

Norman Robinson, Garden Cottage, Holme Island, Grange-over-Sands, aged 40.

Norman Robinson is a great-grandson of Old Jos Robinson, grandson of Stainton R, and nephew of young Jos R. [He has taken his mother's name; she is Stainton's daughter, and sister of young Jos.] He was taught to dance by young Jos., and is one of the best step-dancers I have ever seen.

Young Jos. included the following exhibition dances in his classes:

Nigger Dance	Skirt Dance
Jockey Dance	Tambourine Dance
Irish Jig	Highland Fling (as a duet)
Gallop Dance	Hornpipe
The Clog Dance.	

The steps of the Clog Dance were the same as those of the Hornpipe, the difference being that for the Clog Dance clogs were worn, whilst the Hornpipe was performed in hard shoes.

Norman learnt the Clog Dance, and still performs it — as an annual exhibition at his Works Christmas Party. He often performed it as an exhibition when he was a youngster — at Carnivals, concerts, and also at some of his uncle's 'finishing balls'. At these balls, he would often be rewarded with boxes of chocolates, silver, and an occasional 10/- note flung onto the floor around him — this was quite usual for the solo artists.

He sometimes did the Clog Dance with two girls. They stood apart as shown in Diagram I., and one would do the first step. Then the second would

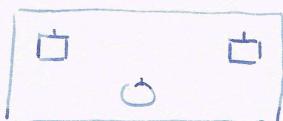


Diagram I.

do it, coming in on the Shuffle off with No 1. Then No 3 repeated the same step, coming in on the Shuffle off with No 2. They then repeated this procedure with a second step, then they did a third step together, moving into a line (but without joining

hands. Diagram II). After this, they danced the remainder of the dance together. The



Diagram II

exhibition consisted of the full 17 steps (one of which was repeated clockwise, giving 18x8 bars).

It should be noted that young lads sometimes did this dance (as the Humpipe, in hard shoes) as an exhibition, accompanying himself on the fiddle.

The descriptions of Norman Robinson's steps are given in the following pages, as I took them down in two evenings of very hard work. Note

- (i) all the steps are done with one foot only, with the exception of Step 5 which has a minor change
- (ii) in my description, I use our standard positions, but the feet should be straighter than in Scottish dancing (i.e. less turned outwards).
- (iii) open crossed position is our usual Scottish crossed position. Closed crossed position is as shown in the diagram.



- (iv) the starting position is with RF in (flat) 5th position. Boys had hands on waists with fingers to the front; girls held their skirts at the side.
- (v) the order of the steps given here is almost certainly incorrect.

Shuffle off. This, or the modified version of it given below, occurs in bars 7, 8 of nearly every step. I describe the shuffle off performed with the RF; the shuffle off with the LF occurs very rarely.

The whole step is done with a very light springy action, almost like running on the spot.

7. 1. Spring on to LF on the spot

& Tap with R toe in 1st position (use the pads of the toes, not the ball of the foot), with a very small forward movement of the foot on the tap.

Immediately bring the RF back to

2 Step on the ball of the RF in 1st position

& 3 Perform counts '22' contrairwise

4 Double beat with RF (again use the pads of the toes rather than the ball of the foot), making a very small forward movement on the first beat (&), and carrying the foot through the backward (and downward) second beat (4) towards a rear foot position

& Make a small hop on LF

8. 1 Place ball of RF in rear semi 4th behind 3rd position, thus:



2 Beat with ball of LF on the spot

3. Beat with the flat of RF in 1st position

Modified Shuffle off. Here again I describe the step with RF.

7. { As above
8. 1-3 }

4 & Double beat with ball of LF in semi 4th int position, beginning to carry LF back towards 1st position immediately after the second (backward) beat. (the two beats take place exactly on the counts).

The order of the following steps is probably inaccurate. I therefore begin each step with the appropriate form of the Shuffle off.

Step 1. [Actually the Single shuffle, though N.R. had no name for it].

2, 8. 1-3. Shuffle off with RF. As the RF comes to the ground on count 8.3, lift the LF just off the ground in 1st position.

1. 1 Step on ball of LF in 1st position

2 Hop on LF on the spot and take RF to 4th low aerial position

3 Balance backwards, bringing RF in to a close crossed position, and taking LF to near 4th low aerial position, with h knee bent somewhat

4 Repeat count 2. contrariwise

2-6 Repeat the 'balance and hop' with alternate feet throughout.

