strathspey (S8x32)
Happy Meeting (J8x32)	Lady in Red 2 (J5x32)	Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan (R5x32)
Hazel Tree (J8x32)	Lady Sophia Lindsay (R4x32)	Miss Kenyon's Strathspey (S4x32)
High Society (R4x40)	Laird of Milton's Daughter (J8x32)	Miss Shearer's Strathspey (S8x32)
Hills of Alba (R4x32)	Laird o' the Land (J8x32)	Mixer Box (The) (R8x32) Different. Not as difficult as it appears.
Hollin buss (J8x32)	Last o' the Lairds (J8x32)	#Monica's Way (2 chords) (J4x32)#
Hoy Tensome (The) (Square) Fun Dance - --- R5x40	Lea Rig (S8x32) to enjoy, bars 1-16 must be danced correctly. Music good.	Moray Rant (S3x32)
Humours of California (S8x32) (to celebrate marriage of Marian Anderson & Max Kitchin)	Let's Have a Ceilidh (R4x32)	Mr Duncan MacLean (J8x32)
Hunter's Moon (J4x32)	Let the Hackles Rise (J4x48)	Mrs MacPherson of Inveran (R8x32)
#Huntsman (The) (J4x40)#	#Light Hearted Una (square) R5x32#	Mrs Milne of Kinneff (Square) (S4x32) (George Stirrat has very powerful music for this dance.
Immigrant Lass (J4x32)	Links with St Petersburg (J8x32)	Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich (R8x32)
Inchmickery (J5x32) Fun dance	Linnea's Strathspey (S8x32)	#Mrs Stuart Linnell (R8x40)#
Inimitable Derek (R8x32)	Lochalsh Reel (R8x40)	My Golden Bear (J4x32)
Inside oot Fisheater (R5x32)	#Loch Fitty Jig (J8x32) Alison Austin Optional – on 2 nd turn 1M leads A Dunfermline Collection	Napier's Index (J8x40)
Iona Cross Mx1[3xSx32+3xRx32]]	Lochindorb Strathspey (S3x32)	Neil M. Grant (J8x32)
Irish Rover (R8x32)	Lobster in the Pot (J8x32) 2 cple. A bit corny but was good fun!	Never at Sea (R6x48) 6 cple.
It's Just for Fun (J8x32)	Lord Maclay's Reel (R4x40)	Norah (J1x96) Sq
It Wisnae Me (S4x32)	Macdonald of Keppoch Mx1(S2x32+R2x32) Sq	Norfolk Broads Hornpipe (R8x32)
Jag's Jig (J8x32)	Macdonald of the Isles (S3x32)	Nottingham Lace (R1x96)
James Gray (J4x32)	Mairi's Wedding (R8x40)	#Ocean Voyage (H5x32)#
Jane's Jig (Petyt) (J4x32)	Major Ian Stewart (J8x32)	Old Grey Cat (R8x32)
Jean Martin of Aberdeen (S3x32)	Maxwells' Rant (R8x32)	Orchards of County Armagh (S3x32)
Jillwitha j (R3x48)	Meeting of the Waters (R8x48)	Orpington Caledonians (R8x32) RSCDS Bk49.
Jim Johnstone's Reel (R8x32)	Merry St Andrews (J8x40)	Orwell Lodge Strathspey (S3x32) (note bars 25-32)
Joe McDairmid's Jig (J4x32)	#Meopham Green (J5x48) (5 cpl) # pronounced 'mefam'.	Patched Bagpipe (The) (J4x32)
John Cass (J5x32)	Midnight Ferry (R4x40) Square	Peacocks in the Glen (R4x32) Unusual dance. Fun dance.
Johnnie Walker (S64+J64) Sq	Midnight Oil (J5x48)	Peat Fire Flame (R8x40)
Johnnie's Welcome Hame (R8x40)	Midsummer Common (S8x32)	Peggy Dewar (R8x32)
Joie de Vivre (J8x32)	Milton's Welcome (R8x32)	Peggy Spouse MBE (S8x32)
Just as I was in the Morning (R8x40)	Minard Castle (R8x40)	Phantom Piper (J4x32)
Kelloholm Jig (J8x32)	Minister on the Loch (S3x32)	Pillar Box Reel (R4x32)
Kenora Reel (R8x32)	Miss Eleanor (S3x32)	Pines of Pitlochry (J8x48)
Kinfauns Castle (S5x32)		

