

12. 4. 53

ARCHIE MACDOUGALL, LINICLETT, ISLE OF BENBECULA.

(Aged 8)

Cairdeach an Iardam. He had seen this but could not remember it.

Danrsa na Tunnaig. This was a follow-my-leader dance. A file of dancers, all down on their knees, with their hands clasped beneath their thighs, followed each other wherever the leader cared to lead. The dance was a test of endurance, and sometimes lasted half an hour. Old people as well as young danced it, and they pushed each other to make them fall over, but if a dancer did fall over, they just rose and continued dancing; the only method of elimination was by lack of endurance.

It was danced at dances everywhere on the island to a special fast tune (in reel time) played on the pipes.

Scottish Reel. The men and ladies used the same steps. Only the men used hand-movements, hooped, and encoched their fingers. He had never seen the figure eight replaced by a circle.

He had no knowledge of any of the other dances on our list.

12. 4. 53

CALLUM MACCORMACK, NUNTON, ISLE OF BENBECULA

(Aged 8)

Danrsa na Tunnaig. He had seen this danced by adults when he was 12 or 13, to the music of the pipes. He described it as a normal Scottish Reel, but in the side-by-side position, save that the setting step consisted of dancing on the knees, all four of them, and snooting out a leg to the side.

We questioned whether he was sure of this, since he admitted that he wasn't very keen on dancing, but he said that he was quite sure.

He had no knowledge of any of the other dances on our list.