2, 8 Shuffle off with RF.

Step 2. "Double shuffle" [This is not the standard name among older people; the step is in fact a form of the treble shuffle.]

2, 8 Modified Shuffle off with RF.

1. 1 Drop on ball of LF in 1st position

8.2 Double beat with ^(ball of) RF in semi 4th int position, carrying RF on towards a closed crossed position after the (second) beat on the count '2.'

8 Spring on to RF in closed crossed position, taking LF off the ground just before the RF meets it.

3 Beat with ball of LF in near closed crossed position (keeping RF on the ground), with quite a noticeable bend of the knees.

4.8 Double beat with ball of RF in semi 4th int position, carrying RF back towards 1st position after the (second) beat on the count '8.'

2. Perform bars 1, 2 counterwise.

3-6 Repeat bars 1, 2 twice.

7,8 Shuffle off with RF.

Step 3. "Treble Shuffle" [Here again, the name is not the standard one. The step is actually a form of the 'advanced' treble shuffle].

7,8 Modified Shuffle off with RF

1. 1 Drop on ball of LF in 1st position

82. Double beat with ball of RF in semi 4th int position, carrying RF back towards 1st position after the (second) beat on the count '2'.

4 Beat with ball of RF in 1st position and momentarily transfer weight to it.

3 Beat with ball of LF in 1st position, transferring weight back to it.

84& } Repeat counts '82&3' [the action here is a treble].
3. 1

82 Double beat with ball of RF in semi 4th int position, carrying RF on towards a closed crossed position after the (second) beat on the count '2'.

4 Spring on to RF in closed crossed position, taking LF off the ground just before the RF meets it.

3 Beat with ball of LF in rear closed crossed position (keeping RF on the ground), with quite a noticeable bend of the knees.

4& Double beat with ball of RF in semi 4th int position, carrying RF back towards 1st position after the (second) beat on the count '2'.

[The movements on counts 2. 82&3 4& here are those of the same counts in bar 1 of Step 2]

3,4 Perform bars 1,2 counterwise.

5,6 Perform bars 1,2 of Step 2.

7,8 Shuffle off.

Step 4 [A variation on Step 3; here the second treble is taken to a new position]

7.8 Modified double shuffle.

1.1-3 As Step 3.

2.4 Double beat with ball of RF in semi 2nd int position, carrying RF back towards near 5th position after the (second) beat on the count '4'.

2. Beat with ball of RF in near 5th position, momentarily transferring weight to it.

2.1 Beat with ball of LF in 5th position, transferring weight back to it.

228342. As Step 3.

3.4 Perform bars 1,2 counterwise

5.6 Perform bars 1,2 of Step 2.

7.8 Shuffle off with RF.

Step 5 [This step has a mirror image, the only one to have this]

7.8 Modified Shuffle off.

1.1 Drop on ball of LF in 1st position

2.2 Double beat with ball of RF in semi 4th int position, carrying RF back towards 1st position after the (second) beat on the count '2'.

2. Beat with the ball of RF in 1st position, and momentarily transfer weight to it.

3. Beat with the ball of LF in semi 2nd position, transferring weight back to it.

2.48 } Repeat the treble of counts '1.8283'.
2.1 }

8283 Repeat the treble of counts '1.8283' again

8. Beat with ball of RF in 1st position

4. Beat with ball of LF in 1st position ^{18m 2nd}

2. Beat with ball of RF in 1st position.

3.1 Beat with ball of LF in 1st position. (This counts as the first beat of the repeat of bars 1,2, the remainder of bars 3,4 being

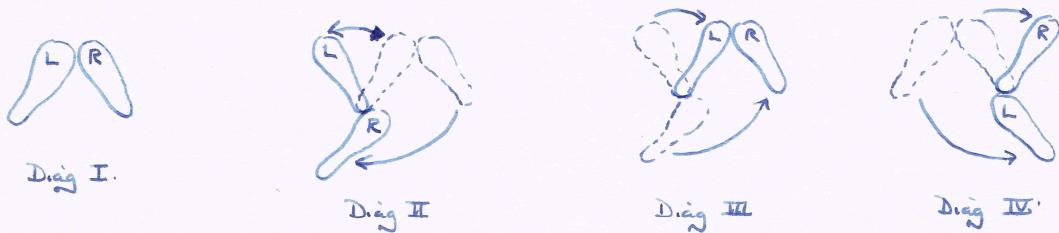
exactly the same as bars 1, 2).

