Skirmish

Tradition: Adderbury

Origin: Unknown

6 dancers in 2 lines of 3. Face up.

Music: Captain Lanoe's Quick March (played very slowly).

Formula:

Once to yourself (8 bars).

Foot up twice
--------------------- Chorus
Half gyp
--------------------- Chorus
Tops down
--------------------- Chorus
Hands around
--------------------- Chorus
Bottoms up
--------------------- Chorus
Hey
--------------------- Chorus
Foot up twice to finish

Finish: Finish facing across the set to your partner after final foot up and clash with partner.
                     At the end of the dance odds walk off, evens turn out singly and follow odds off.

Chorus:

- A continuation of the British Grenadiers sticking
- First two clashes:
    - 3&4 step promptly back out of set and face to their right. 1&6 step towards each other. Set changes orientation clockwise from start by about 60 degrees.
    - One high forehand clash and one low forehand clash (like fencing), between pairs 2&4, 1&6, 3&5.
- Second two clashes:
    - 1&6 step back to place, 2&5 step towards each other, 3&4 stay out and face to their left. Set changes orientation anticlockwise from start by about 60 degrees.
    - Repeat sticking in pairs 1&3, 2&5, 4&6.
- Third two clashes:
    - All step back to place. Set is in start position. All repeat sticking in pairs across the set 1&2, 3&4, 5&6.
- Repeat the above three sticking sequences and changes of orientation until eight orientations have been completed.
- Positions at end of sticking chorus:
    - Set orientation moves round 60° anticlockwise viewed from above.
    - Everyone has moved one position clockwise around the set. New tops are the previous 1&3.

Note: First 3 pairs of clashes are the same as Grenadiers.
                   As everyone moves round one position clockwise at the end of the chorus be aware of who the new tops are. This is especially important for the tops up, bottoms down, and hey.
                   The dancers that one clashes with are always the same 3 throughout the dance, in the same sequence, but starting with a different one of the 3 for each chorus.
                   Keep the centre of the set fixed on a point on the ground, it's easy to drift the set sideways.
                   Musician can walk round the set to indicate tops, although this isn't the preferred option.

                   Written JM Nov 2024 edit JM Dec 2024