Traditional dance: Westerhope

Westerhope is a continuation of the North Walbottle dance, designed to be impressive on the stage and in posh houses. We’ll dance the following figures, with a lock between each (except for back over knot.) The style should be quite fast and athletic, with jigging in 8 bars with a break step (stamp).

**The Knot:**

**Tying the knot** ... by passing through the guard position, No. 3 leads through and turns to left, Nos. 1 and 2 turn right, No. 5 slips allowing No. 4 to move in front and ties the knot by turning left.

The knot should always be tied high, about eye height and untied by sharply cracking down the knot.

**Breaking the knot** … No. 1 stands and allows No. 2 to turn sharp right followed by Nos. 3, 4 and 5, No. 1 falls in, in front of No. 2 on completion of a circle again.

**Walk on:** Straight line, swords on shoulders, step 8, No. 1 moves to grip No. 5 rapper, completing a circle.

**Single Guard:** Each dancer in turn lifts his rapper turning left out of the set, dances around the set and back into place.

**Cramper:** from guard position, No. 3 walks forward under a lifted rapper turning left around set and back to place. Nos. 2 and 4 move forward around Nos. 1 and 5 respectively; all tie up.

Or

**Double Cramper:** starts as “Cramper” with No. 3 moving forward and to left back to place, then moves forward again to right and back to place. Nos. 2 and 4 untie rappers by moving around Nos. 1 and 5 TWICE; all tie up.

**Jigging Guard:** starts in the guard position (fiddler or coach and horses), stepping. Nos. 1 and 5 turn away from each other and stand behind No. 3, jig to end of bar, Nos. 2 and 4 turn away from each other and stand behind Nos. 1 and S, leaving No. 3 jigging at front of set. No. 3 moves to right or left and all tie-up. (Could we try this with double stepping?)

Or

**Tipping Guard**: jigging in the guard position, No. 3 jumps over 5’s rappers and tips (somersaults); all tie-up. If No. 3 can not tip then the team can stand in the guard in a different order with tipper in 3 position. In boys' team No. 5 tips. No. 5 then acts as No. 3 in tying up.

**Right and Left:** begins as curly, three times through. At bottom of the set Nos. 1 and 5 cross to “wrong side” of set followed by 2, 4 and 3. Order of crossing 1, 5, 2, 4, 3. Almost immediately the men cross back to own side of set in same order. Figure performed three times.

**Fast Knot:** (fast meaning tight) figure begins as curly (X2) and “right and left” (X3). After third circuit of right and left No. 1 stays on the wrong side of the set (with No. 2), Nos. 5 and 4 also stay on wrong side (No. 3 can stay on either side). Team then executes a “curly”. Dancers then cross back to own side (like right and left) Nos. 1, 5, 2, 4 and 3; once through “curly” to untie rappers ...... tie-up.

**Back over knot:** In circle guard all dancers turn half-left, i.e. facing outwards, raising rappers above head, tie an upside-down lock. Dancers fall into display and back into back-to-back position, knot untied by half turn to right. On displaying the knot the team falls into a straight line facing up, No. 1 holding the knot in the middle of the line.

**Chain:** from guard position, Nos. 1 and 5 turn out as for “curly”, stand facing down, Nos. 2, 3 and 4 turn on spot to face down; No. 3 crosses rappers behind head. Nos. 1 and 5 sweep 5 rapper under Nos. 2, 3 and 4 who jump over it simultaneously. Nos. 1 and 5 execute fast turns and all tie-up.

**Fourth Corner:** stepping in the guard. Nos. 1 and 5 lift 5’s rapper allowing Nos. 2 and 4 to slip through and to sides, leaving No. 3 in the middle of the line. No. 3 then lowers both his rappers allowing Nos. 1 and 5 to jump over them; almost immediately Nos. 1 and 5 lower the rapper between them to allow No. 3 to jump over… tie-up.

Lock and display in line.