

The Graduation Strathspey

Devised by Ross Gawler and Jean Deacon to mark the occasion of the completion of Teacher's Certificate of the RSCDS by Heather Ross in June 2006

32 Bar Strathspey for 4 couples

- 1 – 2 All four couples set on the side.
- 3 – 4 All four couples rest.
- 5 – 6 All four couples set on the side.
- 7 - 8 2nd and 4th couple cross giving right hands.
- 9 - 16 1st and 2nd couples rights and lefts.
- 17 - 24 3rd and 4th couples ladies chain.

“Cross Stitch”

- 25 -26 1st and 2nd men cross right hands on the diagonal while 2nd and 3rd ladies cross right hands on the diagonal.
- 27 -28 1st and 3rd ladies cross right hands on the diagonal while 1st and 3rd men cross right hands on the diagonal.
- 29 -30 2nd and 3rd men cross right hands on the diagonal while 1st and 2nd ladies cross right hands on the diagonal.
- 31-32 3rd couple cast off one place while 2nd couple cross up one place giving left hands, while at the same time 1st couple cast off one place while 4th couple cross up one place giving left hands.

Finish: 2, 3, 4, 1. Repeat three more times.

Recommended music: The Dancing Dominie, Highlander Music Vol 10, George Meikle & the Lothian Scottish Dance Band.

Bars 1-8 represent the simplest elements of Scottish Country Dancing as learnt in beginners' class and the practice – rest – practice sequence of Heather's teaching.

Bars 9 – 16 is the next step of learning formations with two couples.

Bars 17 – 24 represent the learning that men can dance on the ladies side of the dance.

Bars 25 – 32 represent the opportunity to get thoroughly confused when dancing diagonally. The Cross Stitch may make the teacher cross and give the dancers the stitch.