Plantation Reel (R5x32)	Simple Little Strathspey (A) (S3x48)	
Polharrow Burn (R5x32)	Singing Sands (S3x32)	#Trip around Salt Spring R3x40# (Lot to remember - should be danced twice)
Portincaple (R8x32*)	Slytherin House (S8x32) Ssssssnakey music.	Trip to Bavaria (R4x32) Good Music
Portincaple Oak (Square) Mx1(S1x32+R1x32)	Snake Pass (J8x32)	Trip to Timber Ridge (R8x32)
Portnacraig (R8x32)	Snow on the Mountain (J8x32)	#Tullyvolen (R5x32) Sq#
Postie's Jig (J4x32)	Southern Cross R8x32	Two Roses (S8x32)
Preston Mill (R5x32)	Spiffen (J5x32)	Uppies and Doonies (J4x32)
#Prince Charlie's Quickstep (J4x48)#	Spirit of the Dance (S8x32)	Vale of Atholl (J8x32)
Purple Heather Jig (J4x40)	Spot of Bother R8x32	Waggle o' the Kilt (J8x40)
Ramadan-ce (R8x32)	Spring Fling Reel (The) (R8x40) Book 50.	Waternish Tangle (The) (J8x32)
Raven's Dance (J8x32)	Staircase in Styria (A) (R5x40) 5C set M Gray. Must be Marian Anderson 'The Sunday Class' Dance Book 2. CD ref TSCO2MA.	Water of Life (Uisge Beatha) (S3x32)
Ray Milbourne (R4x32)	#Stirling at 90 (5 cple) (R5x32)#	Wee Cooper o' Fife (J8x40)
Recumbent Stone (R5x48)	#St Magnus Quadrille (Square) RorJ(1x88) Dufftown Dance.#	#Wee Green Book (Square) (R1x96)#
Red Squirrel (R8x32)	St Marks Celebration Jig (J8x32)	Weathercock (The) (J4x32)
Reel of the Puffins (R4x32)	Sueno's Stone (R8x32)	Welcome to Dufftown (J8x32)
Rest and be Thankful	Sugar Candie (S8x32)	Welcome to Nerja (J5x48) (5 cple)
#Restless Ghost (The) (R8x32)#	Sugar Loaf Jig (J8x32)	Welcome to the Ball (J8x32) Good introduction dance. Birl friendly.
Rodney's Rant (J8x32)	Summer Assembly (R1x88)	Wellington Connection (The) (R8x32)
Rougemont Castle (S3x32)	Sunnyside (The) (J8x32)	Westminster Reel (R8x32)
Royal Wedding (S8x32)	Swiss Lassie (R8x32)	We've Nae Electric (R5x32)
Ruby Rant (The) (R8x32) (must be Jim Lindsay track - RSCDS Book 49)	Tattie Bogle (J8x32) (Scarecrow) (a programme filler)	Whigmaleeries (R8x32)
Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell to Cranshaws (S4x32) (must be Jim Lindsay's track Book 52)	Thistle and the Columbine (The) (J8x32)	White Heather Jig (J4x40)
Rutland Reel (The) (R8x40)	Thornhill Strathspey (The) (S3x32)	#White Rabbit (The) (R8x32)#
Saltire Society Reel (R8x32) (a fill-in dance).	Thrums Cairn (The) (R8x32)	Wicked Willie (R4x32)
#Salute to Glasgow (S8x32)#	Toast of Bon Accord (J8x32)	Wild Goose Chase (J4x32)
Sands of Morar (S8x32)	#Toast to St Andrews (R4x48)#	World Turned Upside Down (The)
Scallywag (The)-----J8x40	Todlen Hame (J8x32)	Woodland Reel (The) (R8x40)
Scott Meikle (R4x32)	Topsy Turvey (S3x32) It's another strathspey but don't underestimate it.	Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek (S8x32)
Shene Gate.....(Square).....(J4x32)	Torrison Lassies (J8x40)	Ythanside (S8x32) (can be S3x32)
Shetland Shepherdess (The) (J8x32)	Treasurer (The) (J8x32)	Zoologist (J8x32)
Shiftin'Bobbins (R8x32)	Tribute to the Borders (J8x32)	Zytglogge R8x32
#Shortbread Fingers (S3x32)#	Tri-Mariner (The) (R8x32)	
Silver City Strathspey (S8x32)		
Silver Square (The)---(Square)---(5 cpls)---R5x32)		

RECENTLY ADDED:-

Loch Fitty Jig (J8x32) Alison Austin
Optional – on 2nd turn 1M leads
A Dunfermline Collection

Orchards of County Armagh (S3x32)

Portincaple Oak (Square)
Mx1(S1x32+R1x32)

RECENTLY REMOVED:-

None

Marker Explanation.

= dance requires particular preparation
or be taught on the night (the entire dance
may be complicated or just one movement
within the dance).