- 3. 22... {
- 4. } Repeat the above movements.
- 5. 1
- 5. 22... {
- 6. } Repeat the above movements once more. The beat with the LF, the last of the few alternate beats in 1st position, here forms the 1st beat of the Shuffle off
- 7. 1
- 7. 22... {
- 8. 1-3 } Complete the Shuffle off as usual (it is the unmodified version)
- 9-16 Perform bars 1-8 contrairwise.

In bars 1-6, the dance moves about 6' to the left, returning a similar distance in bars 9-14.

Step 6. "The Haggard Crawl."

7, 8 Shuffle off, but finish on 8.3 with toes turned in, as in Diag I.



- 1.1. Turn LF outwards on heel, and at the same time turn R toe out and step on RF in rear 5th position, with knees quite noticeably bent. (Diag II)
2. Turn LF inwards on the heel, and at the same time turn R toe in and step on RF in the position shown in Diag. III.
3. Perform count '1' contrairwise (Diag IV)
4. Perform count '2' contrairwise.
- 2-8 Repeat bar 1 five times, then Shuffle off with RF

Step 7. "Single Crunch"

7. 1 Shuffle off with RF

1. 1 Spring on to LF in semi 2nd position }
2 Spring on to RF in (open) crossed position } Done with a springy
running action.

3 Spring on to the ball of the LF in 1st position

and Bring L heel down, keeping L toe on the floor, and at the same time
raise the RF just off the floor above 1st position

a Bring the ball of the RF down, keeping LF flat on the floor.

4 Bring R heel down, keeping R toe and the flat of LF still on the floor.

2 Perform bar 1 counterwise.

3. 1 Step on the ball of LF in semi 2nd position

and Bring L heel down, keeping L toe on the floor, and at the same time
raise the RF just off the floor

a Bring ball of RF down in a position about 6"
in front of 1st position, still keeping LF flat on
the floor (see Diag I).



Diag I

2 Bring R heel down, keeping R toe and the flat of LF still on the floor.

3 Spring lightly back on to the ball of RF in a position about 6" to the
rear of 1st position (near 3rd position, with feet
almost straight, as in Diag II)



Diag II

and Bring R heel down, keeping R toe on the floor, and
at the same time lift LF just off the floor.

a Bring ball of LF down in the position shown in
Diag II, keeping RF flat on the floor.

4 Bring L heel down, keeping L toe and flat of RF still on the
floor.

4 Perform bar 3 contrariwise.

5, 6 Repeat bars 1, 2.

7, 8 Shuffle off.

Step 8. "Double Crunch" (?)

7, 8 Shuffle off with RF

1 Spring on to LF in semi 2nd position

2 Spring on to RF in (open) crossed position

3 Spring on to LF in semi 2nd position

4 Spring on to RF in rear (open) crossed position

5 As in bar 1 of the Single Crunch (Step 7)

6, 7 Perform bars 1, 2 contrariwise

8, 9 Perform bars 1, 2 of the Single Crunch (Step 7)

7, 8 Shuffle off with RF.

} Done with a springy running action.

Step 9. "Knock toe and heel"

7, 8 Shuffle off with RF.

1 Beat the ball of the LF on the spot, and at the same time pick the RF up, and move it slightly to the side, turning the R toe inwards.

and Tap with the R toe (a light brushing action) as the foot moves forward



Diag I



Diag II



Diag III

in the direction shown in Diag I.

a. Flick the R toe up to bring the R heel down in semi 4th posn, with the R toe still turned in (Diag II). Weight still on ball of LF).

2. 2 Swivel the RF on the heel to turn the toe outwards (the toe still in the air), and at the same time bring the L heel down (keeping L toe on the floor)
3 and 4. Step back on RF in 1st position to perform counts 1 and a 2 contrarieuse.
2. 1 Jump about 6" forward, to land on both heels, with heels together and toes turned out.
- 2, 3 Knock the toes together twice, keeping the heels on the floor, and swivelling the feet (on the heels)
- 3 Repeat bar 2, dropping back on LF to begin.
4. 1 Jump about 6" forward, to land on both toes in 1st position (toes out, heels together).
- 2, 3 Swivelling the feet on the toes, knock the heels together twice.
- 5-8 Repeat bars 1-4, dropping back on LF to begin.
This step does not have a Shuffle off at the end.

