

The monthly magazine dedicated to line dancing

linedancer



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Linedancer interviews Alan Clarke

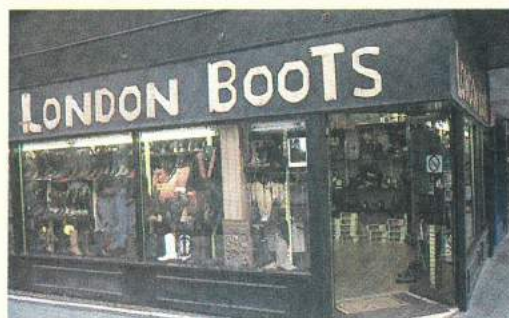
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Dear Dancers

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of *Linedancer*, the monthly magazine dedicated to those of you who, like me, have taken to the floor and become part of the UK line dancing stampede.

It's clear that line dancing appeals to people from all walks of life, people of every age, (*and of every shape and size!*) and that's got to be one of the reasons why it's so popular. Even shy "non-dancers" can quickly learn a dance and feel the pleasure of moving with the music instead of sitting on the sidelines watching and wishing.

Speaking personally, I find the pleasure of sharing time with happy, outgoing people an absolute tonic. I don't know of any other activity where it really is O.K to go alone and simply join in. Male or female, old or young, somehow everyone feels welcome and going to a club or a class is a great opportunity to make new friends and have a really good giggle too!

My "day job" for the past 24 years has been in publishing but my love of dancing began many years before that. So my experience as a publisher and a line dance instructor are now combined, and I have the greatest pleasure in bringing you *Linedancer*.

Linedancer is not affiliated to any association or attached commercially to any class. And with *Linedancer* you won't miss a step! In each edition we will publish a selection of dances in "Stepping off the Page" so that you can learn the steps and techniques at your own pace. It will never, never replace going to a class or a club, where you can enjoy the atmosphere and share the laughter, but it will be a big help for those of you who struggle with new dances.

Of course, we do hope to have your input and would love to hear from you. Call us, write to us, fax us, or meet us on the dance floor. Tell us your news and views, tell us what's going on in your area. Where are the best places to go, who are the good teachers, what are the most popular songs and which are your favourite dances?

Kindest regards to you all, and remember - until the next time, do keep in line.



inedancer

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Make it your mag..

With all your news, views, notions and nonsense.....

PETER Fairhead and Jane Matthews, who head up "Neon Moon" have been invited to start American line dancing at the Adelphi, Sheffield's newest nitespot.

Opening at the beginning of June, the Adelphi will present a variety of styles of music in this prestigious venue - a renovated, listed building. It has two large dance floors and will offer ample opportunities for experienced and novice line dancers to strut their stuff.

Every Monday night from June 10th.

You'll also find "Neon Moon" nights all over the north of England, with 1996 bookings ranging from Morecambe on the Lancashire coast to Cleethorpes in Lincolnshire.

CONTACT Peter Fairhead (01274) 851434

LONDON. Line dancing every Tuesday at the Hammersmith Palais (0181 7482812) featuring the BOOT SCOOT instructors and dancers with DJ Steve Crosby. Doors open 6.45 p.m. Admission £4.75

SOUTHPORT, Lancs, June 14 - 16th. Golden Horseshoe Western Dancers present an AMERICAN LINE & WESTERN DANCE WEEKEND at the FLORAL HALL (01704-540404). Music by THE HERO'S, FRISCO, CAMPBELL'S COUNTRY and PEANUTS DISCO. Weekend tickets £20, children under 14, £10

BRIGHOUSE, Yorks, near junc.25 of the M62.

Tuesday, June 25th. As part of a week of events, there's an American line dancing night at the Ritz (01484-720058). AW's Crazy Legs Line Dancers, plus the HALEYS and MOONLIGHT RODEO at one of the biggest country dance venues in the country. Starts, 7.45pm, £3:00

AMERICANA '96 returns to the Newark Showground on July 12th - 14th with the DEAD RECKONING SHOW (Kieran Kane, Kevin Welch, Harry Stinson, Tammy Rogers & Mike Henderson, etc), GEORGE HAMILTON'S IV & V (Das and Hege), plus a feast of UK talent (Stu Page, Sarah Jory, Amanda Norman Sell & her band, The Fever, etc). There's also a rock'n'roll and rhythm & blues show along with plenty of opportunity to show off your line dance skills. Admission and camping details on Nottingham 0115 939 0595

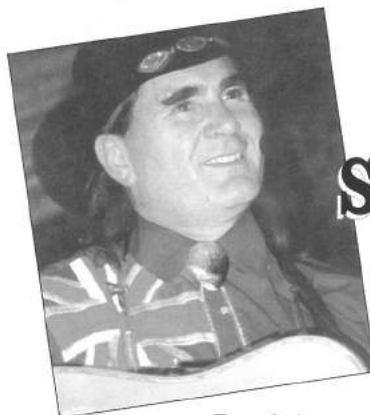
HARROGATE, Saturday, August 17th. A CHANCE TO DANCE at the Royal Hall (01423-537230) with the DEAN BROS, HALEYS and PICASSO BROS plus DJ/COMPERE Peter Fairhead. Tickets £9 includes free souvenir cassette (£7 without).

Address your letters to:

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Young gun

**British National Champion, European Champion
...and only 19 years old.**

Linedancer went to visit a Merseyside lad who means business.

Alan Clarke's front room carpet is looking the worse for wear. The many hours spent drilling dance routines to perfection have obviously taken their toll. Last August, Alan won the ABC Division 3 National Championship and the corresponding European title in the space of just two days. The carpeting takes the punishment, Alan takes the trophies and as far as the Clarke family are concerned there's no one more proud.

Moreton, where Alan lives on the Wirral side of the River Mersey, seems an unlikely place for one of British line dancing's youngest success stories. On the winding housing estate a couple of kids knock about a football, while over the way a golf links runs along the promenade.

You wouldn't exactly say there was much of a "Country" feel. But then appearances can be deceptive. Country music and line dancing have become something of a family tradition.

"My Dad's listened to country music all his life", explains Alan, "and so have I. I started line dancing three years ago. Before then I went to a country music club for two years but never danced...it looked too hard. But when I actually tried it wasn't so difficult after all."

Since those tentative beginnings, Alan has gained international recognition and boasts two other national trophies alongside his British and European titles.

"At first I just went once a week like everyone else and then I began going to more classes. Naturally, when I was asked to enter a competition I started practising and practising. Doing a competition is the biggest buzz you can get!"

Fate may have led Alan to line dancing but old fashioned hard graft achieved the success. A country music DJ at the Cammell Laird's club in Rock Ferry, (with a BA in Law, believe it or not) Alan Clarke senior is a constant source of advice and encouragement. "If Torvill and Dean can do it on ice then you can do it on stage", is his motto.

The two are a kind of double of act: father providing the inspiration, son producing the goods. It's an effective combination. Nowadays Alan teaches and between his hectic schedule, practises at his father's club.

Rewards and acclaim may be the light at the end of the tunnel but it's a hard and stressful job to get there.

