

Jockey to the Fair Jig

I am a member of both Bunnies from Hell and Brackley Morris Men. Since Bunnies from Hell dance Jockey to the fair Brackley, I decided to enter this new Jig that I have written to the Sue Dyke Award.

Over lockdown the Brackley Morris Men decided to have a virtual practise over zoom every Thursday. What happened at those zoom practises was the Foreman would teach us a jig and we would dance in our own homes. One of the jigs that he taught us was Shepherd's Hey Brackley, which was the only Brackley jig. The jig wasn't bad as such but one thing we all agreed on was that the usual Shepherd's Hey chorus followed by a foot up and down five times can get a bit boring. So I wrote a new jig in the tradition of Brackley.

My jig is based on the Jockey to the Fair set dance that is in the tradition of Brackley. It uses the same music, with the slight difference that my jig uses two A's and one B rather than two A's and three B's.

The chorus is exactly the same stepping-wise, four sidesteps four single-steps four capers two single-steps and a long rear-up however the floor pattern is different. The jig makes a figure of eight whereas the set dance makes a hook.

The figures I took out of regular Brackley dances, with the exception of the last figure which I created pretty much from scratch. The first figure is a regular Brackley foot up and down. The second figure is based on a face-to-face back-to-back only half way through you turn 180 degrees and repeat the first half of the figure. The third figure is a rounds, only you do regular stepping rather than rounds stepping. The fourth and final figure isn't really based on any existing figure I just picked some steps that I liked and put them together into a figure, subsequently I named this figure 'lockdown up 2 3's'.

Liam Coomber, August 2020