Step 10 [This is simply an 'ankle-rock'].

2 { As in Shuffle off with RF
3, 1-3 }

4 Hop twice on LF, and begin to carry RF round in a rondé towards a closed crossed position



5 Place RF in closed crossed position and rock on to the flat of the RF by bending the ankles, keeping the outer edge of the ball of LF on ground

6 Perform '1' contrarieuse, then repeat '1'

7 Hop on RF and carry LF out in a rondé round towards a closed crossed position



2-8. Perform the movements of bar 1 five times alternately with LF, RF, & then Shuffle off RF.

Step 11

2, 8 Modified shuffle off with RF

1. 1 Step on ball of LF in 1st position

2. 2 Double beat with ball of RF in semi 4th int position,
carrying RF back towards the rear immediately after
the (second) beat on count '2'

4 Hop on LF

3 Step on ball of RF about 6" to the rear of 1st
position (rear 3rd position, but with feet almost straight)
Immediately following the count '3', raise LF to low aerial semi 2nd position
(with L toe pointing more or less straight to the front).

4 Bring R heel up to strike L heel in the air [a low cabriole]
and Drop back on the ball of RF in original position

[a Bring R heel down, keeping R toe on floor]

2. 1 Step on LF in semi 2nd position

2 Spring lightly on to (almost run on to) RF in open crossed position

3 Spring on to ball of LF in 1st position

and Bring L heel down, keeping L toe on the floor, and
at the same time raise the RF just off the floor
above 1st position

a Bring the ball of the RF down, keeping LF flat on
the floor.

4 Bring R heel down, keeping R toe and the flat of
the LF still on the floor.

[Back table]

As in bar 1 of the
Single Crunch (Step 7)

3, 4 Perform bars 1, 2 contrairwise.

5, 6 Perform bars 1, 2 of Single Crunch (Step 7)

7, 8 Shuffle off.

[N.R. actually inserted the heel beat on the count 1.(4)a as I have described it here, but young Jos. Robinson did not have this heel beat, i.e. he did nothing on this count. But the rhythm '4 and (a) 1' with no action on the 'a' is an odd one, and it is easier to time the step if the heel beat is inserted.]

Step 12 [A repeated cabriole. The same remarks applies to the heel beats as in Step 11.]

7, 8 Modified Shuffle off with RF.

1 Perform bar 1 of Step 11

2, 1 Step on LF in semi 2nd position, transferring weight to it, and then immediately (after the count) raise RF to low aerial semi 2nd position.

2 and a 3. Perform counts '1. 4 and a 2. 1' contrairwise.

2. 4 and a to 6. 3. Repeat this cabriole with alternate feet on the counts 4 and a 1 (with RF), 2 and a 3 (with LF).

6. 4 and Spring on to the balls of both feet in 1st position, and then immediately bring heels to floor (keeping toes on floor).

7, 8 Shuffle off with RF.

Step 13.

7, 8 Shuffle off with RF.

1. 1. Beat with ball of LF on the spot.

8. 2 Tap with the R toe on the count '8', with a very small forward movement of the foot on the tap (use the ball of the foot for the tap, with a very low brushing action). Then immediately bring the RF back to step on it in 1st position on the count '2'.

- 83 Perform counts '82' contrariwise
- 24 Repeat counts '82', but with more forward movement on the Tap on count '8', and making the step on count '4' in closed crossed position.
- 2.1 Bring the LF round the back of the RF and spring on to the balls of both feet in true 2nd position, with no lateral movement of the body
- 2 Jump on to the balls of both feet in 1st position; with feet parallel. Immediately after the count '2', raise RF just off the floor above 1st position.
- 3 Bring ball of RF down in 1st position.
- and Bring R heel down, keeping R toe on the floor, and at the same time raise LF just off the floor above 1st position.
- a Bring the ball of the LF down in 1st position, keeping RF flat on the floor.
- 4 Bring L heel down, keeping L toe and the flat of RF still on the floor.
- 3,4 Perform bars 1,2 contrariwise
- 5,6 Perform bars 1,2 of the Single Crunch (Step 7)
- 7,8 Shuffle off with RF
- OR
- 7.1 & 2 & 3 As in Shuffle off with RF
- 84 As in counts '84' of bar 1, ending with RF in closed crossed position.
- 8.1 Step on LF in 1st position, feet parallel.
- 2,3 Swivelling on the balls of the feet, knock heels together twice.
- Steps 14, 15 [The first is the 'Charleston step' forward as in The Sailor's Hambie; the second is a peculiar form of backstep.]
- 7,8 Shuffle off with RF
- 1-6 'Charleston step', beginning by stepping on to LF on count 1.1.