"You train for twelve months and then you've got three minutes to get it right!", says Alan junior. "You're on the floor,

everybody's watching, and when the judges take down your number and mark your appearance before the dance starts, it's dead silent. That's the frightening part!"

The National Championship in Blackpool last August was Alan's first line dancing competition. In a rags to riches-style challenge, Alan had to win the national event in order to qualify for the European contest just two days later.

"I was thrown in at the deep end to put it mildly. For the European event I was the only British entry in the whole thing. I hadn't seen any of the dancers before. They all walked in dressed in black, uniformed and smart. And they'd had more time to practise!" It was a tall order to win but it seems Alan's

philosophical, nothing-to-lose attitude proved decisive.

"You've got the whole day to wait before they announce the results.

Eventually, third was called...then second was called...and I was sat there thinking, 'I've either come nowhere or I've won it!'...When they said I had come first I did a silly little jig, and when the news came through that my mate, Rob Fowler, had won the higher division as well, we both did a little jig!"

Line dancing in the UK is taking off. As well as challenging their European rivals Alan and company have the Americans firmly in their sights.

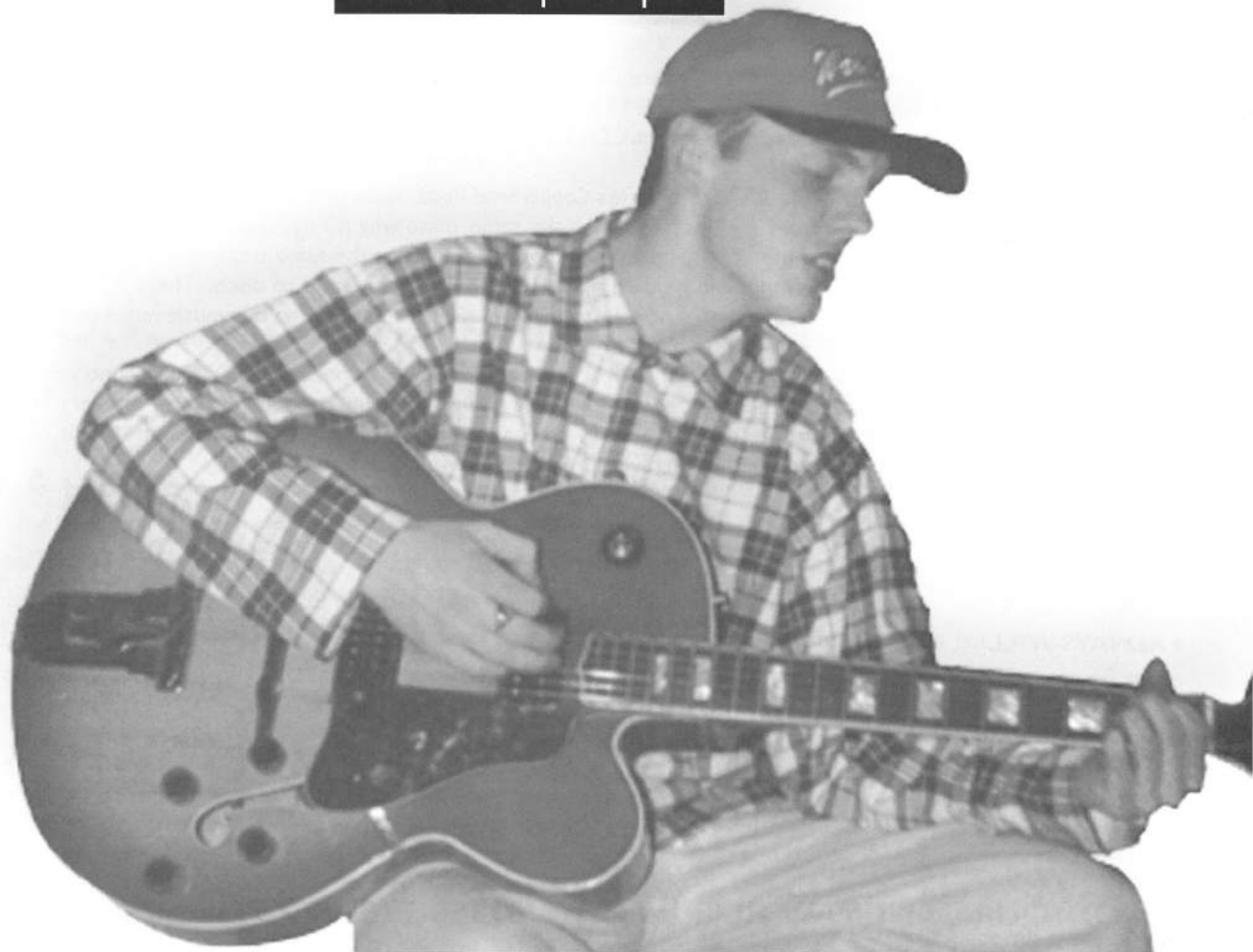
"At first the Americans used to come over and whitewash everything" says, Alan junior, "but now we're catching them up."



"...three minutes to get it right..."

"It's mainly down to the arrival of Country Music Television on satellite. We can get their music now as fast as they can, and we get the dances just as fast as well. Before we had to wait maybe three or four years."

Alan and Rob are currently making a video for CMT, while only two weeks ago they performed a demonstration for the BBC's "Out and About" programme. The dance school they



When he's not stompin', he's strummin'. Alan Clarke relaxing at home.

run, "Houston Hustlers", teaches five days a week at sport centres across Liverpool, while the pair also run classes up in Harrogate and Blackpool. It's a hectic livelihood that leaves little time for sleep let alone girlfriends and nights out with the boys. But most of all they enjoy it!

For all their trophies and competitions they remain true to what is most important - that line dancing should be open to everyone and that it's fun!!

"It's not like going to work. I get just as much enjoyment teaching as they do dancing...It's great that we're getting more teenagers involved...In Liverpool, it's taken off like a craze!"

A great fan of the Reds, Alan had to miss most of the FA Cup final to find time to be interviewed. As it turned out he didn't miss much, but it was a sign of his commitment.

Mother, father and three sisters, Alan has the whole family's support. It's become a team effort. Even his eight month old little brother is a "line dancer in the making."

One day, when there's a world title to go for, there'll be the Clarke family waiting in line...

Heaven help the Americans!.....

The Politics of Line Dancing

At present there is only one body in this country that holds a European competition. This is the ABC or All British Council. On the other hand, several organisations hold rival national competitions, each vying for the title of British champ.

It's a situation not greatly unlike the egotistical wrangling of international boxing. Meanwhile Alan, and other dancers like him, are faced with the merry-go-round of trying to win as many of the various titles on offer.

As well as his ABC crown, Alan is UCWDC (United Country and Western Dance Council) Division 4 Shuffle Champion, and Division 2 British Champion of the smaller and more recent British Western Dance Association. Phew!!! It's a hard business keeping track.

"The ABC and the UCWDC are at the present minute fighting it out like cat and dog, putting different events on at the same time. It's a pity because they're only shooting themselves in the foot. They're all national titles in their own right, and if they'd stop bickering and split the events properly, all the trophies would have more prestige."

