



**LIFE  
BEGINS  
AT FORTY**  
*1950 - 1990*



Published by  
The Newcastle upon Tyne & District Branch of  
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



The dances in this book were devised to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of the formation of the Newcastle upon Tyne and District Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1950, and I hope that performing the dances will give pleasure to all who try them out.

Robert Whitehead and Ian Thow composed the tunes, except one written by Roland Telford, a former dancer in Newcastle who died some years ago. The tunes were arranged for piano by Margaret (Peg) McAulay, holder of the Scroll of Honour of the RSCDS who, having played for Miss Milligan at Jordanhill before the SCDS was formed in 1923 is still, in 1990, playing regularly for a class. Michael Barlow, the Vice Chairman of the Branch prepared the arrangements for printing, and the grateful thanks of the Branch must be expressed to these people and the devisers of the dances for all their hard work.

“For the good are always merry  
Save by an evil chance  
And the merry love the fiddle  
And the merry love to dance”  
(W. B. Yeats)

Happy Dancing!

*John Douglas*

CHAIRMAN

Newcastle upon Tyne and District Branch, RSCDS. March 1990

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# LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY

(Jig)

The Ruby Jig

R. Whitehead

1 17 2 18 3 19 4 20  
A E7 A D E7 A

5 21 6 22 7 23 8 24  
A E7 A D E7 A

9 25 33 10 26 34 11 27 35 12 28 36  
A E7 A D A7 Bm E7

13 29 37 14 30 38 15 31 39 16 32 40  
A E7 A D A E7 G A

**LIFE BEGINS AT FORTY**

(Jig)

**Bars**

- 1 — 8 1st and 2nd couples, 3rd and 4th couples, right hands across for three steps, left hands across for three steps, then 1st and 3rd couples cast one place as 2nd and 4th couples dance up to 1st and 3rd places.
- 9 — 16 1st and 4th couples pousette.
- 17 — 24 2nd and 4th couples, 1st and 3rd couples half right and left, set on side lines and, giving right hand, cross to own side (Order is now 4, 2, 3, 1).
- 25 — 32 2nd and 3rd couples four hands round and back.
- 33 — 36 4th couple set, cast off one place, while 1st couple set, cast up one place (2nd couple step up and 3rd couple step down on bars 35 and 36).
- 37 — 40 All four couples turn partner right hand, ready to flow into the next repeat of the dance (Order is now 2, 4, 1, 3).

Repeat from new positions.

Devised by John and Jan Douglas to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of Newcastle upon Tyne and District Branch. The friendly spirit of Scottish Country Dancing is shown by each couple dancing with every other couple in each repeat of the dance and the deliberate lack of new formations is so that all Scottish Country Dancers may join in with little difficulty.

# THE TYNESIDE SCHOTTISCHE

(Strathspey)

A Tribute to Chris Blair

R. Whitehead

1 17 2 18 3 19 4 20  
Eb Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Bb7

5 21 6 22 7 23 8 24  
Eb Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Bb7 Eb

9 25 10 26 11 27 12 28  
Eb Ab Bb7 Eb Cm Fm7 Bb7

13 29 14 30 15 31 16 32  
Eb Bb7 Eb Ab Eb Bb7 Eb Bb7 Eb



**THE TYNESIDE SCHOTTISCHE**

(Strathspey)

Dancers arranged in Square Set as for Eightsome Reel

*Bars*

- 1 — 8 All dance interlocking reels of four, passing partner by the right to begin, (Pass right, pass left, pass right, then curving round to the right to face opposite direction, pass same person right, pass left and pass partner right to original place).
- 9 — 12 All turn partner right hand  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times to finish with the women giving left hands across and the men facing clockwise round the set.
- 13 — 16 Women dance left hands across once round while men dance half way round the set to meet the opposite woman.
- 17 — 20 Men turn the opposite woman right hand  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times to finish with the men giving left hands across and the women facing clockwise round the set.
- 21 — 24 Men dance left hands across once round while women dance halfway round the set to meet their partners.
- 25 — 26 All turn partner right hand to finish facing partner, (All couples are now in the opposite place from where they started).
- 27 — 30 All set to partner with Highland Schottische setting.
- 31 — 32 All turn partner with two hands, opening into . . .
- 33 — 36 Four hands round to the left, 1st couple with 2nd couple, 3rd couple with 4th couple, opening into . . .
- 37 — 40 Eight hands round to the left, finishing in original place joining nearer hand with partner.
- 41 — 44 All set with Highland Schottische setting, facing the centre of the set.
- 45 — 48 1st and 3rd couples half right and left.
- 49 — 52 All set with Highland Schottische setting, with nearer hands joined and facing the centre of the set.
- 53 — 56 2nd and 4th couples half right and left. (All couples are again on the opposite side from original position).
- 57 — 64 Grand Chain. Start by giving right hand to partner and finish with the women giving right hands across in the middle and the men facing clockwise round the set, holding nearer hand with partner.
- 65 — 68 All dance halfway round the set.
- 69 — 72 All turn partner both hands to finish in original place, facing partner.
- 73 — 76 All set to partner with Highland Schottische setting.
- 77 — 80 All turn partner right hand  $1\frac{3}{4}$  times to finish with the women back to back in the middle. Retain hold of right hands for the Bow and Curtsey.

Devised by Tim Bolton-Maggs. The dance was inspired by the need for an alternative to The Robertson Rant for display purposes. Hopefully this isn't too much of a memory test for general dancing.

