

DANCEBOY'S LIST OF BEST DANCES - Updated 24/8/25.

(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, Beaulay, 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 Maggie Knockater
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)	Christmas Ceilidh (A) (R8x40)	Earl of Mansfield (R4x48)
Black Black Oil (R5x32)	City of Stirling Reel (R8x32)	Ederline (S3x32)
Black Mountain Reel	City Lights (J8x32)	Elma McCausland MBE (J4x40)#
Blackwater Reel (R8x32)	Clutha (R4x48) Sq	Elphinstone Jig (J8x32)
Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord (Square) (S1x64)	Cocket Hat (The) (J8x40)	Endrick Water (S3x32)
Bonnie Tree (S8x32)	Colin's Kilts (J8x40)	Elephant Stampede (J4x48) Sq
Bonny Bells of Heather (The) (6 cpls) (R6x32) Jean Attwood Alexander Bk8 (4s+5s+6s start on opposite sides)	Come Up to the Top (J4x32) Nice wee fill-in dance.	Falls of Bracklinn (S4x32) #
Bratach Bana (R8x32)	Compliments to the Lawsons S4x32	Falls of Rogie (R8x32)
#Brecon in March (R5x40) Sq#	Cooper's Wife (J8x40)	Faraway Isles (J4x48)
Brig Amity (The) (R8x40)	Countess of Dunmore's Reel (The) (R8x32)	Farewell to Crumlin (J4x32)
Brisk Young Lad (J5x48)	Cramond Bridge (R8x32)	Farewell to Balfour Road (5 cple) J1x96 (Music good. It's different!)
Broadford Bay (R8x32)	Crème de La Crème (J3x32) Music MUST be Ian Slater 'From Manse to Dance' Track No2	Far North Queensland (S5x32)
Broadway (S3x32) Dance OK but Music MUST be 'Give My Regards to Broadway'	Crossing the Line (R6x32) 3 cple	Father Connelly's Jig (J4x64)(now over-danced)
Buchan Lass (J4x32) Good +	Cuckoo Clock (The) (R8x32)	Festival Man (The) (J8x32)
Buckie Loon (R8x32)	Cuillins of Skye (S8x32)	Findlater Castle (R8x32) Music SHOULD be Findlater Castle 'A the Best Frae Bannfshire' Colin Dewar
Burniboozle (R8x32)	Cullen Skink (S4x32)	Fife Ness (R8x32)
Burns Bicentenary Strathspey (S4x32)	Dagmar's Fancy (S3x32)	Finnan Haddies (S4x32)
Butterfly (R4x32) (Gaye Collin NZ) Recommended music is The Craven Twelvesome - CD 'A Tribute to Derek Haynes'.	Dancing in the Street (R4x32)	Fireworks Reel (R8x32) (bars 9,10 & 17,18 must be mastered)
Button Boy (The) (R8x32) W Zobel Allanton College.	Dancing Master (J1x96) Sq	First Rain of Spring (The) (J3x32)
Byron Strathspey (S3x32)	Dancing Shepherds (The) (J8x32)	Fisherman's Reel (R5x32) Sq
Caddam Wood (R5x32)	Dancing Spirit (J8x32)	Flora's Cross (S8x32)
Cadgers in the Canongate (R8x48)	Dandelion Picker (The) (R8x32)	Flora's Fancy (J8x32)
Campbeltown Loch (J8x48)	Darlington Dancer (The)- Mx1(S2x40+R2x40) #	Flower o' the Quern (S4x32)
Cannadine Strathspey (S8x32)	#Deer Friends (S8x32)#	Four Score and Ten (S8x32)
Cape Breton Hornpipe (R4x32)	Diamond Jubilee (J4x32)	Foxhill Court (S8x32)
Capetown Wedding (S8x32)	Diamond Quarrie (R8x32)	Fraser's Favourite (R8x32)
Captain John Vancouver (J4x32)	Don's Reel (R8x40)	Freshwater Bay (J3x32) (Maggie Burns)
Captain MacBean's Reel	#Dragonfly (The) (J8x32)#	Gaelforce Wind (J8x32)
Cat & the Fiddle (The) (J8x32)	Dream Catcher (S1x96) Sq)(now over-danced)	Galloping Carousel (The) (J4x32)
#Carleton Jig (J4x32)#	Duke of Perth (R8x32)	Gavin's Reel (R5x32) (Sq)
Cashmere Shawl (S8x32)	Duke of Wellington (The) (R8x32)	Georgie's Jig (J4x32)
Chasing the Eclipse (S3x32)	Duncan Gray (R8x40)	Gin and Tonic (A) Mx1(S3x32+R3x32) Scott
Chequered Court (The) (J8x32)	Dunfermline City Reel (R4x32)	Glastonbury Tor (R8x32)
	Dunsinane (S8x32)	Glavya (R8x32)