Mature sentiments indeed but Alan has to make the best of a bad situation and stick to the job in hand. Promotion to Division 2 alongside arch rival and best friend, Rob Fowler, is the aim this year, as well as winning the European Championships once again down in Dorset in July.

The fact that there exists no division 1 speaks volumes about the widespread confusion. As dancers make the grade higher divisions are created but presently there aren't quite the numbers to launch a top flight.

And what about the judges? "They're really quite good", is Alan's tactful and professionally astute reply.

Dance to the Beat

news.....reviews.....news.....reviews

At last, a compilation CD of recent/current hits that are ideal for various line dances but are perfectly suitable for partner and couple dancing as well. A twenty track CD compilation, **TOE THE LINE** on MCA is a must for any DJ or dance instructor collection. You may well already have the originals on twenty different CD's but this very effective collection makes life a whole lot easier! It'll keep you dancing for well over an hour!

Classic numbers to get you groovin' include: Steve Earle's *Copperhead Road*, George Strait's *Adalida, Trouble* by Mark Chesnutt, and the deliriously popular *Watermelon Crawl* by Tracy Byrd. All the same, quite why it's necessary to create club or dance remixes of good quality country music is beyond me. I remember good pop music getting the same treatment in the eighties and it promptly died. We have now established country music in it's own right - let's not now convert it to disco! There is a slogan we used to wear on our tour jackets that read "Keep it Country" - now let's change it slightly to say "Keep our music *real* country"!

Paul Overstreet's album, **TIME** proves that he is just such a "real country" artist - one of the ultimate country singer songwriters in my opinion. He has a brilliant voice and the music shows excellent arrangement and production. There are very few acts that appear live on stage at a dance venue where the dancers actually stop and listen. This guy is one of them. If you do feel the urge to boogie...here are some of the tracks to go for, along with their beats-per-minute.

I'M GONNA RING HER	138
LET'S GO TO BED EARLY	154
I ALWAYS WILL	116
BLACKBERRY COBBLER	156
MY MILLER	96

Ragin' Rob's dance Review...

My thanks to Mike Dark of Honky Tonk Jukebox for supplying the CD's to review - some of which I was tempted to buy for my collection

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Redneck, Rhythm and Blues.....

from the "Borderline" CD by Brooks & Dunn

With 12 million album sales and over 20 major industry awards to their name, Brooks & Dunn have become one of country music's most popular acts. Not bad in just five years.

Among the top 5 highest grossing live bands on the country scene the platinum-studded success story looks set to continue. "Borderline", their fourth and newest album, is a combination of both vintage "Brooks & Dunn" and a taste of something different.

"It's a little bit of a left turn for us...I felt like it was time for us to kind of veer off the most travelled path", remarks Ronnie Dunn, recipient of "Billboard's" 1995 "Songwriter of the Year" award.

Dunn's range and ability as a singer have rarely been better showcased than on the album's lead-off single, "My Maria". An impressive remake of the near-forgotten BW Stevenson hit, the vocals come fresh and hard hitting.

"White Line Cassanova" and "One heartache at a Time", provide ample flashes of the duo's "classic" style among a fistful of new originals. "Brooks & Dunn"

wrote or co-wrote eight of the eleven songs on "Borderline", including "A Man This Lonely", "Why Should I Say Goodbye", and the irresistibly hooky, "Mama Don't Get Dressed up for Nothing."

"I think Ronnie and I are a little bit more settled with each other this time around. We're not so hesitant about expressing some of the things a little bit more below the surface."

So says Kix Brooks, a Louisiana native whose previous smash hits "Lost and Found" and "You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone", betray a cunning sense for chart success.

The lilting "I am That Man" (written by Terry McBride and Marty Powell) and Buddy Miller's "My Love Will Follow You" are a refreshing complement of outside influences; soulful ballads combined with the band's own creative muses that lend "Borderline" its distinct appeal.

Intense perfectionism and musical originality in the studio have nevertheless always been counterbalanced by an irrepressibly emphatic stage show. It's become the personal trademark.

"While you're out there, you feel no pain", says Kix, grinning. "You're oblivious to everything but the music. I took a couple of pretty good spills off the stage and got stitched up twice last year. But I never even know I'm hurt till I come off stage."

Ronnie and I run into each other all the time, and if I'm too near the edge he'll stick out an arm and stop me."

Together with their "explosive" live performance, "Brooks & Dunn's" new album reminds listeners, above all, that these guys are still right out there on the edge, still challenging their audiences and challenging themselves. But, when all said and done, who knows the secret of their success? "I'm not much good at analysing it all", says Kix. "We just do what we do and thank God that a lot of people are into it. I think the public just sees us for what we are: a couple of buddies making music together."

"That tremendous rush we feel when we hit the stage, or when we lay down vocal tracks in the studio, is still there. It's something I can't imagine losing...And we hope to keep doing it for a long, long time."



'..we just do what
we do and thank
God people are
into it.'

COUNTRY 1035

Linedancer casts
its beady eye on...

Country in the capital

DJ Phil Miles is a difficult man to track down and British Rail trains don't run on time. When you're trying to make an interview, it's a sinister combination. We weren't going to let him get away though. From of a greasy phone box in Liverpool Lime Street station, Linedancer nabs the elusive DJ.

Seventeen years experience in radio has taught Phil Miles a thing or two. Do your homework and know your audience. Broadcasting to 9.8 million across London, Country 1035 competes with zillions of other stations for a piece of the commercial action. "We're a country station but first and foremost we're a radio station", says Phil. "Down here, 25,000 country listeners aren't enough to support us so we've got to broaden our appeal, catering as well for the audience out there who don't yet know or may not even like Country music..."

Unfortunately, Country does have this "Hick", "Yee-ha" image to many people, so it's a process of bringing people around little by little. We don't just sit here and think, here's a good record lets play that, there's a great deal of research that takes place first. We play a lot of cross-over music. Wynonna's "To be Loved by You" is a song that's getting a lot of air play at the moment."

Meeting the challenge of the capital rat race, Country 1035, launched in September 1994, are holding their own and have a new show.

Saturday evening's "The Connection" is the pick of the play list and the oracle of all things country.

Interviewing a star of country music every evening, the 7pm show also casts a spotlight on the British and Irish scene and provides the very latest news, reviews and local gig low down.

Plus, Andy Vaughan of Country Music International chips in his six pennies worth, while Sue Wilkinson dishes the hottest gossip from Nashville Tennessee.

And to top it all, chart the latest US hits courtesy of the American Country Countdown.

So, what about line dancing, Phil!!! Ya' cheeky monkey! "It's something we're most definitely aware of. I've got a sister up in Wales who loves it!" She's not the only one.

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linedancer

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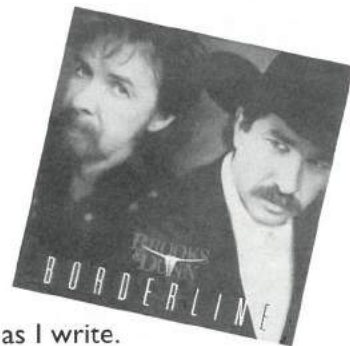
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Competitions

CD Competition Winners..

