

AN GEARASDAN

dance devised by
John Drewry

A dance for the Lochaber Branch
of the R.S.C.D.S.

Jig - 3 couples - 32 bars

Tune - "The Bugle Horn" - "The Jimmy Shand Bagpipe March Book" - page 12
(Mozart Allan)

BARS

- 1-2 1st couple turn with the right hand half-way round moving down to second place, where they stay in the centre of the dance facing one another. (2nd couple move up)
- 3-8 1st couple set to one another, then, giving left hands in passing, they cross to second place on own sides; 1st woman casts up behind 2nd woman and dances into the centre to face 2nd man, while 1st man casts off behind 3rd man and dances into the centre to face 3rd woman.
- 9-16 1st woman dances a reel of three across the dance with 2nd couple, giving right shoulder to 2nd man, while 1st man dances a reel of three across the dance with 3rd couple, giving right shoulder to 3rd woman.
- 17-20 1st couple dance half a diagonal reel of four with their first corners. At the end, 1st couple pass by the right to face second corners.
- 21-24 1st couple dance half a diagonal reel of four with their second corners to finish in second place on opposite sides.
- 25-28 1st couple, joining nearer hands, dance down between 2nd couple, who are in third place, and cast up to second place on opposite sides and stay facing up.
- 29-32 3rd couple (in top place) face down, 1st couple face up, and 2nd couple face across the dance to dance half a grand chain (right, left, right) to return to own sides in the order 2,1,3.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Gearasdan Dubh Inbhir Lochaidh (the Black Garrison of Inverlochy) is the Capital of Lochaber. The fort, built at the narrow entrance to the Great Glen, was named after the reigning monarch, William III, and called Fort William, but the Gaelic name "AN GEARASDAN (the garrison) and the English equivalent "The Fort" continue to be the names by which it is known to the Gaelic-speaking people of the Highlands and Islands.

(from a note supplied by Jessie Taylor)