DANCEBOY’S LIST OF BEST DANCES.

THE LATEST REVISION IS SHOWN IN THE PAGE FOOTER BELOW.

This is a list of proven dances which were enjoyed ‘on the night’ by those present. There are no dances on the list which have not been danced by me - I have been present without exception for every dance on the list! All dances are from programmes danced in RSCDS Branches and Clubs throughout Scotland - amongst others, Glasgow, Stirling, Alva, Hamilton, Blairgowrie, Pitlochry, Troon, Dufftown, Beauly, 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 there might be 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 was 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 which 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)

Ageing Gracefully (S8x32)

#Aird of Coigach (J4x48)#

Airie Bennan(J5x32)

Alex T. Queen (R4x48)

Anna Holder’s Strathspey (S8x32)

Anne McArthur (S3x32) (simple filler dance)

Another Piece of Silver (R8x32)

Argyll’s Farewell to Stirling

Auchinellan Jig J8x32)

Auld Friends Meet (S8x32)

Auld Lang Syne (S8x32)

Australian Ladies (R4x32)

Aviator (The) (J8x32)

Back to the Fireside (R8x32)

Baldovan Reel

#Bannockburn 700 (J8x40)#

Bauldy Bairn’s Fiddle (R8x32)

Bearsden Jig (J8x32)

Beauty of the North (S8x32)

Bees of Maggieknockater

Belle o’ Bon Accord (S4x32)

Bert McCroskie (R5x32)

Best Set in the Hall

Birlin’ Sporrans (R8x40)

Birls Allowed (J8x32)

Black Black Oil (R5x32)

Black Mountain Reel

Blackwater Reel (R8x32)
Bonnie Lass o’ Bon Accord (Square) (S1x64)
Bonnie Tree (S8x32)
Bonny Bells of Heather (The) (6 cpls) (R6x32) Jean Attwood Alexander Bk8 (4s+5s+6s start on opposite sides)
Bratach Bana (R8x32)
#Brecon in March (R5x40) Sq#
Brisk Young Lad (J5x48)
Butch Lass (J4x32) Good +
Burnibooze (R8x32)
Butterfly (R4x32) (Gaye Collin NZ)
Recommended music is The Craven Twelvesome - CD ‘A Tribute to Derek Haynes’.
Button Boy (The) (R8x32) W Zobel Allanton College.
Byron Strathspey (S3x32)
Caddam Wood (R5x32)
Cadgers in the Canongate (R8x48)
Campbelltown Loch (J8x48)
Cannadine Strathspey (S8x32)
Cape Breton Hornpipe (R4x32)
Capetown Wedding (S8x32)
Capital Jig (A) (J8x32)
Captain MacBear’s Reel
Cat & the Fiddle (The) (J8x32)
#Carleton Jig (J4x32)#
Cashmere Shawl (S8x32)
Chasing the Eclipse (S3x32)
Chequered Court (The) (J8x32)
Christmas Ceilidh (A) (R8x40)
City of Stirling Reel (R8x32)
Clutha (R4x48) Sq
Cocket Hat (The) (J8x40)
Colin’s Kilts (J8x40)
Come Up to the Top (J4x32) Nice wee fill-in dance.
Compliments to the Lawsons S4x32
Cooper’s Wife (J8x40)

Countess of Dunmore’s Reel (The) (R8x32)
Cramond Bridge (R8x32)
Crème de La Crème (J3x32) Music MUST be Ian Slater ‘From Manse to Dance’ Track No2
Crossing the Line (R6x32) 3 cple
Cuckoo Clock (The) (R8x32)
Cullins of Skye (S8x32)
Cullen Skink (S4x32)
Dagmar’s Fancy (S3x32)
Dancing Master (J1x96) Sq
Dancing Shepherd (The) (J8x32)
Dancing Spirit (J8x32)
Dandelion Picker (The) (R8x32)
#Deer Friends (S8x32)#
Diamond Jubilee (J4x32)
Diamond Quannie (R8x32)
Don’s Reel (R8x40)
#Dragonfly (The) (J8x32)#
Dream Catcher (S1x96) Sq (now over-danced)
Duke of Perth (R8x32)
Duke of Wellington (The) (R8x32)
Duncan Gray (R8x40)
Dunsinane (S8x32)
Earl of Mansfield (R4x48)
Ederline (S3x32)
Endrick Water (S3x32)
Elephant Stampede (J4x48) Sq
Falls of Rogie (R8x32)
Faraway Isles (J4x48)
Farewell to Crumlin (J4x32)
Farewell to Balfour Road (5 cple) J1x96 (Music good. It’s different!)
Far North Queensland (S5x32)
Father Connelly’s Jig (J4x64) (now over-danced)
Festival Man (The) (J8x32)