Linedancer's lucky blighters from last month's FREE prize draw are:

- 1 Elaine Hignett, Wirral.
- 2 Mr R. Litchfield, Stoke-on-Trent.
- 3 Rebecca Powell, Hampshire.



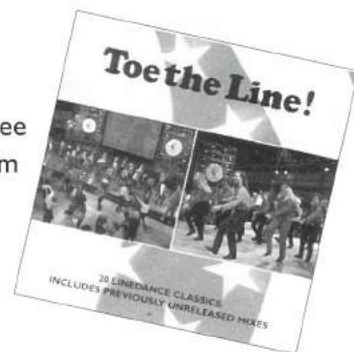
A copy of Brooks and Dunn's new album, *Borderline*, is winging its way to each of you as I write.

Subscribe!!!

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 11!

ALL new subscriptions will be entered into our latest prize draw competition. The first three names drawn out of the hat will win a copy of *Toe the Line*, the new line dance CD from MCA records, as reviewed by Ragin' Rob. We're a generous bunch, aren't we?

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Kickin' At the Cattleman's.....

"Dick and Geneva" are two names synonymous with British Line Dancing. When they introduced Line Dancing to the U.K. from America 12 years ago, Prestatyn was one of the first places they came helping to establish a festival that's since become a "Must" on the Country Circuit.....

I'M not familiar with holiday camps.

To be honest I'm not particularly familiar with holidays.

It's not so long ago that I was a student, when vacation time seemed to be spent either washing dishes in grimy restaurants or watching my bank account grow zeros in the wrong direction...A moving tale...and a pleasant change to be invited along to the 1996 Pontin's Country Music Festival.

Being my first visit I didn't really know what to expect, so it was a bit of a shock when a Red Indian squaw in full regalia came hurtling into to my path. A Union general replete with gold braid and menacing sabre swished between the tables, while a frontier settler demanded a hair of the dog. Country aficionados are not known for doing things by halves.

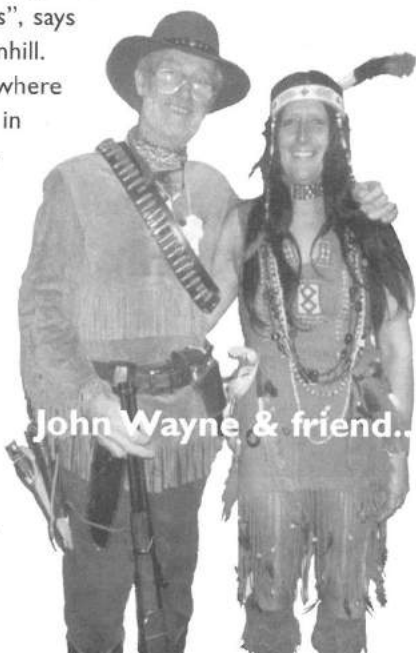
There's a social hierarchy to these events, it seems, and dare I say it a certain snobbishness. Western reenactors, line dancers, and country music enthusiasts each occupy their own separate part of the floor - equally convinced that their little world in the country scene is most definitely the best. With the utmost impartiality, I set out to fly the flag for line dancing.

In the Cattleman's Club dance hall "West Virginia" have just finished their final number - a soothing rendition of "David Gates and Bread's" IF. Winding down over a couple of well-earned beers they take time out for a brief chat.

"We've been coming to Prestatyn for 12 years", says lead singer, Keith Thornhill.

"It's got to the stage where we recognise people in the audience. We've got a good following across the U.K."

Nominated for Best Band at the British Country Music Radio Awards in March, was one of what have been many highlights in West Virginia's 20 year



John Wayne & friend..



career. "Blue Rendezvous" also picked up Best Album at the ceremony in 1994. With the calendar pleasantly stuffed with bookings the band pays line dancing it's due. "It's certainly helped raise country music's profile", admits

Brian Nichols, West Virginia's drummer, "and that can only be good news for the likes of us... I can't do any of the dances though; my wife's the expert!"

Deftly avoiding a Confederate's musket, I venture next door to the "Silver Dollar Saloon". Come Saturday, more than 2000 people will have visited the week-long event and the line dancers are certainly making the most of it. Newly weds, Rusty and Mo Douch, have made the trip from Hampshire. Rusty is tonight's compere for the festival's excellent resident LD band, Memphis Roots, while Mo, a former nurse, is making a fleeting escape from the classes she otherwise runs five days a week. Somehow, they can still manage to talk shop.

"Line dancing is a social event", says Mo. "You don't need a partner and you can meet people of all ages..."

My youngest dancer is four and my oldest, ninety three! But the first thing I always teach them is just to have fun!"

Is line dancing a fad? The three hundred or so people in the Silver Dollar Saloon don't seem to think so. "Tush-pushing" and "Boot-Scootin'", they're the straightest answer you'll get. I've finished badgering people for the evening, so it's time to get trigger- happy with the camera. For all we know Little-Big Horn and John Wayne, alias Terry and Christine Price, could have stepped straight off the Great Plains. Along way from the western frontier they may be, but it makes an irresistible shot. Can't wait to get it back from the developers!

The Pontin's Country music festival at Prestatyn is held during the first week of May each year. For more information and details on a Pontin's festival near you, ring Mark Hobson on: 01745 852267

By Stephen Worsley

Look
Out
here
Comes.....

The Southpor

WHEN line dancers get together they really take their fun seriously.

At a recent line dancing social day held at Pontins Holiday Centre in Southport, more than 400 line dancers arrived with the sole intention of enjoying themselves.

The event was organised with a view to giving enthusiastic beginners an opportunity to show off the dances they'd learned over the previous weeks. They were joined by several other more experienced groups from the around the area and it wasn't long before the little social gathering became a full blown line dance stampede!

The music started at 2pm. The dancing started a full five seconds later and continued all day until 11:30pm when *Firepower Disco* played the final dance.

Everyone put their heart and soul into stepping out every dance step, showing off their favourites and mastering the new routines. New line dancers watched in awe as a group of superb performers from across the River Mersey gave a demonstration. Later in the day, the floor parted for young Alan Clarke - holder of several championship titles - as he enthralled a wide-eyed audience with his dancing talents.

As part of the day, a "Fun" dancing competition was organised. At least that was the idea. But there's no doubt about it - line dancers *do* take their fun seriously! They entered all levels of competition, including the best "fun" dance which produced a wonderful array of musical interpretation and the wildest selection of costumes. The choice of names for the dance teams were definitely the gifts of very fertile imaginations. Or should I say, *warped* imaginations!?

Finally, the dancers had a chance to choreograph their own routines in the "Best New Dance" section.

The winning entry was to be taught to a class of novice dancers at a Charity Night in aid of a local hospice the following month.

Pat and Sam Gretton - Western dance teachers with 10 years experience, and Irene Crossley, who actually learnt line dancing whilst living in America - were the brave judges.

