

## DANCEBOY'S LIST OF BEST DANCES - Updated 26/10/25.

*(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, 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 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)     |

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

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

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|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Old Grey Cat (R8x32)                                   | Ruby Rant (The) (R8x32) (must be Jim Lindsay track - RSCDS Book 49)                                                     | Sunnyside (The) (J8x32)                                                    |
| Orchards of County Armagh (S3x32)                      |                                                                                                                         | Swiss Lassie (R8x32)                                                       |
| Orpington Caledonians (R8x32) RSCDS Bk49.              | Ruby Wilkinson's Farewell to Cranshaws (S4x32) (must be Jim Lindsay's track Book 52)                                    | Tattie Bogle (J8x32) (Scarecrow) (a programme filler)                      |
| 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)                             | Shifftin'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)                                                                                             | Watnash 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 Shieldaig (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)                               |                                                                                                                         | Whigmaleeries (R8x32)                                                      |
| Royal Wedding (S8x32)                                  |                                                                                                                         |                                                                            |

White Heather Jig (J4x40)

#White Rabbit (The) ( R8x32)#

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:-

Eternal Friendship (R4x32)

Jill's Purple Party (R8x32)

#### 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).