

## 1962 Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference

Presented by C. Stewart Smith

SHIP O' GRACE  
(Scotland)

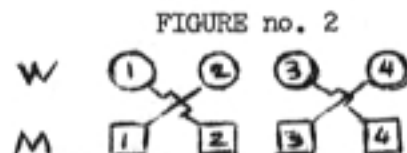
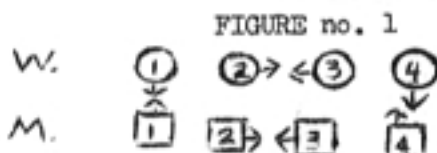
This dance is a modern strathspey, only about 10 years old.

MEANING OF THE FIGURES:

- 1-8        The lifeboat is launched  
 9-16      Rescue equipment  
 17-24     The Wheel  
 25-30     Over the waves to the boat in distress  
 31-32     The knot between the two boats is tied  
 33-40     Back to safety towing the rescued boat

MUSIC: FONTANA no. 15

FORMATION: Four cpls in longways formation. Line of M facing a line of W with ptrs facing, ML shoulder twd music or head of line. Cpls are numbered from 1 to 4 with cpl no. 1 at head of line.



STEPS: Strathspey Step: Step fwd on ball of R ft, keeping ft close to floor (ct 1); bring L ft up to and behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); step fwd on R, bending R knee slightly and keeping ft close to floor (ct 3); hop on R bringing L ft through close to floor, knee turned out and toe pointed down (ct 4). The motion of the strathspey is down and up in feeling rather than level. Begin next step L moving fwd. Always start R unless otherwise stated.

Strathspey Setting Step: Step R to R, knee and toe turned out (ct 1); close L behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); hop on R bringing L ft up behind R ankle, L knee turned out and toe pointed down (ct 4). Begin next step swd L.

*Continued...*

**STYLING:** The body is kept facing fwd and erect but not stiff, chest high, arms held loosely at sides with thumbs fwd. (W may hold skirt in front with thumb and first 2 fingers). All dancing is done on toes with knees well-turned out. Ptrs dance with each other, communicating by means of tension in arms and by looking at one another. When inactive, stand in place with heels together and toes apart (first pos).

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**MUSIC:** 4/4

**Pattern**

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**Measures:**

**Chord**            Introduction: M bow from waist, hands held at sides. W curtsy by taking small step R to R, placing L instep close to R heel and bending knees slightly, keeping back straight.

**I.    DOWN THE MIDDLE AND CAST UP**

1-8            Cpl #1 with R hands joined at chest level lead down the middle of the dance and cast off-M turning 1/2CW and going around M no. 4 and up the outside, behind the M line, while W turns 1/2CCW and goes around W no. 4 and up the outside behind W line. Finish in original places.

**II.   GRAND CHAIN**

9-16           Cpls no. 1 and no. 4 face ptrs. M no. 2 faces M no. 3, while W no. 2 faces W no. 3 (Fig 1). All 4 cpls dance a Grand Right and Left with the arms well-extended, passing one person for each meas of music. Finish in original places facing ptrs.

**III.   SET AND HANDS ACROSS**

17-18           All M join hands shoulder high on the side in a line. All W join hands shoulder high in a line. Dance Strathspey Setting Step R and L.

*Continued...*

- 19-20 Cpl no. 1 dancing with cpl no. 2 and cpl no. 3 with cpl no. 4 (Fig 2), give R hands across (W #1 hand joined with M #2 on top and W no. 2 with M no. 1 underneath; W no. 3 with M no. 4 on top with W no. 4 with M no. 3 underneath). Dance half way around to finish on opp. side.
- 21-22 All M again join hands in a line on W side, while W join hands in a line on M side. Dance Strathspey Setting Step R and L.
- 23-24 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 19-20, giving L hands across and returning to original places.

IV. ARCH

- 25-26 Cpl no. 1 faces down the dance and makes an arch by joining nearest hands with ptr. Cpl no. 1 moves slowly down the dance with 2 Strathspey Steps. At the same time cpl no. 2 dances into the middle, joins R hands with ptr at chest level, and dances under the arch formed by cpl no. 1, finishing in cpl no. 1 original pos.
- 27-30 Cpl no. 1 continues down the dance while cpl no. 3 and then cpl no. 4 repeat the action of Fig IV, meas 25-26. Cpl no. 3 finishes in cpl no. 2 original pos and cpl no. 4 in cpl no. 3 original pos.
- 31-32 Cpl no. 1 and cpl no. 4 dance 1 turn with ptr CCW with L hand joined at shoulder height. Cpl no. 1 end facing up set.

V. UP THE MIDDLE AND CAST DOWN

- 33-40 Cpl no. 1 leads up the middle with L hands still joined as cpl no. 4 cast off below cpl no. 1 (M turning CCW, W CW) to join R hands follow cpl no. 1 up the dance. At the top cpl no. 1 cast off with cpl no. 4 following (M turning CCW, W CW) down the

*Continued...*

outside of the dance to the bottom where cpl no. 1 finishes in 4th place and cpl no. 4 in 3rd place.

The entire dance is repeated 3 more times until all cpls finish in original places.

Chord

M bow, W curtsy as in Introduction.