"SHARP SHOOTIN" SHERIFF

Watching this man fill the stage with musical talent and an obvious love of his work was a joy!

Dave's ability as a singer songwriter is outstanding but his talents don't stop there. He is also a very gifted musician and seems able to play any musical instrument he picks up - most at the same time!

With just the right tempo, Dave kept the dancers going with a quick move from dance to dance - satisfying all tastes and preferences.

He was brilliant!

But to top it all - guitar in hand, singing at the top of his voice - he wins the day as he joins in the dances. WOW!!!!...he can "Tush Push" to beat the best!



Dave Sheriff - the all singing, all dancing action man.

Stompers



Slappy Sisters.
A group of young dancers stole the show with their version of Slappin' Leather.



The "Not So Shy Stompers"
Stompin' home with first prize after only 14 weeks line dancing practise. Can you spot the mother and daughter in this group? Bet you can't.



They called themselves "The good, the bad and the ugly" and they danced a never to be forgotten version of Good Ol' Boys.



Daisy's Maybes.
Full marks for the effort - Victoria (top left) entered almost every dance at every level and won a coveted rosette with a little help from her friends



Who else but a group calling themselves "Happy Hookers" would go to this much trouble to dress for the occasion? The dance was Trashy Women and my word did they give it emphasis!!

Are You Ready for This?

Steve Crosby and Mervyn Conn are two names you line dancers will be hearing a lot more of over the coming months. Kicking off in Southampton on September 6th and travelling to 70 premier venues across the UK, the combination of line dance enthusiasm and promotional expertise proudly presents...

THE BRITISH LINE DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS - ON TOUR!

Nationwide and open to everyone, the all-comer event will combine competitive heats and professional instruction with a "fun factor" of cabaret and top class entertainment. If big time glamour and Nashville pazazz are just your ticket, then get in line!

Fabulous prizes and trophies, as well as spot prizes,

will be competed for at every stage of this massive event from the opening gala night, through to the regional heats and grand finals, with the first-ever British champions winning a trip for two to Texas, USA.

Local TV, radio stations and newspapers will be heavily involved with covering and judging their own local line dance competitions. While top name American LD celebrities will be flown in as the tour reaches its dramatic climax at the Championships Finals next Easter - scheduled for a major London venue. "Novice", "Experienced" and "Team" are the three categories to enter, ensuring a chance for everyone to participate and enjoy a memorably fun time.

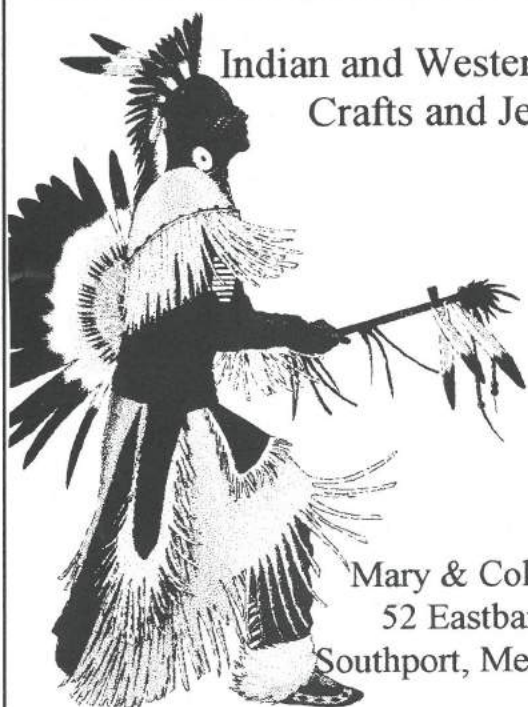
"The great appeal of line dancing is that it is choreographed for the public", says co-producer Steve Crosby. "We've no more right to set up a competition than anyone else. What we want is to provide enjoyable entertainment, nationwide and accessible to everyone.

That's something that hasn't really been done before."

A DJ and businessman with more than 20 years experience in the entertainment field, Steve Crosby wanted to find a vehicle for his country music obsession. Two years ago, on the back of New Country and "Achy Breaky Heart", "Boot Scoot" was created, a dance school that quickly acquired an enviable reputation in the London area. Under dance leader, "Rodeo" Ruth Lambden - whose impressive experience was acquired working on American cruise ships - the team of instructors and performers are set to help judge and present a West-End-style Revue at each stop on the tour.

At the inspired recommendation of CMI's Andy Vaughan, "Boot Scoot" teamed up with Mervyn Conn - the bee's knees of entertainment and country music promotions in the UK for over 30 years. Since proving the sceptics wrong with his first International Festival of Country Music at Wembley in 1969, Mervyn has never looked back.

