

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples turn giving right hand and cast off one place. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> couples step up on bars 3 - 4.
- 5 – 6 All five couples set taking hands on the side.
- 7 – 8 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples turn giving both hands to finish facing their first corners.
- 9 – 16 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance corners pass and rotate -
- 9 – 10 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples set to their first corner. *Figure 1.*
- 11 – 12 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance in and turn to face their second corner position. *Figure 3.*
- 17 – 24 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples repeat bars 9 – 16 with the dancers in second corner position to finish facing their second corner position. The order is now 5<sup>th</sup> woman, 5<sup>th</sup> man, 4<sup>th</sup> man on the women's side; 4<sup>th</sup> woman, 2<sup>nd</sup> woman, 2<sup>nd</sup> man on the men's side.
- 25 – 28 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance a half a reel of three on the side – 1<sup>st</sup> man giving left shoulder to 4<sup>th</sup> man, 4<sup>th</sup> woman giving left shoulder to 3<sup>rd</sup> woman. 1<sup>st</sup> couple stay facing out.
- 37 – 38 1<sup>st</sup> couple dance out and down behind 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

