

Row Well Ye Mariners

Author: Michael Barraclough (1970s)
Original: Dancing Master (1651-1728)
Source: <http://www.michaelbarraclough.com>
Formation: Circle improper, mixer
Music: Row Well Ye Mariners (1651) G 6/8 Barnes 2/110

Notes:

- 1) The dance was originally a longways single minor that I have converted to a circle (subtitled 'The Sailor's Clap Dance')
- 2) The jumps in A2 are appropriate seventeenth century embellishments
- 3) Cecil Sharp & George Butterworth interpreted this dance in the Country Dance Book 3 (1912) but despite the diagrams in Feüillet and Weaver they got it hopelessly wrong
- 4) Meillionen (Walsh's Caledonian Country Dances Vol I) is exactly the same choreography set to a different tune – the Welsh Folk Dance Society claim this as a Welsh dance with a completely different interpretation.
- 5) Les Mariners in Recueil de Nouvelles Contredances (Dezais, 1712) is similar, but duple minor. It also appears to show 'swirly' siding, but starting right shoulder!
- 6) Tune (Row well ye marynors) first registered in 1565 for a ballad with many subsequent ballads including John and Joan in Pills to Purge Melancholy Vol 4 (1719)
- 7) Charles Bolton has a horrendous reconstruction in Retreads Vol 6 (1992) which is reproduced in the Playford Assembly (Graham Christian, 2015)

Row well ye Mariners Longways for as many as will. ©©©©
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Lead up a D. First Man two flips Fall back both. Clap both your own Hands, then clap each
forwards and cross the Room one Meet again. other's Right-hands against one another's,
back. That way, the Woman the clap both your own Hands again, then
again. other. Back again to your places. Left-hands, then clap both Hands again, then
clap your Breasts, then meet both your
Hands against one another. The same
again, only clap Left-hands first.

First Man sides with the next Wo. and his Wo. with the next Man. doing the like till you come to
your own places, the rest following and doing the same.

Dance:

- A1 1-4 Side-by-side right & back
- A2 1-4 Side-by-side left & back
- B1 1-2 Slip sideways left and jump
- B2 1-2 Slip sideways right and jump
- C1 1-2 Fall back a double (*moving right, men in, ladies out*)
- C2 1-2 Come forward a double (*moving left*)
- D1 1-4 Partner clap hands: own, right, own, left, own, cross your heart, pause, both
- D2 1-4 Partner clap hands: own, left, own, right, own, cross your heart, pause, both

- A3 move on to next partner while siding right