The Trading Lodge

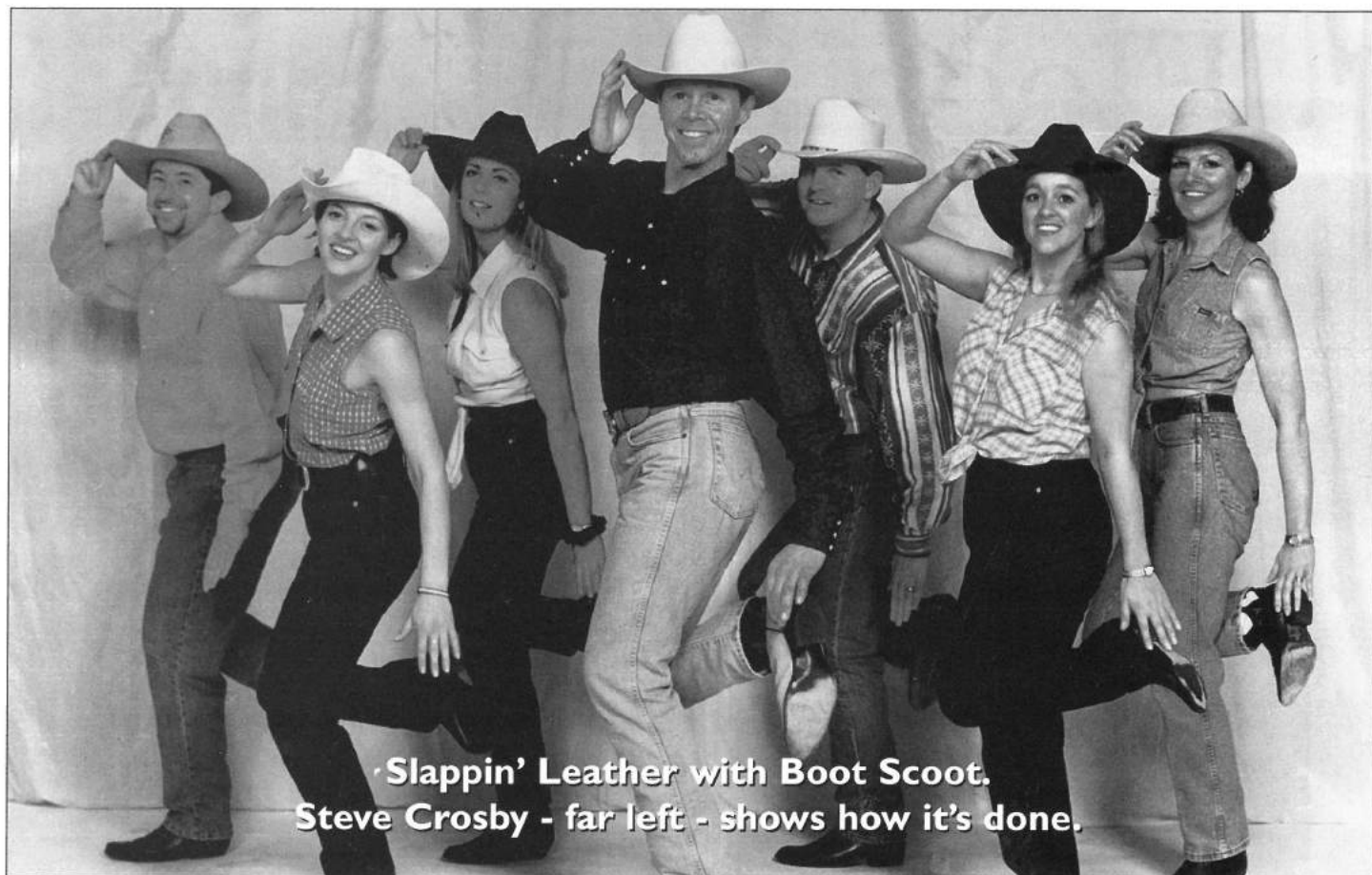


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Boot scoot



Slappin' Leather with Boot Scoot.
Steve Crosby - far left - shows how it's done.

"It's time to test the commercial potential of Line Dancing...and its public interest. We're going for a younger audience, hopefully to bring back the country festival in a new shape and form to Wembley."

With an illustrious CV, that includes The Beatles, Johnny Cash and Don Williams, the very fact that Mervyn Conn has put his name to this project is confidence indeed in the country's line dancing craze. But is LD here to stay? His disarmingly frank assessment is that we must wait and see...

"Nothing lasts in life", he said. "You can be sure of only two things...Death and taxes."

Cheer up, Merv!!

The Nationwide Competition was launched in style at the Hammersmith Palais on 21st May.

For next month's indepth report and the latest details on when the championship will pass your way, join the line with *Linedancer* and subscribe today!

BOOTS

TOP TEN DANCE TRACKS JUNE 1996

1.	BROOKS & DUNN	MY MARIA
2.	RICOCHET	DADDY'S MONEY
3.	SHENANDOAH	ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTIN
4.	CURTIS DAY	COWBOY STOMP
5.	LONESTAR	NO NEWS
6.	COOTER BROWN	PURE BRED REDNECK
7.	SHANIA TWAIN	YOU WIN MY LOVE
9.	RICH McCREADY	THINKIN' STRAIT
10.	SMOKIN' ARMADILLOS	THUMP FACTOR

Floor for all.....

This simple guide will help you to enjoy your line dancing even more, especially if everyone is aware of the floor etiquette and tries to follow it whenever possible.

- ★ Never come onto the dance floor carrying drinks, glasses, cans or lighted cigarettes.
- ★ Never stay on the floor to talk - if the music has started go off the dance floor to chat.
- ★ When dancing near beginners - be mindful and courteous and don't show off. Too many variations can put people off.
- ★ Don't start a different dance of your own, unless there is plenty of room on the dance floor and you sense it is acceptable.
- ★ Remember the floor is for everyone. If you are dancing in lines, try to leave the outside lane clear for the couple dancers.
- ★ Those dancing around the outside lane have the right of way. Don't block their progress.
- ★ When dancing around the floor, the line of dance 'LOD' is always anti-clockwise. Never dance against the LOD.
- ★ If the floor is crowded, take small steps, enjoy the company, but watch out for collisions.
- ★ If you should bump into someone, it is customary to apologise whether it is your fault or not.
- ★ Should you accidentally knock over someone's drink replace it immediately.
- ★ If possible, start another line rather than join one which will block the outside lanes.
- ★ Don't be tempted to stop dancing to teach, especially if there is no room. Try to teach off the floor if you can find space.
- ★ Never walk through a line of dancers to cross the floor - always walk around the floor or wait.
- ★ Remember everyone was once a beginner, if you can dance do try to be helpful to newcomers.
- ★ If the dance floor is empty and you are starting off the dance, go to the front so that others can fall in line behind you.
- ★ And finally. Keep your head up, keep smiling and enjoy yourselves.

If you have other suggestions please drop us a line, we are happy to publish any bright ideas which will help to improve line dancing pleasure.

Country Code

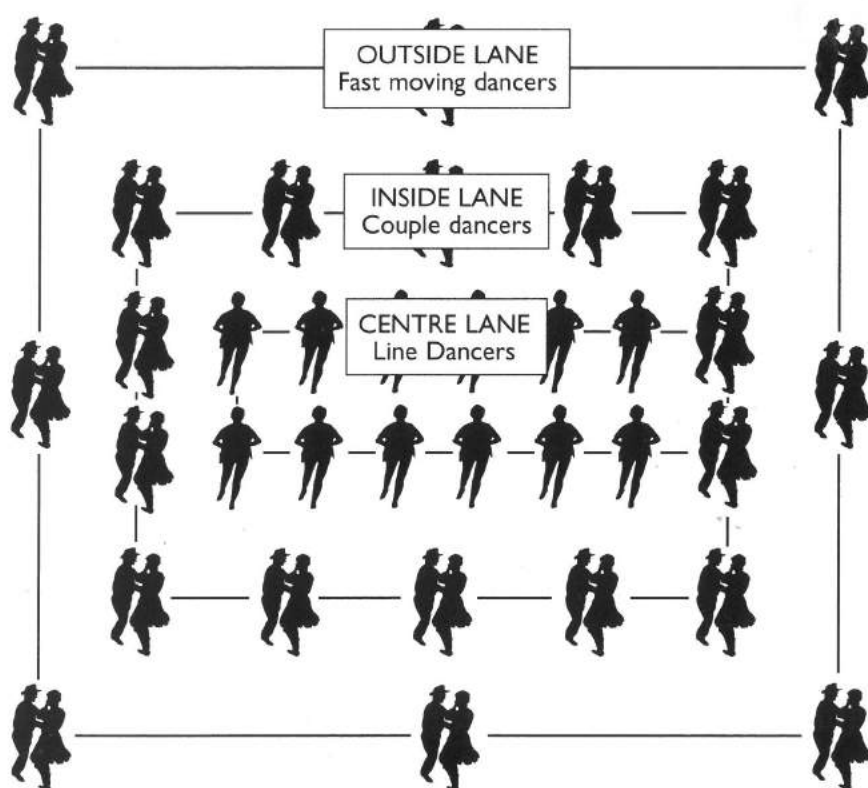
AS line dancing becomes more and more popular, the number of people attending classes and clubs increases every week. Many are complete beginners and are unaware of the floor etiquette which helps ensure everyone has room and a chance to enjoy themselves.

