

THE MORRIS FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MORRIS FEDERATION

Held at The Friends' Meeting House, next to No 2, York Street, Bath BA1 1NG on
Saturday 26th September 2015 from 1635 hours

Melanie Barber (President) opened the meeting at 1635 hours and explained that as this is a very echoey room, she asked that speakers don't speak across others. Fire exits were pointed out and mobile phones were to be set to silent.

She welcomed everyone to the fortieth annual general meeting, explaining that as 2007's AGM had been inquorate, it should not be counted, and introduced representatives from the Morris Ring, Open Morris, the EFDSS and Honorary members.

Fee Lock (Secretary) read out those present:

Member sides

Alton Morris
Bedfordshire Lace
Belfagan
Beverley Garland Dancers
Bishops Morris
Cardiff Ladies Morris
Chinewrde Morris
Cogs & Wheels
Customs & Exiles
Ditchling Morris
Downs on Tour
First Class Stamp
Footnotes
Garston Gallopers
Hammersmith Morris
Hips & Haws
Hong Kong Morris
Illustrious Order of Fools & Beasts
Jackstraws
Kettle Bridge Clogs
Mad Jack's Morris
Maltby Phoenix
Mockbeggar Morris
Mortimer's Morris
Mr Wilkins' Shilling
New Esperance Morris
Northfields Morris
Persephone
Pigsty
Priston Jubilee Morris
Ragged & Old
Red Cuthbert Morris
Redbornstoke Morris
Rivington Morris

Individual Members

Jane Cunio
Steve Cunio

Honorary Members

Sally Wearing
Sue Swift
Val Parker

In attendance

Katy Spicer, Chief Executive, EFDSS
Adam Garland, Squire, The Morris Ring
Jon Melville, Bagman The Morris Ring
Phil Watson, Chair Open Morris

Sallyport Sword
Shrewsbury Morris
Silkstone Greens
Somerset Morris
Strictly Clog
The Outside Capering Crew
Whip the Cat
Windsor Morris
Winkleigh Morris

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Acorn Morris	Appleyard
Bare Bones	Black Bess
Black Horse & Standard	Blue Anchor
Boughton Monchelsea	Bows 'n' Belles Clog
Carlisle Clog & Sword	Chalford Stick Company
Clerical Error	Clogarhythm
Clogfest	Coton Morris
Cricket on the Hearth	Dorset Buttons
Eccleston Heritage Clog	First Class Stamp
Flagcrackers of Craven	Green Ginger Garland
Greenwood Clog	Grenoside Sword Dancers
Hannah's Cat	Headcorn Morris
Incognito	Jerusalem Jammers
Leading Lights	Leap to Your Feet
Mabel Gubbins	Maybe Morris
Medusa	Merrydowners Morris
Mish Mash Morris	Phoenix Clog
Rainbow Morris	Ripley Green Garters
Round Hill Morris	Saffron Maids
Silhill Morris	Snark
Taeppas Tump	The Wild Hunt
Treacle Eater Clog	William Morris
Wimberry Clog	Winter Warmers

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These were taken as read and proposed correct by **Kris Gill (Mockbeggar Morris)** and seconded by **Ann Taylor (Belfagan)**. These were unanimously accepted as such.

3 MATTERS ARISING

Nil

4 ANNUAL REPORTS

(a) President

This had been previously circulated and no queries were forthcoming.

(b) Secretary

This had been previously circulated and no queries were forthcoming.

(c) Treasurer

This had been previously circulated and no queries were forthcoming.

(d) Archive Officer

This had been previously circulated and no queries were forthcoming. **Mike Everett (Archive Officer)** added that his post involves merchandising and publicity, too, and Morris Federation cotton bags would be available at £3 (with gusset!) at ceilidh this evening. The Adderbury Morris Men CD on Adderbury dances and notation is also available on CD.

He has put together a double album CD for this fortieth AGM year and thanked the contributors, some of whom were in the room. Many sides had offered, as had John Kirkpatrick (of Shropshire Bedlams) in his own right. He said that all the profits would go to a fund to support young dancers.

Flyers had been distributed for the forthcoming book on twenty-five years of the (then) Women's Morris Federation) by Sally Wearing (Honorary Member), Sue Swift (Honorary Member) and Shirley Dixon (Windsor Morris) orders being taken.

(e) Notation Officer

Jerry West (Archive Officer) reported no movement on the notation front but he remains busy scanning the material we have. He has received three requests over the last twelve months, and wondered whether the notation we maintain remains a useful resource? Should it become archive material? Most teams don't need it. He's doing himself out of a job. He reiterated his public apology to Roy Dommett CBE (Friend of the Federation) as he had erroneously posted some of his material to YouTube, and they are available for view personally at the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library at Cecil Sharp House, the headquarters of the English Folk Dance & Song Society (EFDSS). They are not available on internet.

Teams are still adding to the notation library, but other than that, it has been a quiet year.

