

The Three “E”s

A Strathspey for five couples in a square set; 5th couple face one another in the centre, 5W has her back to 2nd couple and 5M has his back to 4th couple.

- 1 – 4 Head Couples (1s & 3s) in promenade hold dance half a Reel of 4 with the middle couple (5W passes 1s, 5M passes 3s), 5s pass RS to start and again in the middle, to finish facing side couples (5M & 2s, 5W & 4s);
- 4 – 8 Side Couples (2s & 4s) in promenade hold dance half a Reel of 4 with the middle couple (5M passes 2s, 5W passes 4s), 5s pass LS at the end to start the next figure;
- 9 – 16 All dance the “Teapot Chain”:
 - 1 – 2 Middle couple dance RH across with Head Couples (5W & 1s, 5M & 3s) and move two places round the wheel while side couples turn RH halfway;
 - 3 – 4 Dancers on the outside turn the person they are facing LH halfway while the two in the middle (1W & 3W) turn LH three-quarters;
 - 5 – 6 Middle people dance RH across with Side Couples (1W with 3M & 5W, 3W with 1M & 5M) and move 2 places round the wheel while the people facing at the top and bottom turn RH halfway;
 - 7 – 8 Dancers on the outside of the set turn the person they are facing LH halfway while the two in the middle (5s) turn LH three-quarters.5s finish facing 4s in promenade hold;
- 17 – 24 Progression (all couples take promenade hold on bar 17):
 - 1 – 2 5s & 4s change places passing RS;
 - 3 – 4 4s & 3s change places passing RS while 5s set, nearer hands joined;
 - 5 – 6 3s & 2s change places passing RS while 4s & 5s set, nearer hands joined;
 - 7 – 8 2s & 1s change places passing RS while 3s, 4s & 5s set, nearer hands joined;
- 25 – 28 Outside couples circle 8H round to the left while the new middle couple (original 1s) set and turn halfway RH;
- 29 – 32 Outside couples circle 8H round to the right while the new middle couple set and turn halfway RH ready to pass RS into the half reels with Head Couples.

Repeat from new positions four times (5x 32 S).

In the “Teapot Chain” the first wheel (or “teapot”) is done with the Head Couple positions and the second one with the Side Couple positions. At the end of this figure, the outside couples finish in the place opposite where they started while the middle couple returns to the centre of the set.

This figure was devised at the Budapest Scottish Dance Weekend in 2013 (using the pink & blue tops from bottles of water!) for a dance I was asked to write for a 50th birthday celebration. I thought it would be nice to use it again in a dance for Budapest.

At the end of the progression, 2nd couple must remember that they dance into the circle left instead of setting.

The dance derives its name from the theme of the Budapest Scottish Dance Weekend, 24-26 April 2015.

The “three Es” are Enthusiasm, Experience & Excellence, which also represent the trio of organisers: Ágnes, Zsófia & Laura.

The dance is dedicated to the Budapest Scottish Dance Club with many thanks and great affection for their wonderful hospitality and happy dancing.

Tim Bolton-Maggs