

# HOW TO READ CRIBS

(De mystifying crib lingo)

**1C, or 1s** = 1<sup>st</sup> couple or dancing couple

**2C,3C,4C,5C etc. or 2s,3s,4s,5s etc.** = other couples dancing in the set

**1L or 1W** = 1<sup>st</sup> Lady      **1M or 1M** = 1<sup>st</sup> Man ( 2L,3L4L, and 2M,3M,4M)

**Cnrns** = corners ie: 1<sup>st</sup> cnrn    **CPCP** turn 1<sup>st</sup> Cnrn RH, Ptnr ,LH, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cnrn RH, Ptnr LH

**+ or :** = with      ie: 1s+2s+3s    1s with 2s with 3s all dancing together

**RH** = right hand

**LH** = left hand

**2H** = two hands

**Rt (R)**=right

**Lt (L)**= left

**RSH Rsh** = right shoulder

**LSH Lsh** = left shoulder

**X** = cross ie: X RH cross right hand

**RHX, RHA** = right hands across

**LHX, LHA** = left hands across

**PI** = place ie: cast off 1 pl.

**Adv & Ret** = advance and retire or **A2,R2** = advance 2 bars , retire 2 bars

**Dn** = down

**Btn , Btwn** = between

**Ctr** = centre

**Opp.** = opposite

**Rp** = repeat

**#** = Bar number = ie: rp # 1 – 4 repeat Bars 1-4)

**R3, R4** = reel of 3, reel of 4

**Diag.** =diagonal ie: Rsh diag R4

**Prom** = promenade

**Fig** = figure ie; fig of 8      **Dbf fig 8** = double figure of 8

**R3acr** = reels of 3 across ie: Rsh R3 acr

**R&L** = rights and lefts

**SL2 (SL3)** = set and link for 2 (3)

**Pouss** = poussette

Breaking cribs down for understanding:

- A) Read carefully - The title, what is it a jig, reel, hornpipe, strathspey, a medley
- B) How many couples are involved dancing the dance, and is it a square, triangle, circle, or in lines.
- C) How many bars are in the dance ie: 32, 40 48, 88?
- D) Are there repeats, or once through
- E) Break the dance down into 8/12/16 bar phrases or counts, ie: Bars 1-8
- F) Referring to the short form page, read the dance out loud several times to get the flow and understanding
- G) Usually a lead down and back is 4B down and 4B back up to place, if the dance lead down is different it should tell you, ie: 3B down, 3B up
- H) Knowing your formations taught in class reinforces your crib reading skills

Example Dance:

**Roaring Jelly**            J8x32 3Cpls (4C Set) Foss( dance devisor)  
**Title**                        **jig danced 8 times involving 3 couples in a 4couple set**

**1-8    1s cross RH, cast 1pl, 2s step up #3-4, to Rt 1s cross RH, cast to Rt, ending 1M btn 2s, 1W btn 3s**

( Bars 1-8 – Couple1 cross right hand, cast off 1 place, Cpl 2 step up Bars 3&4)  
C1 cross right hand cast to their own right, ending 1M facing down between C2,  
1W facing up between C3

**9-16   1+2+3s 6HR and Back**

( Bars 9-16 Couples 1&2&3 circle round and back)

**17-24 1s change pl RH, dance to Rt into  $\frac{3}{4}$  fig 8 across, 1L round 2s RSH to 2L, 1M round 3s, RSH to 3M, end in 2<sup>nd</sup> pl opp. sides**

(B17-24 C1 change places right hand up and down, dancing to their right into  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a figure of 8, 1W round 2W to start, end in 2<sup>nd</sup> place opposite side facing down  
1M dances  $\frac{3}{4}$  figure 8 round 3M, end 2<sup>nd</sup> place opposite side facing up.

**25-32 RSH R3 1s:2<sup>nd</sup> crnr, cross**

(B25-32 C1 dance 6B right shoulder reels of three, facing 2<sup>nd</sup> corner to start, cross right hand on B 31-32 to 2<sup>nd</sup> place ready to start again)

