

TAS Book 54 Workshop – 30th August 2025 – Ian Brockbank

Kathy's Fascinator		3x32J	3C in 3CL	RSCDS 54/Hedge
Bars	Activity			
1-8	1s & 2s set & rotate			
9-12	1s & 2s RA, 1M faces out			
13-16	1s & 3s LA, 1s finish own side facing up			
17-24	2s, 1s, 3s reel of 3 on sides, 2s & 1s RS to begin			
25-32	1s & 3s knot			
	<i>Alternative ending</i>			
25-28	1s S, cast (3s up 27 & 28)			
29-32	2s, 3s, 1s TR			

Teaching points I picked out:

- Set and rotate:
 - When casting, there is a tendency for the non-supporting foot to fly up high, so make sure it is kept low (and ideally pointed)
 - The people in 1st man's and 2nd woman's place go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way round the square, while the other two just shuttle up and down the sideline
- The first 24 bars should flow as one unit
 - the set and rotate naturally takes you into the RH across.
 - 1st couple need to be ready to change sides for the LH across – keep it flowing
 - 1st couple then go back to 2C (right shoulder) to start the (parallel) reels of three
- The knot doesn't flow as well out of the reels (particularly for 1M and 3W), so you need to be ready
- The alternative ending (1s cast, 3s stepping up on bars 27&28, then all TR) flows better
- The alternative ending makes it a great teaching dance for set and rotate, because the rest of the dance is nice and simple
- It's only 3 times through, which is unusual for quick-time (and a shame, I would say).

Thank You Patricia		8x32S	3C in 4CL	RSCDS 54/Lees
Bars	Activity			
1-4	1s S, petronella turn while 2C step up on 3&4			
5-6	1s & 2s S, 1s advancing on bar 6 to line across, 1W facing 2M & 1M facing 2W			
7-8	TB. 1W finishes facing 1 st corner (2M who she just turned), with 1M behind			
9-16	Two half diagonal reels of three in tandem with lead change. 1s finish in the middle of the set facing up NHJ, 1W curving (pull back RS) to right to finish on right of partner			
17-20	1s dance up & cast off			
21-24	1s TR while 3s & 2s S, $\frac{1}{2}$ TR into allemande hold – covering of turns			
25-32	3s, 1s, 2s allemande			

Teaching points I picked out:

- Bars 1-16, and in particular bars 5-6 and 16 are MUCH easier to learn from demonstration.
- At the end of bar 6, 1s should be back to back facing the opposite side
- At the end of bar 8, 1M tucks in behind his partner
- Remember to change lead half way through both reels
- 1W does a twiddle into place at the end of the second half reel so both face up
- On bars 21-24, 1s are doing a full turn in 4 bars while 2s and 3s are doing a half turn in the second half of that. Also 1s are already moving while 2s and 3s are coming from a standing

start, so 1s need to remember to hang back and make sure they only do half a turn bars 21-22 so that all three couples do the half turn back to own side together

- Remember to stay in the middle at the end of the turn for the allemande.

The Darlington Dancer 2x40S+2x40R 4C in 4CL RSCDS 54/Brenchly

Bars	Activity
	<i>2 chords. On second chord, 3s&4s cross – 1, 2, 3x, 4x</i>
1-8	1s & 4s slow cast to centre, ½ figure of 8 around nearer end (2s & 3s step out 3&4) – 2, 1x, 4, 3x
9-12	1s&4s LA, finish on sidelines, 1s facing up, 4s facing down, ready for...
13-16	½ reels of four on sides – 3x, 4, 1x, 2
17-20	All TR 1¼ with person opposite to lines across, women back to back – 3s & 4s at top, 1s & 2s at bottom
21-24	½ reels of four across
25-28	All TR 1¼ (same person) to sidelines, 4s & 1s facing up and down
29-30	4s & 1s change R to 3, 1, 4x, 2x
31-32	All set
33-36	½ TB and cast out
37-40	Circle to left half way. Finish 2, 4, 1, 3, 2s & 4s (at the top!) on opposite sides

Teaching points I picked out:

- Not a dance for the faint-hearted. If you have less-experienced people, expect to spend a lot of time on it!
- This is a medley with 2 chords, with 3s and 4s changing side on the second chord.
- This dance is almost easiest if you DON'T think – all the changing sides and ends just work if you trust them, but are very confusing as soon as you stop and think about what you're doing.
- It's an ends-and-middles dance. Ends (1s and 4s) are dancing couples doing one thing, while middles (2s and 3s) are doing something else.
- The wheel finishes in the same place it starts, facing the nearer end. i.e. the reels start from the same place the wheel starts (but facing the opposite way).
- Make sure you move the left hands across and go all the way round – particularly the people ending in 2W and 3M place – it's very easy to hang back a bit, and then miss the start of the reels.
- The reels start right shoulder – for some reason there seems to be a big temptation (again particularly for the people in 2W and 3M place) to give left shoulders
- The reels flow into the turns – as long as you finish the half reel (left shoulder pass in the middle). Keep facing the way you are going.
- The 1¼ turn brings the women back to back in the middle (on the 1st and 3rd times through).
- The second reel and second turn also flow ... as long as you keep it going.
- At the end of the second turn (bar 28), everyone is half way round the set from where they started the first half reel
- At the end of the second turn, dancing couples head away from the person they have turned to face the other dancing couple in the middle, and change right, before everyone sets
- Half turn and cast is like Argyll Strathspey, and flows into the half circle.
- At the end of the first time through, it's the couples at the **top** of the set on the opposite side, the other way round from where it starts, and it keeps alternating
- The 2nd and 4th times through, it is the men back to back at the end of the first turn (bar 20)

- I taught it initially starting with 13-28, because that feels like a 16-bar phrase. In retrospect, I think that was a mistake because people got used to where the reels and turns fell in the musical phrasing, and then were confused when I added the hands across so that the reels fell on the second half of the phrase and the turns on the first half of the following phrase

Dancing Forth	8x32R	3C in 4CL	RSCDS 54/Grant
Bars	Activity		
1-8	1s S, ½ TR & twirl to 1 st corners (2s up), S, TB (skip-change) first corner		
9-16	R3 across (L w/ 2s), LS to 4 th corner to start		
17-24	1s S, ½ TR & twirl to 2 nd corners, S, TB 2 nd corner		
25-32	RS across (L w/ 3s), LS to 3rd corner to start. 6-bar reel for the 1s, and cross over giving RH on bars 31-32 to get back to own side		

Teaching points I picked out:

- Bars 3-4 (and 19-20) are quick – you have to fit in the half turn, moving down the set to 2nd place, and pull back your shoulder to face your corner
- Both 1W and 1M pull back right shoulder – half turn and twirl
- The 2-handed turns are specifically called out as skip-change to match the Edinburgh tradition
- Both reels are across the dance. This means it's slightly less than a full turn on bars 7&8, and slightly MORE than a full turn on bars 23&24
- The second reel is only a 6-bar reel for the 1s, and then they cross back to own side. It is an 8-bar reel for the 2s and 3s