Bonnie Tree o’ Bon Accord (Square) (S1x64)
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Clutha (R4x48) Sq
Cocket Hat (The) (J8x40)
Colin’s Kilts (J8x40)
Come Up to the Top (J4x32) Nice wee fill-in dance.
Compliments to the Lawsons S4x32
Cooper’s Wife (J8x40)
Hunter's Moon (J4x32)
Huntsman (The) (J4x40)
Immigrant Lass (J4x32)
Inchmickery (J5x32) Fun dance
Inimitable Derek (R8x32)
Inside oot Fisheater (R5x32)
Iona Cross Mx1[3xSx32+3xRx32]
Irish Rover (R8x32)
It's Just for Fun (J8x32)
It Wissae Me (S4x32)
Jag's Jig (J8x32)
James Gray (J4x32)
Jane's Jig (Petyt) (J4x32)
Jean Martin of Aberdeen (S3x32)
Jillwitha j (R3x48)
Jim Johnstone's Reel (R8x32)
Joe McDairmid's Jig (J4x32)
John Cass (J5x32)
Johnnie Walker (S64+J64) Sqa
Johnnie's Welcome Hame (R8x40)
Joie de Vivre (J8x32)
Just as I was in the Morning (R8x40)
Kelloholm Jig (J8x32)
Kenora Reel (R8x32)
Kinfuards Castle (S5x32)
Knotwork (J4x40)
Ladies of Dunse (R8x40)
Lady in Red 2 (J5x32)
Lady Sophia Lindsay (R4x32)
Laird of Milton's Daughter (J8x32)
Laird o' the Land (J8x32)
Last o' the Lairds (J8x32)
Lea Rig (S8x32) to enjoy the dance bars 1 to 16 must be danced correctly.
Let's Have a Ceilidh (R4x32)
Let the Hackles Rise (J4x48)
Links with St Petersburg (J8x32)

Linnea's Strathspey (S8x32)
Lochalsh Reel (R8x40)
Lochindorb Strathspey (S3x32)
Lobster in the Pot (J8x32) 2 cple. A bit corny but was good fun!
Lord Maclay's Reel (R4x40)
Macdonald of Keppoch Mx1(S2x32+R2x32) Sq
Macdonald of the Isles (S3x32)
Mairi's Wedding (R8x40)
Major Ian Stewart (J8x32)
Maxwells' Rant (R8x32)
Meeting of the Waters (R8x48)
Midnight Ferry (R4x40) Square
Midnight Oil (J5x48)
Midsummer Common (S8x32)
Milton's Welcome (R8x32)
Minard Castle (R8x40)
Minister on the Loch (S3x32)
Miss Eleanor (S3x32)
Miss Frances Martin Mx1(S3x2+R3x2)
Miss Gabrielle's Reel (R8x32)(tricky)#
Miss Gibson's Strathspey (S8x32)
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan (R5x32)
Miss Kenyon's Strathspey (S4x32)
Miss Shearer's Strathspey (S8x32)
Mixer Box (The) (R8x32) Different. Not as difficult as it appears.
#Monica's Way (2 chords) (J4x32)#
Moray Rant (S3x32)
Mr Duncan MacLean (J8x32)
Mr MacPherson of Inveran (R8x32)
Mrs Milne of Kinneff (Square) (S4x32)
(George Stirrat has very powerful music for this dance.
Mrs Stewart of Fasnacoilch (R8x32)
#Mrs Stuart Linnell (R8x40)#
Napier's Index (J8x40)
Neil M. Grant (J8x32)

