

The Large Hadron Collider

A 32 bar reel for four couples in a square set.

The four couples can be taken to represent the four experiments round the LHC ring. The figures (very) vaguely reflect the operation of the LHC starting with injection of “probe” beams (1st couple solo), full circulating “physics” beams round the two rings (interlocking reels), acceleration (right or left hands across and chase) and stable collisions (Schiehallion reel) - though of course the dancers should not actually collide! The quick turns at the end of bars 12 and 20 are quite contrary to the way the proton beams behave but allow the dancers to change direction from time to time. The Schiehallion reel is only three quarters to suggest that quite often the LHC fills are interrupted earlier than expected due to one of the many safety systems cutting in.

Bars Description

- 1-8 1st couple cross right hand, dance half way around the outside of the set, cross left hand below 3rd couple and continue dancing around the outside of the set back to place.
- 9-12 All dance the first three bars of half an interlocking reel of four, starting by giving right shoulder to their partner. On bar 12, instead of turning back, all quickly half turn the next dancer by the left hand to put the men in the centre: 1st man half turns 2nd woman at the corner between 3rd and 4th places, etc, so that all are now on the diagonals.
- 13-16 The women chase round anticlockwise just under half way back to their original places. Meanwhile the men dance a complete right hands across, ending by dropping hands and dancing out of the corners, passing left shoulder (no hands) with the opposite woman: 1st man passes 3rd woman left shoulder, etc.
- 17-20 The women dance a complete left hands across while the men chase round clockwise just under half way back to their original places ending with a quick quarter right hand turn with their partner to leave the men facing in and the women facing out.
- 21-32 All dance three quarters of a full Schiehallion reel ending in the order 4,1,2,3.

Music

- Suggested tune: Haulin' the Ropes (John Renton).
- Suitable recording: Perth Meets Perth (Marian Anderson: The Other Kangaroo Paw).

Variation

- For those capable of dancing at nearly the speed light a more challenging version of bars 1-8 could be: 1st couple cross right hand, cast around the corners, dance in between the side couples and out between the next corners, cross left hand below 3rd couple, dance in between the next corners, out between the side couples and back to place.