

Gay Gordons

Scotland

Notes by Andrew Carnie, July 19, 2003

This is a Scottish Ceilidh dance.

Footwork:

Walking steps

Pas de Basque step

Step on R to R (1), Step on ball of L next to R instep ("third position") (&), step on R in place. You may optionally end with a jetté (low areal point) of the left foot (&).

The step is usually repeated with opposite footwork

Polka step (Man's foot work is described, woman does opposite)

Preparatory Hop on R (&)

bar 1: step on L to L (1), close R next to L (&) step L to L (2), hop on L executing a 180° turn clockwise.

bar 2: repeat bar 1, but with opposite footwork and direction (however still turn clockwise)

Starting formation: Varsouvienne position: M stand's on woman's L (inside the circle with the couple facing CCW), W puts R hand up next to her R shoulder, Man hold's W's R hand in his. W puts L hand up in front of man's chest. M holds W's L in his L.

Couples in a circle facing CCW, men on the inside.

Bars 1-2 Starting outside foot (M's L, W's R) Take 4 walking steps in LOD, on the fourth step, without dropping hands, turn to your own R (pivoting in place) to face CW. (Men are still on the inside of the circle)

Bars 3-4 Take 4 walking steps backwards (in LOD – the same direction you were travelling while facing forwards).

Bars 5-8 Repeat bars 1-4, but travel in the RLOD (clockwise)

Bars 9-12 Using 4 pas de basque steps, the man dances forward (in LOD) turning the woman clockwise under his R arm. The woman usually completes two turns, although one is also possible.

Bars 13-16 Changing hands, and getting into ballroom position, the couples dance 4 polka steps in LOD.

Variation: Progressive Gay Gordons (Gay Gordon's mixer)

Bars 1-8 as above, except everyone start with the R foot

(Gay Gordon's continued)

Bars 9-10 face your partner holding R hands, pas de basque forward (RLR), then back (LRL)

Bars 11-12 Raise your joined hands, the woman turn CCW under the joined hands walking into the man's place, while the man walks into the woman's place (end with the men facing in, and the women facing out.

Bars 13-14 repeat bars 9-10

Bars 15-16 Repeat bars 11-12 except as the woman passes under, she will be facing the man behind her – this is her new partner. She completes the turn only 3/4 and begins the dance with her new partner.