



**ABEGWEIT**

Devised by John Drewry in October 1990

ABEGWEIT (pronounced "A-beg-wait") is the Micmac name for Prince Edward Island and means "cradled upon the waters".

Strathspey - 4 couples in a square set - 96 bars (i.e. 3X32 bars)

Tune - "The Cradle Song" - by J. Scott Skinner. See - "The Scottish Violinist" (page 36)

BARS DESCRIPTION

FIGURE 1

- 1-8 1<sup>st</sup> man and 3<sup>rd</sup> woman dance a figure of eight round 2<sup>nd</sup> couple, who stand still. 1<sup>st</sup> man finishes just in front of 2<sup>nd</sup> woman, and 3<sup>rd</sup> woman finishes in front of 2<sup>nd</sup> man.  
1<sup>st</sup> woman and 3<sup>rd</sup> man, similarly, dance a figure of eight round 4<sup>th</sup> couple to finish just in front of 4<sup>th</sup> couple.
- 9-10 1<sup>st</sup> man and 3<sup>rd</sup> woman, and 1<sup>st</sup> woman and 3<sup>rd</sup> man turn once round with both hands opening up to face partners across the dance and retaining hold of nearer hands.
- 11-12 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples set facing partners across the dance between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples.
- 13-16 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance four hands round to the left, breaking the circle in time for the men to draw partners out to original places.
- 17-32 Repeat bars 1-16 with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples dancing.

FIGURE 2

- 1-2 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples turn partners with the right hand half way round moving towards the middle of the set.



**ABEGWEIT**

(continued)

BARS	DESCRIPTION
3-4	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> couples dance right hands across half way round. At the end, the women turn towards partners to join hands in promenade hold with 1 <sup>st</sup> couple facing towards 3 <sup>rd</sup> couple's original place and 3 <sup>rd</sup> couple (back to back with 1 <sup>st</sup> couple) facing towards 1 <sup>st</sup> couple's original place.
5-8	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> couples promenade anticlockwise round the outside of the set to original places, while 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> couples, with nearer hands joined, advance and retire.
9-12	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> couples dance left hands across once round and remain in the middle of the set between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> couples.
13-16	1 <sup>st</sup> man and 3 <sup>rd</sup> woman dance right hands across with 2 <sup>nd</sup> couple while 1 <sup>st</sup> woman and 3 <sup>rd</sup> man dance right hands across with 4 <sup>th</sup> couple. All return to original places.
17-32	Repeat bars 1-16 with 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> couples leading.

FIGURE 3

1-2	1 <sup>st</sup> woman and 2 <sup>nd</sup> man, and 3 <sup>rd</sup> woman and 4 <sup>th</sup> man turn with both hands half way round (i.e. contra corners), opening into :-
3-4	1 <sup>st</sup> woman, 2 <sup>nd</sup> man, 3 <sup>rd</sup> woman and 4 <sup>th</sup> man dance four hands round to the left half way.
5-8	1 <sup>st</sup> woman and 4 <sup>th</sup> man, and 3 <sup>rd</sup> woman and 2 <sup>nd</sup> man turn with both hands one and a half times to original places (i.e. corners)
9-16	1 <sup>st</sup> man, 4 <sup>th</sup> woman, 3 <sup>rd</sup> man and 2 <sup>nd</sup> woman repeat bars 1-8.
17-18	Joining nearer hands with partners, all set facing across the dance.



**ABEGWEIT**

(continued)

BARS      DESCRIPTION

19-24      The women cast and dance round the set clockwise to original places, while the men set, advancing and then dance left hands across once round.

        At the end, all join hands with partners in promenade hold facing anticlockwise round the set.

25-32      All promenade anticlockwise round the set.

NOTE      If the strathspey is to be followed immediately by Marylou's Reel, 1<sup>st</sup> couple, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples, can dance up the middle of the set from third place (in the square) to form a straight set.

Last Revised - May 22, 2021