


Chelsea Reach

Interpreted: Michael Barraclough (1970s)
Original: Dancing Master Vol 1, 3rd edn (1665-1690)
Sources: Playford Ball (Keller & Shimer, 1990)
Country Dance Book 3 (Sharp & Butterworth, 1912)
Formation: Square 4 Couple Set
Tune: Specific tune – Chelsea Reach (1665)
Music: F 6/8 Barnes 1/19

Notes:

- 1) Cecil Sharp provides two interpretations of 1st chorus. Playford Ball is a slight variant of the 2nd variation.
- 2) The square is numbered clockwise, but it doesn't matter as everything is heads/sides or corners

Buckingham-house, or Chelsey-reach. A Figure Dance for eight, thus: 



Meet a lin and fall back, set each to his own. Lead up all a Square, fall back, and set to your own. The first and third Cu. change places with their we. whilst the second and fourth Cu. meet and clap back to back, the first man and 3. wo. meet the second Cu. and the first wo. and 3. man meet the 4. Cu. the first man and third wo take hands round with the 2. Cu. and the 1. wo. and 3. man take hands round with the 4. Cu. and go half round, the first man give his right hand to the third wo. whilst the second man gives his right hand to his own wo. the first man gives his left hand to the second man and turn a whole turn, and the third wo. give her left hand to the second wo. and turn a whole turn, and then turn your own the first man and 3. man do as much to the fourth Cu. all at one time together, and the second and fourth Cu. do the same to the first and third Cu.

Sides all with your own. set to your own. That again. Men take your we. by both hands and put all back to back, then change places all with your own we. then we. give right hands across and go half way round, whilst the men go on the outside the contrary way till you meet your we. and fall back with your own we. into the contrary place. Men do the same as the we. did, whilst the we. go on the outside as the men did, till you come to your places.

Arms all with your own. set to your own. That again. Men take all the co. we. by the hand and lead out, then lead back again; give all right hands to the Co. and left to the next, and right and left till you meet the same again. Then lead out again with the same, and give right and left hands till you come to your own places.

A1	1-8	Meet a double and back, set & honor right and left
A2	1-8	"Up and back a square", set & honor right and left
B1	1-4	Head couples pull by and go to each other's corner place (<i>end facing in</i>) while side couples meet (<i>clap</i>) and stand back-to-back with partner (<i>lines of four across, facing up and down</i>)
	5-6	(<i>In fours</i>) circle left $\frac{1}{2}$
	7-8	(<i>Facing up or down</i>) pull by right and loop left into
B2	1-4	(<i>Same groups</i>) star left (<i>end close to partner</i>)
	5-8	Partner turn (<i>end proper</i>)
A3	1-8	Meet a double and back, set & honor right and left
A4	1-8	"Up and back a square", set & honor right and left
B3/B4		Repeat B1/B2 (<i>sides pulling by, heads meeting and facing out, lines of four up and down facing across</i>)
A5	1-8	Partner side-by-side right, set & honor right and left
A6	1-8	Partner side-by-side left, set & honor left and right
B5	1-2	Partner two-hand turn $\frac{1}{2}$ (<i>ccw, ladies in center</i>)
	3-4	Partner two-hand turn $\frac{1}{2}$ (<i>cw, all home</i>)
	5-8	Ladies star right $\frac{1}{2}$ while men orbit $\frac{1}{2}$ (<i>ccw, all end across the set</i>)
B6	1-8	Repeat B5 (<i>cw, ccw, men in the centre, men star left, ladies orbit cw</i>)
A7	1-8	Partner arm right, set & honor right and left
A8	1-8	Partner arm left, set & honor left and right
B7	1-4	Lead corner out and in a double (<i>end facing corner</i>)
	5-8	Grand chain 4 places (<i>start right with corner, end facing same corner on the opposite side of the set</i>)
B8	1-8	Repeat B7 to place