

THE HAUNT OF THE GNOMES

dance devised by
John Drewry

for Robert MacKay of Edinburgh
who introduced me to the tune at St. Andrews
in July 1977.

Strathspey - 4 couples in a square set - 64 bars.

Tunes - "The Haunt of the Gnomes" by J. Scott Skinner.

as an alternative - "Les Trois Grande Luthiers" also by Scott Skinner
is suitable if played at a speed of two steps to each bar.

See "The Scottish Violinist" page 47 for both tunes (Bayley and Ferguson).

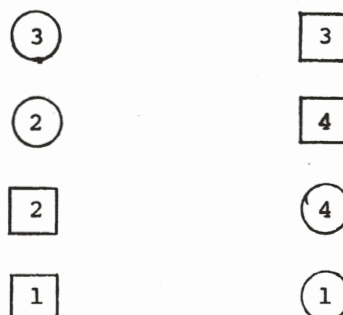
The tunes should be played as slow airs, and danced with slow
strathspey-like steps.

BARS

- 1-4 The four men dance four hands round to the left. On Bar 4 they all dance
in towards the centre of the set, pulling right shoulders back, to
face out towards partners.
- 5-8 All turn partners by the right hand to return to places, and set to partners.
- 9-10 1st and 3rd men give left hands to partners to cross them over as they
dance in to face the side couples.
- 11-12 1st man gives right hand to 3rd lady to lead her out between 4th couple,
then he crosses her over in front of him
- 3rd man and 1st lady dance out similarly between 2nd couple.
- 13-14 1st and 3rd couples cast round to meet partners on the opposite sides of
the set, and join hands in promenade hold.
- (Do not hurry - watch the phrasing!)
- 15-16 1st and 3rd couples dance across towards their original places, the men
passing left shoulders.
- They should not go out to places, but should be facing out towards
original places from near the centre of the set, having just
passed one another.
- 17-24 1st couple, staying together, dance a reel of three across the dance
with 4th man and 2nd lady, beginning by giving left shoulder to
4th man.

3rd couple dance a similar reel of three with 2nd man and 4th lady
beginning by giving left shoulder to 2nd man.

At the end:- 1st and 3rd couples release promenade hold and dance out
to form two lines of four up and down the dance.
1st and 3rd couples stay facing out at the ends of
the lines.



End of Bar 24

i.e. Set similar to that in "Blooms of Bon Accord" etc.

THE HAUNT OF THE GNOMES (continued)

25-32 2nd couple, joining hands in promenade hold, dance a reel of three up and down the dance with 3rd man and 1st lady, beginning by giving left shoulder to 3rd man.

4th couple dance a similar reel of three with 1st man and 3rd lady, beginning by giving left shoulder to 1st man.

All finish as at the end of Bar 24 with 1st and 3rd couples still facing out.

33-36 4th man and 2nd lady dance half a double figure of eight across the dance with 1st couple.

To begin:- 4th man and 2nd lady dance up crossing over, while 1st couple cast off.

2nd man and 4th lady dance similarly with 3rd couple.

37-40 1st and 4th men, and 2nd and 3rd men turn once on the side lines by the right hand, while the ladies turn by the left hand.

41-44 Repeat Bars 33-36 to return to positions as at the end of Bar 24.

45-48 The men turn once on the side lines by the left hand, while the ladies turn once the by the right hand. All finish facing across the dance.

49-52 1st couple, with 2nd lady and 4th man, dance right hands across, while 3rd couple dance similarly with 4th lady and 2nd man.

All finish in the side lines as at the end of Bar 24.

53-56 Halfreels of four on the side lines. All finish the half-reel facing as though ready to dance the second half.

57-60 1st couple with 2nd lady and 4th man dance right hands across, while 3rd couple dance similarly with 4th lady and 2nd man.

61-64 Half reels of four on the sides, but, at the end, all give right hands to partners to return to original places in a square set.

The dance may be repeated with the side couples leading:-

The first reels of three will be up and down the dance (Bars 17-24)

The second reels of three will be across the dance (Bars 25-32)

The straight lines (Bar 25 onwards) will be across the dance.

The dance provides a good test of memory and of orientation when done twice without stopping!