The dance floor is divided into three sections:

Centre for the line dancers

Inside lane (around the line dancers) for two steppers and swing dancers

Outside lane (around the two steppers) for the faster moving dancers



The Easy way To Learn...

Now you can learn new line dances or practise your favourites every month by "Stepping off the Page" with *Linedancer*.

The format is an easy to follow, step by step guide to speed up the pleasure of learning new dances. The terminology is selected from research conducted from the various Western & Line Dance authorities and our own fieldwork involving live teaching sessions, analysing teaching videos and examining thousands of printed instructions.

HOW TO FOLLOW "Stepping off the Page"

Firstly, each dance is divided into small sections to help you learn by easy stages. This way you can practise the sections you have difficulty with and build the entire dance at your own pace.

Dance instructions are divided into four headings:-

1. STEPS

Under this heading is a count which gives the number of steps in:-

- a.) each individual section, so that you can count the steps as you perform the routine.
- b.) the total number of steps in the entire dance.

2. ACTUAL FOOTWORK

At the beginning of each section is a summary title for the routine. Experienced dancers will easily follow the dance from the summary title alone. Less experienced dancers may need to study the step by step word description of how to perform each step.

3. CALLED

This is very helpful for memorising the dance. Read this column from top to bottom as you step through each section (eg A Grapevine could be called = Step, Behind, Step, Stomp). Memorising the sections this way really speeds up how quickly you can learn a dance.

4. DIRECTION

This is just in case you find the steps confusing. It simply gives the direction you should be moving when you perform each step (eg Right, Left, Forwards, Backwards, Turning, On the Spot, etc)

Here are four great dances for you. Boogie Bop, The Texas Twist, Country Boy II and The Nightlife Slide. Choose the one that best suits your experience and see how quickly it takes to learn simply by...

"Stepping off the Page."



Stepping off the page

Learn the Boogie Bop

Danced to:-

Cowboy Beat - Bellamy Brothers
or try it to "All you ever do is
bring me down" by the Mavericks

This is a four wall Line dance. Each section is short and easy to learn, and the Boogie Bop can be a lot of fun with the 'hops' ranging from the heel being slightly lifted off the floor to the full blow high skips from the more energetic dancers.

Beginners

STEPS	ACTUAL FOOTWORK	CALLED	DIRECTION
Section 1 1 - 2 3 - 4	Heel Digs Tap left heel forward and bring it back to place Tap right heel forward and bring it back to place	Left heel Right heel	On the spot
Section 2 5 6 7 8	Toe and Heel fans Taking weight onto heels, fan toes open Taking weight onto toes, fan heels open Keeping weight on toes, fan heels closed Taking weight on heels, fan toes closed.	Open toes Open heels Close heels Close toes	On the spot
Section 3 9 - 10 11 - 12 13 - 14 15 - 16	Heel Hooks and Hops Tap right heel forward, & hook it over left leg Tap right heel forward and bring it back to place Tap left heel forward, & hook it over right leg Now hop on the right foot twice	Heel, Hook Heel, together Heel Hook Hop, hop	On the spot
Section 4 21 22 23 24	Step - Stomps Step forward on left foot and stomp the right Step back on right foot and stomp the left Step forward on left foot and stomp the right Step back on right foot and stomp the left	Step, stomp Back, stomp Step, stomp Back, stomp	Forward Back
Section 5 25 26 27 28	Jazz Box Left Turn Step forward on left foot Cross right over left making a 1/4 turn left Step left to left side Stomp right foot in place	Step Cross Side Stomp	Forward Turning Left On the spot On the spot

Linedancer challenged a non-dancer to learn this dance by "stepping off the page" It only took him six minutes. Mind you, he didn't realise he was supposed to do it facing all four walls. And we suspect he hurried back claiming he could do it because he was unhappy about "stepping off the page" in the middle of the office

Heel Hook

Stepping off the page

The Texas Twist

Danced to:-

Gonna take a lot of river - Oakridge Boys,
In the Mood - Jive Bunny & the Mastermixers
for those with stamina!,

This is a really good four wall dance for beginners. Even those who have never lined dance before soon get to grips with one and enjoy the easy sequence to a good strong beat

STEPS	ACTUAL FOOTWORK	CALLED	DIRECTION
Section 1	Right Heel hook sequence		
1	Tap Right heel forward	Heel	On the spot
2	Hook right heel in front of left leg	Hook	
3	Tap right heel forward	Heel	
4	Hook right heel in front of left leg	Hook	
Section 2	Grapevine Right		
5	Right steps to right side	Step	Right
6	Left steps behind right	Behind	
7	Right steps to right side	Step	
8	Left touches next to right	Touch	
Section 3	Left Heel hook sequence		
9	Tap left heel forward	Heel	On the spot
10	Hook left heel in front of right leg	Hook	
11	Tap left heel forward	Heel	
12	Hook left heel in front of right leg	Hook	
Section 4	Grapevine Left		
13	Left steps to left side	Step	Left
14	Right steps behind left	Behind	
15	Left steps to left side	Step	
16	Right stomps next to left	stomp	
Section 5	Twisting - Feet together - Knees bent		
17 - 20	Twist down for four counts	Down, 2, 3, 4	On the spot
21 - 24	Twist up for four counts	Up, 2, 3, 4	
Section 6	Heel chugs - making 1/4 turn left		
25	Touch right heel forward & turn 1/8th turn left	Heel turn	Turning left
26	Touch right heel forward again & turn 1/8th left	Heel turn	

Beginners

Start again!



Stepping off the page

Country Boy II



Danced to:-Anyway the wind blows - Brother Phelps

STEPS	ACTUAL FOOTWORK	CALLED	DIRECTION
Section 1	Fast Heel Splits / Taps		
1	Feet together, weight on toes, open and close heels	Wing	On the spot
2	Feet together, weight on toes, open and close heels	Wing	
3 - 4	Tap right heel forward twice	Heel, Heel	On the spot
5 - 6	Tap right toe behind twice	Toe, Toe	
Section 2	Right toe taps		
7	Touch right toe to front once	Front	On the spot
8	Touch right toe out to right side once	Side	
9	Lift right foot up behind left (slap heel with left hand)	Behind	
10	Touch right toe out to right side once	Side	
Section 3	Right toe double taps & 1/4 turn left		
11	Cross right over left at knee height (slap heel with left hand)	In front	On the spot
12 -13	Tap right toe out to right side twice	Tap, Tap	
14	Lift right foot up behind left leg (slap heel with left hand)	Behind	
15 - 16	Tap right toe out to right side twice	Tap, Tap	
17	Lift right over left at knee height (slap heel with left hand)	In front	
18	Make 1/4 turn left kicking right forward as you turn	Kick	Turning 1/4 left
Section 4	Grapevine Right		
19	Right steps to right side	Step	Right
20	Left steps behind right	Behind	
21	Right steps to right side	Step	
22	Stomp left next to right (and clap)	Stomp / Clap	
Section 5	Grapevine Left		
23	Left steps to left side	Step	Left
24	Right steps behind left.	Behind	
25	Left steps to left side.	Step	
26	Stomp right next to left. (and clap)	Stomp / clap	
Section 6	Walking back		
27 - 30	Stepping back:- right - left - right & hitch left	Back, 2, 3 hitch	Back
Section 7	Camel Walk Forward		
31 - 33	Stepping forward left - slide right to left - step forward left	Step, slide, step	Forward
34	Stomp right (& clap)	Stomp	

