

RUBY RED

Devised by Frances Wallace and published in The Waverley Suite : a collection of Scottish country dances to celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of the Waverley Scottish Society 2008

(40 bar strathspey for five couples in a longwise set)

BARS DESCRIPTION

- 1 – 4 1st and 3rd couples turn giving right hand and cast off one place. 2nd and 4th couples step up on bars 3 - 4.
- 5 – 6 All five couples set taking hands on the side.
- 7 – 8 1st and 3rd couples turn giving both hands to finish facing their first corners.
- 9 – 16 1st and 3rd couples dance corners pass and rotate -
- 9 – 10 1st and 3rd couples set to their first corner. *Figure 1.*
- 11 – 12 1st and 3rd couples cast around their partner to finish in their partner's first corner position
WHILE
Corners dance in and turn to face their original position.
- 13 – 14 1st and 3rd couples set to their partner's first corner. *Figure 2.*
- 15 – 16 Corners cast around each other to finish in their opposite corner position
WHILE
1st and 3rd couples dance in and turn to face their second corner position. *Figure 3.*
- 17 – 24 1st and 3rd couples repeat bars 9 – 16 with the dancers in second corner position to finish facing their second corner position. The order is now 5th woman, 5th man, 4th man on the women's side; 4th woman, 2nd woman, 2nd man on the men's side.
- 25 – 28 1st and 3rd couples dance a half diagonal reel of four with the dancers in second corner position passing left shoulder in the middle to face their first corner position.
- 29 – 32 1st and 3rd couples dance a half diagonal reel of four with the dancers in first corner position, passing left shoulder in the middle to finish on their own side in second and fourth positions, facing out. The order is now 2, 1, 4, 3, 5 on own side.
- 33 – 36 1st, 4th and 3rd couples dance a half a reel of three on the side – 1st man giving left shoulder to 4th man, 4th woman giving left shoulder to 3rd woman. 1st couple stay facing out.
- 37 – 38 1st couple dance out and down behind 5th couple who step up. The order is now 2, 3, 4, 5, 1.
- 39 – 40 All five couples set taking hands on the side.

Repeat from new positions.

Notes: Bars 9 – 24: This formation was devised by Alex Hay and first published in his strathspey 'Peter White' in 1976. The formation has been used in one or two other dances more recently, but never named. I have called it 'Corners Pass and Rotate' (abbreviated to CPR for 'Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation' when it is danced in reel or jig time). Alex Hay also devised the 'Set and Link' formation. Dancers pull back their right shoulder when casting or turning.

One could read into the title of this dance that it is to celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of the Waverley Scottish Society. And indeed it is, as are all the dances in this book. There are 40 bars in the dance, the ruby signifies a fortieth anniversary and a ruby is red. However, all this is coincidental. Quite simply I liked the alliterative title, and I wanted to use the 'Corners Pass and Rotate' formation as my homage to dance devisor and teacher Alex Hay who was born in Scotland (as I was), migrated to New Zealand (as I did) and danced in Auckland (as I have).

Suggested Music:

An unnamed Set of Strathspeys from 'Old Favourites and Odd Couples' played by Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith.

