

Come, See the Boys Go Round

Paul Davenport

$\text{♩} = 90$

1. When Christ - mas - tide is gone and past, When fields lie stark and bare, Then _
 2. Now first of all comes Be - som Bess A - - sweep - ing with her broom, To _
 3. Let Lord and La - dy start the game, Let Tom Fool sing the song, That _
 4. Now en - - ter in those he - roes bold, Those he - roes of great fame, Their _

3
 let us brave the win - ter's blast With - - out a fear or care. With -
 drive out win - ter's cold dis - tress, To clear and make the room. To
 wakes those he - roes of great fame, Who roll the year a - long. Who
 fore - fa - - thers in days of old, Each bore a glor - ious name. Each

5
 - out a fear or care, my boys, Let each with one ac - - cord, Come
 clear and make the room, my boys, That we may sport and play, With
 roll the year a - - long, my boys, For on - - ly they know how. The
 bore a glor - ious name, my boys, Like - - wise a shin - ing blade. They

7
 dance the round on fro - - zen ground With rib - - bon, drum, and sword.
 swords that clash and bright - ly flash, Up - - on this hol - - i - - day.
 plough be - comes the shin - - ing sword, The sword be - comes the plough.
 leap and spin, the swords go in, And thus the Rose is made!

8
 Chorus
 Come, see the boys go round, How sweet the mu - sic flows. Bring

10
 forth the plough to break the ground, Raise up the shi - - ning rose.

Written in 2012 by Yorkshire songwriter, Paul Davenport, to describe the longsword dance performance of the Goathland Plough Stots. The Plough Stots are one of the remaining traditional longsword teams in England. The Stots were originally more of a mumming group who went around with a plough on Plough Monday soliciting money for Epiphany candles for the church and for seeds for crops. According to an article (reproduced on their website), written in the 1920s by Frank Dowson to describe the team's revival in 1922:

They shouted and sang as they went on their rounds, and gradually a sort of rude pageant or play came into being. In time a "Lord" and "Lady" or "Gentleman" and "Lady" appeared at the head of the company, with collectors (known locally as "Toms"), and an old couple, "Isaac" and "Betty" ("T'awd man", and "T'awd woman") brought up the rear. It is not known when teams of Sword Dancers joined the Plough Stot companies, but such would almost naturally follow in the course of time. The Sword Dancers had quite distinct origin however, and such ritual dances have been in existence from time immemorial. ... Most villages or districts in North Yorkshire formerly had Sword Dance teams accompanying the Stots or the Mummers. These teams have all died out in course of time with the exception of those of Goathland and Sleights, and the last named company has not gone out in recent years.

The dances are described in Ivor Allsop's "Longsword Dances from Traditional and Manuscript Sources". Goathland, or at least its train station, is also famous as a set in the movie version of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

1. When Christmastide is gone and past
When fields lie stark and bare
Then let us brave the winter's blast
Without a fear or care
Without a fear or care my boys
Let each with one accord
Now dance the round on frozen ground
With ribbons, drum and sword

2. Now first of all comes Besom Bess
A-sweeping with her broom
To drive out winter's cold distress
To clear and make the room
To clear and make the room my boys
That we may sport and play
With swords that clash and brightly flash
Upon this holiday

3. Let Lord and Lady start the game
Let Tom Fool sing the song
That wakes those heroes of great fame
Who roll the year along
Who roll the year along my boys
For only they know how
The plough becomes the shining sword
The sword becomes the plough

4. Now enter in those heroes bold,
Those heroes of great fame
Their forefathers in days of old
Each bore a glorious name
Each bore a glorious name my boys
Likewise a shining blade
They leap and spin, the swords go in
And thus the Rose is made!

Chorus
Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose

The song begins and ends with the chorus, repeated twice. Otherwise, the chorus is sung once between each verse.