7 { As in Shuffle off with RF
8. 1-3.

[4 No movement]

and a Starting on the count 'and' and continuing on the count 'a', slide the LF about 2" forward on the ball of the foot, and at the same time pick up the RF just off the ground and carry it towards rear 3rd position, but with feet almost parallel.

1 1 Bring the ball of RF to the floor, with almost a stamp, in rear 3rd position, feet almost parallel to each other. Keep LF on the floor.

and a 2 Perform counts 'and a 1' contrariwise

and a 3 Repeat counts 'and a 1'

[4 No movement]

and a } Perform '8. (4) and a' and 1. 1-4 contrariwise.
2 1-4 }

and a } Perform the movement of '8. (4) and a' and 1. 1 7 times alternately with
3. RF moving backwards, then LF.
4. 1-3.

[4 No movement]

and a } Repeat the above movements
5-8

Step 16. [A repeated back treble]

7, 8 Modified Shuffle off with RF

1. 1. Step on ball of LF in 1st position, with feet parallel to each other

2. 2 Double beat with RF in semi 4th position, with feet parallel.

4 Hop on LF

3 Step on ball of RF in rear 3rd position, but with feet parallel,

Back
treble

- 1.4 - 6.3. Repeat this back treble with alternate feet.
2.4 Spring on to the balls of both feet in 1st position.
7.8 Shuffle off with RF.

Step 17: [The last step of the solo dance, with a 'swivelled crunch'.]

- 7.8 Shuffle off with RF
1.1 Step on the ball of the LF on the count '1', and immediately after the count take the RF to * semi 2nd very low aerial position, with the R toe turned in: thus

* Amended after show on 18/2/61



- 2 Step on the ball of the RF in 1st position on the count '2', and immediately after the count begin to swivel the RF, on the ball of the foot, to bring the feet almost parallel.

and Bring the R heel down in 1st position with feet almost parallel (keeping R toe on the floor) and at the same time lift the LF just off the floor above 1st position

a Bring ball of LF down in 1st position, with feet almost parallel (keeping RF still flat on the floor).

3 Bring the L heel down in 1st position with feet almost parallel (keeping L toe on the floor), and at the same time take the RF to semi 2nd very low aerial position with the R toe turned in



The black portions of the foot are on the ground, the white portions in the air.

1. 4 and a } Repeat Counts '1. 2 and a 3.'
 2. 1
3. 2 and a 3. Repeat Counts '1. 2 and a 3' again.
 4 Beat with ball of RF in (straight) 1st position
 3, 4 Perform bars 1, 2 contrariwise (starting by stepping on to RF and transferring weight to it).
5. 1 2 and a 3 Perform the movements of '1. 1 2 and a 3.'
 4 Beat with ball of RF in (straight) 1st position
- 6 Perform bar 5 contrariwise.
- 7 1 2 and a 3 Perform the movements of '1. '1 2 and a 3'
 4 Beat with ball of RF in (straight) 1st position on the count '4', and immediately following the count lift LF to 4th aerial position with foot pointing straight to the front.
8. 1. Spring off RF to drop on LF, at the same time raising RF to 4th aerial position (with foot straight)
 2 Bend L knee slightly, and swing RF right back to near 4th position with only R toe on the floor, bowing at the same time.

Extra Step!

1. 1-48 Normas step 2 with RF

2 1-3 ~

4 Hop on RF, & bring LF forward to just above floor.

3 1 and a 2 Crunch, beginning with RF in position

3 and a 4 ————— LF } Moving forward

4 1 Small step (almost a slide) forward on LF

2 —————

2 —————

3 ————— (definite step-hard)

RF } Keep the
LF feet in the
pos' B

RF

5 1 Step on LF

2 and 3 Swivelly crunch begin with RF (Step 17. ~~1~~)

4 Hop on LF & lift RF just off ground

6 1,2 Hop twice on RF, (LF just off the ground), turning
around 2.

3 and a 4 Crunch, beginning with RF.

7 8 Shuffle off

Move forward about 5'-6' in bars 1-4