

Double Sir Roger De Coverly

Background

This unusual form of Sir Roger De Coverly was discovered by Pedr Gursteen in an old dance companion in the State Library of Victoria. It is an Australian arrangement, circ 1900, based on the original 9/8 Sir Roger De Coverly or Haymaker's Jig combined with the 6/8 Strip The Willow and cast-off of the Virginia Reel. It is danced with couples rather than single dancers as an interesting alternative.

Formation

Long set of four couples facing 4 couples with lady on right of partner. It is best to consider the line to the left of the band as the "Ladies Line" and that to the right as the "Gentleman's Line" so that the opening figurework can be compared as identical with the original Sir Roger up to the point of cast off where instead the Strip The Willow in 6/8 time commences.

Step

It is important that only a walking or running step, 3 to the bar, is used for the 9/8 section. A skip change step is used for the strip the willow and a walk or plain skip for the cast off.

The Dance

	Description	Bars
	<i>1. Haymakers – 9/8 section</i>	<i>48</i>
A1	Top couple (Ladies Line) and bottom couple (Gents Line) walk to centre and salute	4
	Bottom couple (LL) and top couple (GL) salute.	4
B1	Top couple (LL) and bottom couple (GL) right arm turn to opposite person in centre	4
	Bottom couple (LL) and top couple (GL) right arm turn to opposite person in centre	4
C1	Top couple (LL) and bottom couple (GL) left arm turn to opposite person in centre	4
	Bottom couple (LL) and top couple (GL) left arm turn to opposite person in centre	4
A2	Top couple (LL) and bottom couple (GL) 2 hand turn to opposite person in centre	4
	Bottom couple (LL) and top couple (GL) 2 hand turn to opposite person in centre	4
B2	Top couple (LL) and bottom couple (GL) do-si-do by right shoulder with opposite person in centre	4
	Bottom couple (LL) and top couple (GL) do-si-do by right shoulder with opposite person in centre	4

C2	Top couples walk in a line of 4 to bottom of set, turn around as a couple and walk back towards top of set. Finish between next top person of each line, making a line of six people across the top of the set. Top couples quarter turn to face partners.	8
	<i>2) Strip The Willow – 6/8 Section</i>	32
	Top 4 who are facing partners give right arms and turn 1 ½ times so that they can turn outside opposite person or inside person by left arm. This commences the Strip The Willow. * They move down the set in this manner turning partner by right arm and next opposite person of the outside line or centre person by left arm. Upon completion of Strip The Willow to the bottom of the set, the 2 couples holding hands as 4, walk back to top of the set.	
	<i>3) Cast-off – March music</i>	16
	Top couple separate and walk down the outside of their line, other couples in their line follow. Top couples form a four way arch (join hands and raise up). The other couples meet in fours coming through the bottom arch and walk back to top of set ready to start again.	

MUSIC – Arrangement 1 x 2 times. Arrangement 2 x 2 times and repeat

Arrangement 1	Bars Play
9/8 Sir Roger De Coverly	48 AABBCC x 2
6/8 Harry McQueen's Set Tune	32 AABB
4/4 Waltzing Matilda	16

Arrangement 2	
9/8 Haymaking	48 AABBCC x 2
6/8 The Lost Jig (Charlie Batchelor's)	32 AABB
4/4 The Thousand Miles Away	16

These instructions are typed from Shirley Andrews' notes as Shirley presented in her workshop in the early 1990's.

Strip The Willow is danced with EACH person in the line.

(Description provided by Gwen Burke)