

Sheila's On The Fiddle

Author: Michael Barraclough (January 1966)
Source: Country Bumpkin (Michael Barraclough)
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Formation: Sicilian circle
Music: Specific tune - Levi Jackson Rag by Pat Shaw (G, 2/4, Barnes: 1/66)

Notes:

- 1) The pass through/circle $\frac{1}{2}$ /pass through movements in A1 and A2 should be danced as one continuous movement with the tension in the circle used to provide the forward momentum for the second pass through.
- 2) My preferred speed for the tune is around 108 with plenty of swing.
- 3) Debuted at Cecil Sharp House, London, on Jan 28, 1996, at a dance held to celebrate the life of Sheila Mason, 1922-1995. Sheila was the leader of the Kenton Ramblers (one of Pat Shaw's favorite bands), a member of the McBains Band, and helped the London University Instant Ceilidh Band by leading that too. She lived just around the corner from me and was our regular baby sitter.
- 4) There was considerable uproar over my use of the Levi Jackson Rag tune for a different dance. However, history is on my side. I chose the tune because it is a great tune and was one of Sheila's favorites. Sheila and I had many musical and dance-based conversations, including about Levi Jackson Rag and she herself had commented that it was such a waste to only be able to use it for Levi Jackson Rag. If I recollect correctly, Sheila was the 1st person to play the tune for Pat, if not in the world, at least in the UK. She always complained that people played it much too fast and that it should be slower and 'swing'. That is certainly how the Kenton Ramblers played it for me. Of course, when you play it more slowly it becomes more obvious whether the musician has played all the notes correctly!

Dance:

- A1 1-4 Couples forward & back
5-8 Pass through, circle $\frac{1}{2}$ with next couple and pass through (*now back with original couple, but changed places with them*)
- A2 1-8 Repeat (*all back to original places*)
- B1 1-4 Neighbor gypsy (right), into
5-8 Neighbor allemande right $1\frac{1}{2}$
- B2 1-8 (*Next couple*) star left, partner allemande left