

Lad's A'Bunchum

Adderbury, Long sticks 2016 Midwest Ale

Walk around, sticks held vertically (elbow at shoulder height), singing:

Oh dear mother what a fool I be,
Six young fellows come a courting me,
Three were blind and the others couldn't see,
Oh dear mother what a fool I be.

(The Adderbury Morris Men, 1984)

end with clash on last beat.

Foot up: up and up

Chorus 1 – double sticking

Half Hands (= half gip): forward to a line in the middle of the set

Chorus 2 – single sticking

Processional Down: top two dancers go down center of set and back to place in first half, top four dancers go down the set and back to place in second half

Chorus 3 – high sticking

Processional Up: bottom two dancers go up in the first half, bottom four dancers go up in the second half

Chorus 1 – double sticking

Dance 'round (= hands 'round): move stick to left hand, give right hand to opposite, dance all the way around using the two double steps without pausing, then use the "tag" to get home facing partner, reverse for second half; note that some teams dance one double step across the set, one double step in place, then dance the rest of the way around to original places using the "tag".

Chorus 2 – single sticking

Country Dance Hey: on each side of the set, the top dancer faces the middle dancer and they begin the hey by passing right shoulders. Heys are parallel, not mirror images. No stopping to clash at mid-point; dance continuously.

Chorus 3 – high sticking

Choruses:

Master side (odds) strike tips 3 x to lower half of apprentice side (evens) sticks; evens strike tips 3 x to lower half of odds' sticks; do 6 even tempo single strikes across alternating between partners (masters begin with first strike) then a single clash of both tips on count 7. Rhythm is: quick-quick-quick-hold; quick-quick-quick-hold; quick-quick-quick-quick-quick-quick-quick-hold.

Repeat exactly.

Double sticking: right hand remains in the center of the stick but the left hand also holds near the bottom of the stick.

Single sticking: right hand remains in the center of the stick; left hand is not on stick.

High sticking ("Bats High"): hand position as in double sticking, but people receiving the first three strikes (the evens) bring their sticks horizontally over their heads

while twisting body to the right (left shoulder is toward partner). Then the odds hold sticks above heads while twisting body to the right (left shoulder is toward partner) as evens perform the second three strikes. All have sticks in front for the remainder of the sticking pattern, as in double sticking.

NOTES

Adderbury stepping:

Most figures use two double steps forward, then “tag” backward; repeat. The Country Dance Hey is an exception in that it is danced continuously without a “tag” at the mid-point.

“Tag” = two single steps, step-jump (clash sticks with partner).

Adderbury Sticks:

Hold the center of the stick in your right hand. When not striking, hold sticks vertically (elbow at approximately right angle, near shoulder height). For Double Sticking and High Sticking (Bats high) the right hand remains in the center of the stick but the left hand also holds near the bottom of the stick.

During “tag” swing the stick down and back (2nd single step), then up and clash on the jump.

Song Words:

Several variations exist. If your team knows slightly different words feel free to use them.

[Minnesota Traditional Morris - description by Ed Stern]