

# 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 the movie set for Hogsmeade in "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.*