

THE BIRTH OF NINE DECADES

In 2011, the RSCDS in Edinburgh invited dancers everywhere to submit new dances to compete for inclusion in a new book to celebrate the Society's 90th Anniversary this year. I believe several hundred dances were submitted, including at least a dozen from Cape Town, like the ones we've been dancing this evening. We held workshops to share and critique our efforts. We were proud of all the dances that Cape Town submitted. Curiously, none of them was accepted for publication in the Anniversary Book! Never mind we received nice rejection letters. We are about to show you the one that I devised.

Being a numbers man, I suppose, I latched on to the idea of having 9 dancers to represent the 90th anniversary. It was on my mind for several days. How could I adapt a 4-couple longwise set; maybe a square set would be easier; even a round set. Maybe I could modify Domino 5 by having 4 couples with a single dancer at 5th position. Then it struck me that $9 = 3^2$; 3 to the power of 2. With me the power of 2 Famous Grouse, the dance NINE DECADES was born.

So we dance in a square 3 x 3. We start with a reel on one diagonal, and then on the other diagonal, to represent St. Andrew's Cross. Everybody dances all the time ... We all managed very well at the last practice.

Nine Decades

A 3 x 32 bar Reel for 9 dancers.

Form the set in 3 lines of 3 numbered from left to right and front to back when facing the top of the dance. Fig 1.

7	8	9		Dancers around the edge face
4	5	6	(Fig.1)	into the centre of the set and
1	2	3		Dancer 5 faces down to begin.

Top

Bars

1 – 8 Dancers 1, 5, and 9 dance a reel of three, 5 and 9 passing right shoulder to begin
At the same time, 7 with 4 and 8 dance right hands across and back with the left, and likewise 3 with 2 and 6

9 – 16 Dancers 7, 5 and 3 dance a reel of three, 5 and 7 passing left shoulder to begin
At the same time, 1 with 4 and 2 dance right hands across and back with the left, and likewise 9 with 8 and 6

17 – 24 Reels of three across the set, as follows:
2 and 3 pass right shoulder to begin
5 and 6 pass right shoulder to begin
8 and 9 pass right shoulder to begin
Finish with 1, 2 and 3 facing down and all others facing up

25 – 28 1 with 4, 2 with 5, and 3 with 6 dance back-to-back

29 – 32 1, 2 and 3 give right hand to change places with 4, 5 and 6, then left hand to change places with 7, 8 and 9

Repeat twice more from new position each time