

UnivScd Challenge

A 32 bar reel (or jig or strathspey or medley) for four couples in a longwise set.

This name of this dance recalls the academic TV quiz show "University Challenge" which pits teams of four students against each other. Each team has a captain who is the second from the right in each line. So 2nd man and 3rd woman are the dancing pair, leading off with their "starter for 10" bars. Then all four couples are dancing most of the time. Unlike the original show, they do not keep exclusively to their own team mates.

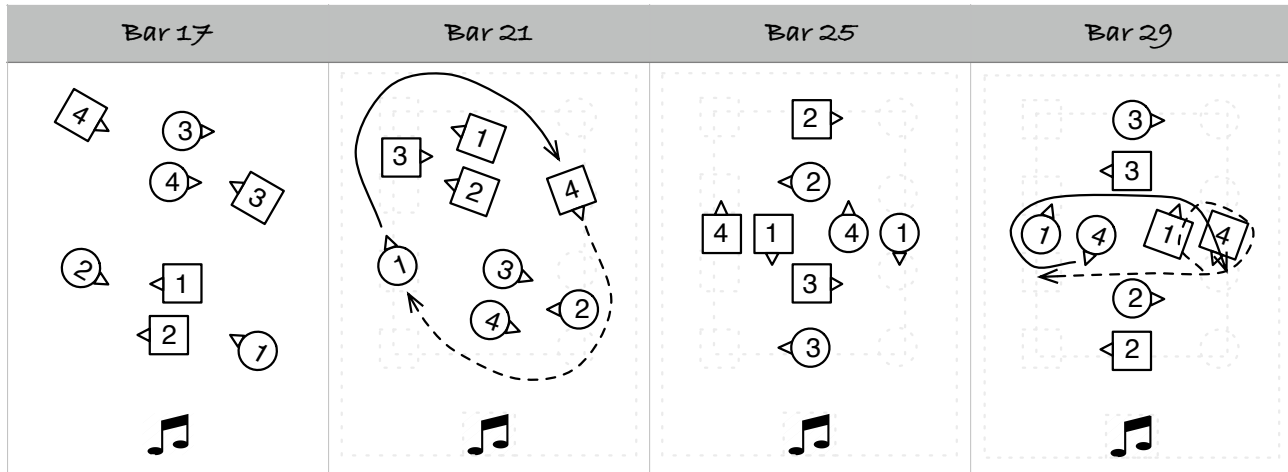
Bars

- 1-8 2nd man and 3rd woman (the team captains) cross out of the end of the set to their left, cast right around their second corners (1st woman, 4th man), cross through their original places and cast left round their 4th corners (3rd man, 2nd woman) to end on the centre line in 3rd and 2nd places respectively.
- 9-10 2nd man and 3rd woman half turn with the left hand.
- 11-16 2nd man with 1st and 2nd women also 3rd woman with 3rd and 4th men dance right hands across one and a half times. 2nd man and 3rd woman end on the sidelines while 1st and 2nd women also 3rd and 4th men take promenade hold.
- 17-20 All dance half a right shoulder reel of three, starting on a slight diagonal between 1st and 2nd or 3rd and 4th places. The corners end in 2nd and 3rd places but the promenading couples curve left into the other half of the set so that 1st and 2nd women face 3rd woman as 3rd and 4th men face 2nd man. 2nd man and 3rd woman are both back in their original places.
- 21-24 1st man and 4th woman chase clockwise half way round to the opposite sideline. Meanwhile 2nd, 3rd and 4th men also 1st, 2nd and 3rd women dance left hands across about one and a half times round. All end forming crossing lines of four down the centre (3rd man, 3rd woman, 2nd man, 2nd woman) or across the set (1st man, 4th man, 1st woman, 4th woman) as follows:
- 2nd man and 3rd woman dance down/up to face partners on the centre line.
 - 4th man and 1st woman dance down/up to face out in a line across.
 - 3rd man and 2nd woman curve right to the top and bottom of the centre line.
 - 4th woman and 1st man end on the sides facing in to 1st woman/4th man.
- 25-28 All dance half intersecting reels of four with a brief half left hands across in the centre and end facing the same person.
- 29-30 All turn the facing person three quarters with the right hand into parallel lines either side of the centre.
- 31-32 2nd and 3rd couples (ends) pass their partner right shoulder back to their own sides. Meanwhile 1st and 4th couples chase half way clockwise in the centre to end on their own sides. The progressed order is 2413.
In reel time 2nd and 3rd couples may optionally birl for bars 29-32.

Music

- To be decided.
- For a medley four times each in strathspey and reel (4x32S+4x32R) a suitable recording is The Long and the Short of It by StringFire! (Excited States, track 14).

Diagrams (music at the bottom)



Notes

- This may be danced either in strathspey or reel time or perhaps best as a medley of both.
- Possible tips for remembering who does what where and when:
 - The same six people take part in both right and subsequent left hands across.
 - Those standing out of the first (right) hands across chase round for the second one.
 - Those doing the half reel up/down start and end facing their partners, whereas those who start in a line across will be facing someone of the same sex.

Mixed Team Variation

The original concept for this dance had single sex "teams" all starting on their own side. This means that two men and two women are in promenade hold for bars 17-20. Those who are not keen on such unconventional arrangements can try the "Mixed Team" variation which starts with 2nd and 3rd couples on opposite sides.

Bars

- 1-28 As above with appropriate exchange of 2nd and 3rd men and women. The team captains are still those in 2nd/3rd place on the men's/women's side respectively.
- 29-32 1st and 4th couples, who are now on their opposite sides, turn the facing person one and a quarter with the right hand. Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd couples turn three quarters with the right hand to their own sides and set. The progressed order is 2413 with 4th and 1st couples on opposite sides.