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

Orwell Lodge Strathspey (S3x32) (note bars 25-32)	Rutland Reel (The) (R8x40)	Thistle and the Columbine (The) (J8x32)
Patched Bagpipe (The) (J4x32)	Saltire Society Reel (R8x32) (a fill-in dance).	Thornhill Strathspey (The) (S3x32)
Peacocks in the Glen (R4x32) Unusual dance. Fun dance.	#Salute to Glasgow (S8x32)#	Thrums Cairn (The) (R8x32)
Peat Fire Flame (R8x40)	Sands of Morar (S8x32)	Toast of Bon Accord (J8x32)
Peggy Dewar (R8x32)	Scallywag (The)-----J8x40)	#Toast to St Andrews (R4x48)#
Peggy Spouse MBE (S8x32)	Scott Meikle (R4x32)	Todlen Hame (J8x32)
Phantom Piper (J4x32)	Shene Gate.....(Square).....(J4x32)	Topsy Turvey (S3x32) It's another strathspey but don't underestimate it.
Pillar Box Reel (R4x32)	Shetland Shepherdess (The) (J8x32)	Torridon Lassies (J8x40)
Pines of Pitlochry (J8x48)	Shiftn'Bobbins (R8x32)	Treasurer (The) (J8x32)
Plantation Reel (R5x32)	#Shortbread Fingers (S3x32)#	Tribute to the Borders (J8x32)
Polharrow Burn (R5x32)	Silver City Strathspey (S8x32)	Tri-Mariner (The) (R8x32)
Portincaple (R8x32*)	Silver Square (The)---(Square)---(5 cpls)--- R5x32)	#Trip around Salt Spring R3x40# (Lot to remember - should be danced twice)
Portincaple Oak (Square) Mx1(S1x32+R1x32)	Simple Little Strathspey (A) (S3x48)	Trip to Bavaria (R4x32) Good Music
Portnacraig (R8x32)	Singing Sands (S3x32)	Trip to Timber Ridge (R8x32)
Postie's Jig (J4x32)	Slytherin House (S8x32) Ssssssnakey music.	#Tullyvolen (R5x32) Sq#
Preston Mill (R5x32)	Snake Pass (J8x32)	Two Roses (S8x32)
#Prince Charlie's Quickstep (J4x48)#	Snow on the Mountain (J8x32)	Uppies and Doonies (J4x32)
Purple Heather Jig (J4x40)	Southern Cross R8x32	Vale of Atholl (J8x32)
Raising the Anchor (R5x32)	Spiffen (J5x32)	Waggle o' the Kilt (J8x40)
Ramadan-ce (R8x32)	Spirit of the Dance (S8x32)	Waternish Tangle (The) (J8x32)
Raven's Dance (J8x32)	Spot of Bother R8x32	Water of Life (Uisge Beatha) (S3x32)
Ray Milbourne (R4x32)	Spring Fling Reel (The) (R8x40) Book 50.	Wee Cooper o' Fife (J8x40)
Recumbent Stone (R5x48)	Staircase in Styria (A) (R5x40) 5C set M Gray. Must be Marian Anderson 'The Sunday Class' Dance Book 2. CD ref TSCO2MA.	#Wee Green Book (Square) (R1x96)#
Red Squirrel (R8x32)	#Stirling at 90 (5 cple) (R5x32)#	Weathercock (The) (J4x32)
Reel of the Puffins (R4x32)	#St Magnus Quadrille (Square) RorJ(1x88) Dufftown Dance.#	Welcome to Dufftown (J8x32)
Rest and be Thankful	St Marks Celebration Jig (J8x32)	Welcome to Nerja (J5x48) (5 cple)
#Restless Ghost (The) (R8x32)#	Sueno's Stone (R8x32)	Welcome to the Ball (J8x32) Good introduction dance. Birl friendly.
Return to Shielraig (S3x32)	Sugar Candie (S8x32)	Wellington Connection (The) (R8x32)
Roaring Twenties (The) (R8x32)#	Sugar Loaf Jig (J8x32)	Westminster Reel (R8x32)
Rodney's Rant (J8x32)	Summer Assembly (R1x88)	We've Nae Electric (R5x32)
Rougemont Castle (S3x32)	Sunnyside (The) (J8x32)	Whigmaleeries (R8x32)
Royal Wedding (S8x32)	Swiss Lassie (R8x32)	White Heather Jig (J4x40)
Ruby Rant (The) (R8x32) (must be Jim Lindsay track - RSCDS Book 49)	Tattie Bogle (J8x32) (Scarecrow) (a programme filler)	#White Rabbit (The) (R8x32)#
Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell to Cranshaws (S4x32) (must be Jim Lindsay's track Book 52)		Wicked Willie (R4x32)
		Wild Goose Chase (J4x32)

World Turned Upside Down (The)

Woodland Reel (The) (R8x40)

Ysobel Stewart of Fish Hoek (S8x32)

Ythanside (S8x32) (can be S3x32)

Zoologist (J8x32)

Zytglogge R8x32

RECENTLY ADDED:-

Galloping Carousel J4x32

Roaring Twenties (The) (R8x32)#

Return to Shildaig (S3x32)

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).