(f) Newsletter Editor

Looking at last year's report, I realised it would largely serve as this year's report as well. I have continued to get tremendous support from Federation members in receiving articles and photographs, with only a brief reminder of impending copy dates. Memorable club events still account for the bulk of submissions, but there is usually some key article of special interest. Celebrity interviews have tended to go on the back burner over the past twelve months – not because of a lack of worth candidates, but rather through tardiness on my part to seek the out with my voice recorder. Retirement is a full time job!

By the time this report is circulated I am hopeful that my successor as Newsletter

Editor will be all but confirmed. For me, the last six years as Editor have been really interesting. I've had the opportunity to travel around the country, meeting many sides with whom I would not otherwise have had contact, as well as electronically corresponding with many others. I'd like to thank all of you, and the committee members with whom I have worked, for the inspiration and comradeship you have given.

5 MOTIONS

None notified.

6 DISCUSSIONS

None notified.

7 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Colin Andrews (Winkleigh Morris) is standing down as Newsletter Editor. One nomination has been received, that of **Sam Ross (Priston Jubilee Morris)**. She has been proposed by Winkleigh Morris and seconded by Priston Jubilee Morris. **Melanie Barber (President)** explained the voting system [formerly circulated with the AGM invitation – ed.] that Member sides have up to ten votes, which can be split proportionately, and Individual Members have one vote each.

The voting is as follows:

Full members at the meeting in favour:	290
Full members at the meeting split:	0
Individual members at the meeting in favour:	5
Full members at the meeting against:	0
Full members at the meeting split:	0
Individual members at the meeting against:	0

No abstentions were recorded.

Postal votes received in favour:	100	
Postal votes received split:		1½
Postal votes received against:	0	

Sam Ross (Priston Jubilee Morris) was therefore elected by 391½ in favour, none against, no abstentions.

Melanie Barber (President) then ran through the remainder of the committee, who are willing to stand again, and explained that there are two co-opted committee members, **John Bacon (Hong Kong Morris)**, who advises on the Licensing Acts, and **Kevin Taylor (Individual Member)**, who maintains the website and advises on internet matters. They are elected annually by the committee.

8 DATES OF THE NEXT AGM(s)

(a) 2016

Saturday 24th September 2016 in Nottingham as guests of Mortimer's Morris.

(b) 2017

This will be held in Hull, jointly by Green Ginger Garland, Beverley Garland, Makara Morris & Rackaback Morris, as part of the Hull, City of Culture 2017. **Melanie Barber (President)** offered **Fee Lock's (Secretary)** apologies for having not listed Beverley Garland in the invitation for this year's AGM.

(c) 2018

Melanie Barber (President) said that we like to rotate the location of the AGM so that as many sides as possible can attend, and we are always looking for three years of AGM planning. Ideally, we would like locate this year's AGM in the south or the east. **Diane Moody (New Esperance Morris)** offered to host it in and around London, which was accepted with thanks. She queried whether this should be a whole weekend, but **Melanie Barber (President)** said it didn't, in fact it tends to be a day now, and people arrange their own accommodation if they wish to stay over'..

(d) 2019

Melanie Barber (President) would like to move far north for this year, perhaps to Scotland, to accommodate our sides there. She would like to hear from anyone who has an interest in organising this.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Accounts

Peter Gay (Hammersmith Morris Men) queried the cash balances in the current account asked why the ten thousand pound-difference was recorded, and **Jenny Everett (Treasurer)** explained that she presents the accounts for 31st December, and the meeting takes place in the autumn. In 2014 many teams renewed their subscriptions earlier, in 2013 teams were late. She feels a balance produced in August would be more sensible - she may do this. She also pointed out that we spent more on this AGM than in previous years as we decided to mark the fortieth anniversary of the (then) Women's Morris Federation not only in Bath and making use of the Assembly Halls, but in inviting as many previous officers as possible. **Mike Wilson-Jones (Kettle Bridge Clogs)** observed that with the Morris Ring, Morris institutions are quite rich, and that we are not in business. **Jenny Everett (Treasurer)** explained that we need to keep some money for contingencies; the main cost being insurance and next year the insurance tax goes up. She said that if teams don't renew we still need to pay this in its entirety. She pointed out that the committee has introduced bursaries and grants; and that if someone has a project requiring funding then we are very happy to support it. **Melanie Barber (President)** said that the committee has supported Northfields Morris [formerly Ealing Morris Minors – Ed], and *More Morris/Better Morris*, a project headed by Barry Goodman of Redbornstoke Morris and the former President of the Morris Federation. She said that we also will be sponsoring *Family Folk Day* in Lincoln shortly, a project headed by Liam Robinson Bishop's Morris Longsword. The criteria for such finding need to be promoting the aims of the Morris Federation, and she said that we remain open to suggestions for how to spend it.

