

The Atheist

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

This dance was written in memory of Deborah Ainger who died in December 2021. Deborah was never seen without a badge proudly proclaiming herself as an atheist. As a fellow non-believer I always liked to see her wearing this. She was one of those people who found it hard to distinguish right from left. So this dance tries to make all the directions and turning as obvious as possible.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st couple dance down, nearer hands joined, below 3rd couple and then cast up to 2nd place facing in.
Meanwhile 2nd couple set and then dance up to 1st place facing out.
- 5-8 2nd and 1st couples turn once round on the sides with the easiest hand, 1st couple starting up between 2nd couple. 1st couple end facing in and down, 2nd couple face out.
- 9-16 All dance mirror reels of three on the sides joining hands where possible. 2nd couple start out, 1st couple start in and down, 3rd couple start out and up. 1st couple end facing in, 3rd couple stay facing out.
- 17-20 1st and 3rd couples turn once round on the sides with the easiest hand, 1st couple starting down between 3rd couple.
- 21-24 All advance and retire.
- 25-32 All circle six hands round to the left and back ending in the order 2,1,3.

Music

- Suggested tune: The Sally Gardens (Traditional).
- Suitable recording: Set of Reels (Marian Anderson and her Band: Diamond Jubilee Dances - Belfast Branch).