Never at Sea (R6x48) 6 cple.
Norah (J1x96) Sq
Norfolk Broads Hornpipe (R8x32)
Nottingham Lace (R1x96)
#Ocean Voyage (H5x32)#
Old Grey Cat (R8x32)
Orpington Caledonians (R8x32) RSCDS Bk49.
Orwell Lodge Strathspey (S3x32) (note bars 25-32)
Patched Bagpipe (The) (J4x32)
Peacocks in the Glen (R4x32) Unusual dance. Fun dance.
Peat Fire Flame (R8x40)
Peggy Dewar (R8x32)
Peggy Spouse MBE (S8x32)
Phantom Piper (J4x32)
Pillar Box Reel (R4x32)
Pines of Pitlochry (R8x48)
Plantation Reel (R5x32)
Polharrow Burn (R5x32)
Portincaple (R8x32)*
Portnacraig (R8x32)
Pottie's Jig (J4x32)
Preston Mill (R5x32)
Purple Heather Jig (J4x40)
Ramadan-ce (R8x32)
Raven's Dance (J8x32)
Ray Milbourne (R4x32)
Recumbent Stone (R5x48)
Red Squirrel (R5x48)
Reel of the Puffins (R8x32)
Rest and be Thankful
#Restless Ghost (The) (R8x32)#
Rodney's Rant (J8x32)
Rougemont Castle (S3x32)
Royal Wedding (S8x32)
Ruby Rant (The) (R8x32) (must be Jim Lindsay's track - RSCDS Book 49)
Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell to Cranshaws (S4x32) (must be Jim Lindsay's track Book 52)
Rutland Reel (The) (R8x40)
Saltire Society Reel (R8x32) (a fill-in dance).
#Salute to Glasgow (S8x32)#
Sands of Morar (S8x32)
Scallywag (The)------J8x40)
Scott Meikle (R4x32)
Shetland Shepherdess (The) (J8x32)
Shiftin'Bobbins (R8x32)
#Shortbread Fingers (S3x32)#
Silver City Strathspey (S8x32)
Silver Square (The)---(Sq)---(5 cpls)---R5x32)
Singing Sands (S3x32)
Slytherin House (S8x32) Ssssssnakey music.
Snake Pass (J8x32)
Snow on the Mountain (J8x32) Southern Cross R8x32
Spiffen (J5x32)
Spirit of the Dance (S8x32)
Spot of Bother R8x32
Spring Fling Reel (The) (R8x40) Book 50.

Staircase in Styria (A) (R5x40) 5C set M Gray. Must be Marian Anderson 'The Sunday Class' Dance Book 2. CD ref TSCO2MA.

#Stirling at 90 (5 cple) (R5x32)#
#St Magnus Quadrille (Square) Ror.J(1x88) Dufftown Dance.#
St Marks Celebration Jig (J8x32)
Sueno's Stone (R8x32)
Sugar Candy (S8x32)
Sugar Loaf Jig (J8x32)
Summer Assembly (R1x88)
Swiss Lassie (R8x32)

Tattie Bogle (J8x32) (Scarecrow) (a programme filler)
Thistle and the Columbine (The) (J8x32)
Thornhill Strathspey (The) (S3x32)
Thurms Cairn (The) (R8x32)
#Toast to St Andrews (R4x48)#
Todlen Hame (J8x32)
Topsy Turvey (S3x32) It's another strathspey but don't underestimate it.
Torrison Lassies (J8x40)
Tribute to the Borders (J8x32)
Tri-Mariner (The) (R8x32)
Trip to Bavaria (R4x32) Good Music
Trip to Timber Ridge (R8x32)
#Tullyvoren (R5x32) Sq#
Two Roses (S8x32)
Uppies and Doonies (J4x32)
Vale of Atholl (J8x32) Peat Fire Flame (R8x40)
Waggle o' the Kilt (J8x40)
Waternish Tangle (The) (J8x32)
Water of Life (Usige Beatha) (S3x32)
Wee Cooper o' Fife (J8x40)
#Wee Green Book (Square) (R1x96)#
Weathercock (The) (J4x32)
Welcome to Dufftown (J8x32)
Welcome to Nerja (J5x48) (5 cple)
Welcome to the Ball (J8x32) Good introduction dance. Birl friendly.
Wellington Connection (The) (R8x32)
Westminster Reel (R8x32)
We've Nae Electric (R5x32)
Whigmaleeries (R8x32)
White Heather Jig (J4x40)
#White Rabbit (The) (R8x32)#
Wild Goose Chase (J4x32)
World Turned Upside Down (The)
Woodland Reel (The) (R8x40)

Ythanside (S8x32) (can be S3x32)
Zoolo gist (J8x32)

RECENTLY ADDED:-

Scallywag (The)------J8x40) Initially I thought the last 8 bars a bit silly. I've changed my mind. Folk, including myself, seem to enjoy the challenge of the last 8 bars. As usual it's the girls that have to demonstrate the necessary skill !! Men just set adv pulling back RSh to face up !!

Minard Castle (R8x40) (an ok dance)
Butterfly (R4x32) (Gaye Collin NZ) Recommended music is The Craven Twelvesome - CD 'A Tribute to Derek Haynes'.
Peggy Spouse MBE (S8x32)
Silver Square (The)---(Sq)---(5 cpls)---R5x32)

Marker Explanation.

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