

Monika Altenstetter & Matthias Wienhold – 10 May 2003

The New Irish Rover

A reel for four couples in a straight set

BARS	DESCRIPTION
1–4	1st couple dance down and cast up around 3rd couple, passing under an arch made by 4th couple, who dance up and cast off around 2nd couple. 2nd and 3rd couples step up and down, respectively, on bars 3–4.
5–8	2nd and 4th couples, and 1st and 3rd couples, dance right hands across. At the end, 4th and 1st couples finish in the centre of the set in second and third places, respectively, with 4th woman close behind 4th man facing the men's side and 1st man close behind 1st woman facing the women's side.
9–12	4th and 1st couples dance half a diagonal "dolphin" reel of four with 2nd man and 3rd woman ("first corners"), i.e., dancing couples dance as one person with 4th man (1st woman) leading, but at the apex of the reel both dancers turn individually to dance back into the set with 4th woman (1st man) leading. Dancing couples pass left shoulders in the centre of the set going up and down.
13–16	1st and 4th couples dance a similar "dolphin" reel with 2nd woman and 3rd man ("second corners"). They finish in the centre of the set in second and third places, respectively, with 1st man still behind 1st woman and 4th woman behind 4th man.
17–18	1st and 4th couples dance left hands across nearly halfway round.
19–22	1st couple dance half a reel of three across the dance with 2nd couple, 1st man following 1st woman, while 4th couple dance half a reel of three across the dance with 3rd couple, 4th woman following 4th man. They finish in the centre of the set in third and second places, respectively.
23–24	4th and 1st couples dance right hands across halfway to finish in the sidelines in third and second places, respectively.
25–32	3rd and 1st couples, and 4th and 2nd couples, dance rights and lefts.
Repeat from new positions.	

Moni and Matthias, now living near Hamburg, are great fans of Irish music and dance, as well as James Cosh's dance, Irish Rover. In fact Moni, one of my first dancing friends in the Frankfurt group, was instrumental in helping me through that time during a new dancer's career where the initial, panic-style excitement has worn off and the frustration of having to learn all sorts of steps, figures and things sets in. A fine fiddler, over the years she seems to have become my no. 1 dedicatee of dances and tunes. Matthias hasn't been dancing as long but he's a very dedicated learner and altogether fun person to be with—on and off the dance floor.

This dance is basically a four-couple version of James B. Cosh's old favourite, *Irish Rover*. "Dolphin" reels were introduced by Barry Skelton of New Zealand and (independently, without the maritime association) by Barry Priddey of Sutton Coldfield.—The secret behind this dance is for the dancing couples to stay close to one's partner and move quickly. It does work!