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Here's how we danced it a year ago (using the "alternative interpretation"):

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1 April 95. THOUGHTS ON PLAYFORD'S DANCE "KETTLE DRUM"

Formation: a circle of 4 couples. Subsequent instructions for "1 Cu" and "2 Cu" seem best interpreted as "head couples" and "side couples", respectively.

Bars

A1: 1-4 All into the center & back.

5-8 Repeat

B1: "We. meete, giving their right hands, men meete, giving their right hands, then turne every man his owne Wo. by the right hand,..."

Interpretation:

1-2 Women to the center forming RH star

3-4 Men to the center momentarily forming RG star, then immediately...

5-8 Men take partners by RH & turn partner, all returning to home places.

"then men the left hands, We. their left hands, then turne every Wo. her owne man by the left hand"

Interpretation:

9-10 Men to the center forming LH star

11-12 Women to the center momentarily forming LH star, then immediately

13-16 Women take partners by LH & turn partner, all returning to places.

A2: "Sides all, back again_ that again

1-8 Partners siding...

B2: "The 2. Cu. meete and fall back, then the next Cu. meete, and take each others Wo. by the right hand, and fall into the Co. places,..."

"...then the other Cu. meete and fall back, and the first Cu. the like, then leade in, taking the We. by the right hand, and cast off to your places_"

UNCLEAR: "fall into the Co. places", "cast off to your places".

Unsatisfactory interpretation: (assumes "Co. places" = "opposite places", ignores "cast off", fails to give sides a turn at leading, and is dull - the only action being head couples crossing over and back)

1-4 Side couples to the center and back

5-6 Head couples to the center, then...

7-8 Head men take opposite women by RH and turn into the women's places

9-16 The same repeated, side couples again leading off.

Alternative interpretation: (insertion of casting creates more action and gives sides a chance to lead)

1-4 Side couples four steps into the circle, four steps back

5-6 Head couples four steps into the center

7-8 Head men and opposite women take right hands and fall back [or turn] into sides' places...

While side couples separate each casting into head places

9-12 Head couples (in sides' places) four steps into the circle, four steps back

13-14 Side couples (in heads' places) four steps into the center

15-16 Side men and opposite women take right hands and fall back [or turn] into sides' places...

While head couples separate and cast back into heads' places.

A3: "Armes all_ That again_ "

1-8 Partners arming

B3: "All joyne both hands with your We. swing with your hands all inward, then breake off your hands inward, then turn back to back, and kisse the Co. Wo. twice,..."

Interpretation: (leaving 4 bars for accentuating the kissing)

1-2 Couples take both hands and swing into center

3-4 Partners drop hands and turn back to back to face corners

5-8 Men kiss twice their corners (each cheek? - what cheek)

"...then swing with the Co. We. all outwards, then breake off your hands outwards, then turne kissing everyone his owne Wo. turne and so ende_ "

9-10 Corners take both hands and swing out

11-12 Corners drop hands and turn back to back to face partners

12-16 Men kiss twice their partners - end in place facing into the circle.

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