

# *The Baker's Wife*

*Collected by Garry Clarke & Norm Ellis,  
from Peter Mogford (Adelaide) early '70's.*

A 'Circular Strip-the-Willow' dance for 8 couples.

**Formation:** 8 couples in a circle, numbered anti-clockwise.

**NB** there are 2 active couples (opposite each other) throughout the dance, and each pair of 'opposites' will lead the dance in turn.

(ie 1&5, 2&6, 3&7, 4&8, 5&1, 6&2, 7&3, and 8&4, the first mentioned of each pair, being designated the Top Couple, & the other being the Bottom Couple)

**Music:** (8x 32 + 8)b 6/8 Jigs, *as suitable for 'Stripping the Willow'!*

**Introduction:** Honour Partner,

first **8 bars** - Top & Bottom Couples: **Spin Partner** ie Couples 1 & 5 long-arm swing

next **24 bars** - '**Strip the Willow**' around the circle - '**Top L & Bottom M**' go to the **Circle!** ie 1<sup>st</sup> L, & 5<sup>th</sup> M, Left Arm Turn 2<sup>nd</sup> M, & 6<sup>th</sup> L, respectively, (ie go to the "line"/circle) while their **partners** (1<sup>st</sup> M & 5<sup>th</sup> L) also **Left Arm Turn** each other **in the centre** of the circle (2b)

Both 'active couples' **Right Arm Turn** their own **partner** (2b)

The 'active couples' now continue to Strip-the-Willow around the circle, with the 'Top Lady' & 'Bottom Man' turning with the next couples anti-clockwise around the circle.

When the actives 'get back home' they can have a final 4b Spin with partner, *which runs into the next 32bars.*

After the first 32 bars, the next pair of couples ie C's 2 & 6, start their turn of the dance as 'actives' with an 8 bar Spin Partner.

In this manner, the 'Axis of Orientation' revolves around the circle, so that when the 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> couples are again 'actives' they will have swapped rolls, ie the 5<sup>th</sup> C is now the Top Couple, so the 5<sup>th</sup> L & 1<sup>st</sup> M go to the circle.

The dance is done 8 times through, so that each couple gets a turn at being both Top & Bottom Couple! ie each person gets a turn at going to the circle while their partner goes to the centre.

**8 bar CODA** All Spin Partner to finish!

NBB the above notation is for phrasing the dance to 6/8 Jigs.  
(*However, it may also be danced to 9/8 Slip Jigs !!!*)