Peter Gay (Hammersmith Morris Men) wanted to know the amount that we need to keep, and **Jenny Everett (Treasurer)** replied that we need to keep approximately a year's worth of subscriptions; this total is gradually eroding as she hasn't put the subs. up for some time. He said that he may have some ideas on projects and asked if any were in the pipeline; **Melanie Barber (President)** said that there is one local to her, but would like others to let her know if they know if any. **John Bacon (Ditchling Morris)** said that his side is involved in a children's festival (this year the school didn't get it organised, unfortunately). This will take place on Plumpton Racecourse in Sussex next year. **Jerry West (Notation Officer)** said that a £1,000 grant went to the South East Folk Arts Network (Sefan) for support of the children's festival in the area and **Margaret Bray (Kettle Bridge Clogs)** said that they regularly work with local primary schools, and Brownies and Guides in Maidstone and Ashford in Kent.

Melanie Barber (President) explained that this question related to the spending of our funds, but asked that if sides are working successfully in their localities she would like to know about it for the newsletter.

(b) Fools & Beasts Unconvention

Robert Chisholm (Illustrious Order of Fools & Beasts), who represents all fools and beasts, reminded the meeting that he welcomes all fools and beasts to the forthcoming Unconvention in Ripley in Derbyshire over the weekend of 23rd – 25th October 2015; next year it will be in Yeovil in Somerset. Application forms for this year are available. His address has changed to 1, Treverbyn Road, St. Austell, PL25 4EU. **Colin Andrews (Newsletter Editor)** does have this but the printed newsletter came out beforehand, although the online version has details.

(c) Banking

Jenny Everett (Treasurer) said that she is changing the bank and this should be done by the time the renewals are due so if teams/individuals pay by this method they should be aware of this. She hopes to be able to offer standing orders.

(d) Working with other Morris organisations

Adam Garland Squire of the Morris Ring, was granted leave to speak, and thanked the meeting for inviting him and Jon Melville, Bagman of the Morris Ring. He said that they and Phil Watson, Chair of Open Morris, have been working together with **Melanie Barber (President)** through the Joint Morris Organisations [a loose meeting of the three Morris organisations, sometimes with the support of the EFDSS and our insurer, **Michael Stimpson of Phoenix Morris – Ed**] to promote all aspects of Morris dancing, and hoped to be able to continue this work. This was seconded by Phil Watson of Open Morris.

(e) Forty Years of the (then) Women's Morris Federation

Mike Wilson-Jones (Kettle Bridge Clog) offered congratulations to the whole organisation and the previous officers for forty years!

(f) A Morris Foreman's Handbook

Roy Dommett CBE (Friend of the Federation) had not been able to attend the meeting due to its location being inaccessible for a wheelchair, has been involved in the Morris for fifty years. He asked that his point be put forward of having a Foreman's handbook on how to run a side, how to talk to the musicians, etc. He has several articles which could be useful. **Fiona Eastmond (New Esperance)** suggested such a thing perhaps should be based on a wiki ['What I Know Is' – Ed] and editable. **Mark Rogers (Outside Capering Crew)** said it should be shared

between the three Morris organisations, although **Linda Pound (Chinewrde)** said that every contributor would have significantly different answers.

10 PRESENTATION AND VOTES OF THANKS

Colin Andrews (Newsletter Editor), on standing down from the post, was presented with a Butterworth badge by **Melanie Barber (President)**, and was thanked for having brought a wealth of information.

Melanie Barber (President) also presented Butterworth badges to **Helen Grist (Mr Wilkins' Shilling)**, our hosts for this event, for her inspired lead in organising the fortieth annual general meeting. The meeting echoed her sentiments with a rousing round of applause.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1723 hours.

A statement of accounts is attached.

MORRIS FEDERATION ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014

INCOME

GENERAL

Subscriptions (including extra Newsletters)	£17,773.09
Newsletter adverts	£647.00
P.R.S. Morris Ring & Open Morris	£98.68
AFO conference accomodation refund	£125.00

£18,643.77

EVENTS

AGM accomodation(split for partners/extended stay)	£291.60
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£291.60

DONATIONS & GRANTS

PROMOTIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Sale of publications and PR goods (inc p&p)	£148.50
Sale of bells (inc p&p)	£3,542.96

£3,691.46

RESERVES

Interest on Deposit Account	£30.89
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TOTAL **£22,657.72**

EXPENDITURE

Printing and postage (newsletter, AGM notices)	£7,825.81
Printing (renewals)	£52.78
Stationery & postage	£1,320.62 **
Phone	£3.00
Archive aquisitions	£33.50
Travel expenses	£1,708.35
PRS, EFDSS, SDU,AFO subs	£367.30
Insurance	£5,158.80
Web expenses	£33.26
Meeting room hire	£90.00
Conference fees	£329.38
Accommodation	£574.80
	£17,497.60

JMO meetings/expenses	£70.00
AGM room	£205.00
AGM badges	£53.20
	£328.20

In Memorium donations	£132.99
EFDSS More Morris, Better Morrris grant	£500.00
SEFAN grant	£1,000.00
	£1,632.99

Publications &PR printing	£121.70
Purchase of bells	£2,646.80
DVD production from video	£268.80
	£3,037.30

£22,496.09

** includes PO redirection for 6 months

BALANCES at 31/12/14 Current Account £21,522.15 Deposit Account £30,916.32 Petty cash £18.92 TOTAL £52,457.39