Intermediate

This is a four wall dance, a little reminiscence of Slappin' Leather. It is great fun at a fast tempo but go slowly at first, building your speed as you get more confident. You'll be amazed at what a favourite this dance becomes. It seems the more you do it - the more you love it. Have fun



Stepping off the page

Nightlife Slide

Danced to:- I love the nightlife - Scooter Lee

Experienced

A four wall line dance for the more experienced dancer

STEPS	ACTUAL FOOTWORK	CALLED	DIRECTION
Section 1	Scuff Crosses and 1/2 turn		
1 - 2	Scuff left forward - cross left over right	Scuff, cross	On the spot
3 - 4	Step back right - step left foot beside right	Back, Together	On the spot
5 - 6	Scuff right forward - cross right over left	Scuff, Cross	On the spot
7 - 8	Turn 1/2 turn left (unwind)-/Clap	Unwind, Clap	1/2 turn left
Section 2	Toe Strutt & pivot turn		
9 - 10	Step forward on left toe - lower left heel	Toe	Forward
11 - 12	Step forward right toe - lower right heel	Two	Forward
13 - 14	Step forward left toe - lower left heel	Three	Forward
15	Step forward right	Step	Forward
16	Pivot 1/2 turn left (keeping weight on right)	Turn	1/2 turn left
Section 3	Heel Bounces		
17 - 18	Bounce forward on left heel twice	Forward bounce	On the spot
19 - 20	Bounce back on left heel twice	Back bounce	On the spot
Section 4	Heel switches (as in Tush Push)		
21	Switch weight from right to left extending right heel	Switch	On the spot
22	Switch weight from left to right extending left heel	Two	On the spot
23	Switch weight from right to left extending right heel	Three	On the spot
24	Clap hands as you take weight onto right foot	Clap	On the spot
Section 5	Forward Scuff / Lock Steps (Left)		
25	Scuff left foot forward	Scuff	On the spot
26	Step forward right on left foot	Step	Forward
27	Bring right foot to lock behind left	Lock	Forward
28	Step forward left	Step	Forward
Section 6	Forward Scuff / Lock Steps (right)		
29	Scuff right foot forward	Scuff	On the spot
30	Step forward on right foot	Step	Forward
31	Bring left foot to lock behind right	Lock	Forward
32	Step forward right	Step	Forward
Section 7	Grapevine Left/ 1/4 turn left		
33	Start this section with a scuff of left foot	Scuff	On the spot
34	Left foot steps to left	Step	Left
35	Right foot steps behind left	Behind	Left
36	Left steps to left - Turning 1/4 turn left	Turn	1/4 Turn Left
Section 8	Walking back		
37	Scuff right foot forward	Scuff	On the spot
38	Step back right	Back	Back
39	Step back left	Two	Back
40	Bring right together and clap	Three & Clap	On the spot

Where to stomp



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Various Classes
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Classes Mon - Thurs
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Where to stomp

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Various Classes
Ring Pam & Dave Chilvers
01328 86397

NORTHANTS

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Various Classes
Ring Sheila & Ian Hutchings
01536 460524

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Buckles & Bows W.D.C.
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Ring Kit Allen
01689 845803

Kingston.upon Thames
Country Lines W.D.C.
Various Classes
Ring Linda Chester
0181 942 8349

Kingston.upon Thames
Double D W.D.C.
Classes Tues & Social every 1st
Frid
Ring Del Wilson
01932 254109

New Addington
Silver Dawn W.D.C.
Classes every Mon.
Ring Terry Mantell
01689 847446

CAMBRIDGE

Texas Rebels W.D.C.
Classes Mon & Tues
Ring Roger Cooper
01223 242372

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Telephone No.		
Name of Instructor / Official contact.		
Day (s)	Times	Special information
Evening (s)	Times	

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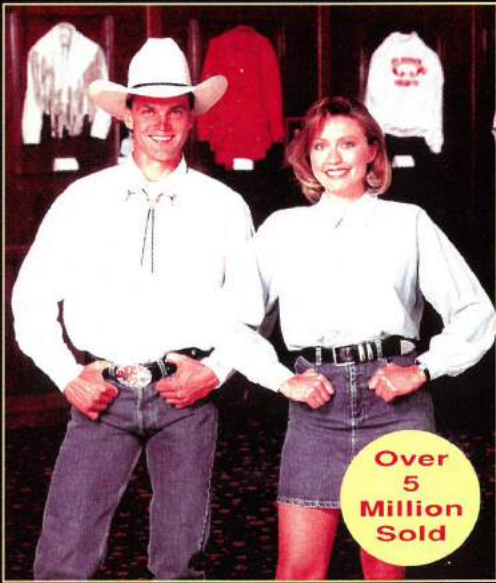
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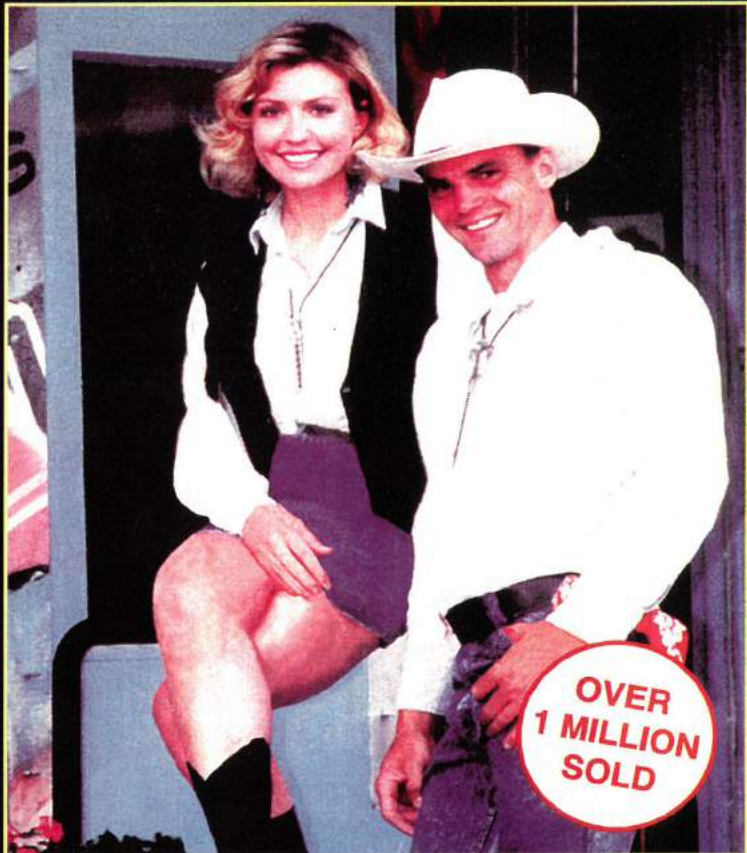
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