

# THE MORRIS FEDERATION

## MINUTES OF THE 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Salutation Hotel, 30 – 34 South Street, Perth PH2 8PH Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 1632 hours.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

**Melanie Barber (President)** welcomed everyone to the 44<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Morris Federation, and welcomed Nikki Pickering (Chair of Open Morris), Simon Newman (Morris Ring).

In addition to the usual housekeeping, she asked that as not all candidates for the position of President were at the meeting, that no one post the result on social media until 1930 hours today, when she has had the chance to ensure that all were aware of the results.

**Fee Lock (Secretary)** read out those teams attending:

Belfagan Women's Morris	Maltby Sword
Berkshire Bedlam	Mockbeggar Morris
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers	Mons Meg
Beverley Garland	New Esperance Morris
Black Diamond Morris	Nonesuch Morris
Carlisle Sword & Clog	Pateley Longsword
Chinewrde	Persephone Women's Morris
Cricket on the Hearth	Reivers Border Morris
Customs & Exiles	Richmond Castle Clog
Flag & Bone Gang	Ripley Green Garters
Hannah's Cat	Ripon City Morris Dancers
Harlequin Women's Morris	Saddleworth Clog & Garland
Hastings Traditional Jack in the Green	Strictly Clog
Highside Longsword	Three's A Crowd
Jackstraws	Trentside Holmes
Kinfauns Step Dancers	Windsor Morris
Mad Jack's Morris	Winkleigh Morris
Malkin Morris	

Sue Swift, Honorary Member  
Val Parker, Honorary Member

Nikki Pickering, Chair, Open Morris  
Simon Newman, Morris Ring

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

**Fee Lock (Secretary)** read out the list of apologies for absence:

Acorn Morris	Blue Anchor Morris
Aldbrickham Clog & Step Dancers	Boss Morris
Amble Sword	Bower Street Morris
Ansley Morris	Bradinch Millers Morris
Armaleggan	Broad Swords
Babylon	Chiltern Hundreds
Bare Bones Women's Morris	Chingford Morris Men
Beetlecrushers	Clausementum
Belle d'Vain	Clogarhythm
Belles of London City	Crook Morris
Bishops Morris	Cuckoos Nest
Black Gate Morris	Dacre Morris
Black Horse & Standard Morris	Dartmoor Border
Black Sheep Border Morris	Dead Horse & Broomdashers

Devizes Jubilee Morris  
 Ditchling Morris  
 Dorset Buttons  
 Dorstep Clog  
 Dr Turberville's Morris  
 Ebor Morris  
 Ellington Morris  
 England's Glory  
 English Miscellany  
 Enigma Morris  
 Feet First  
 Fiddlesticks Border Morris  
 Five Rivers Morris  
 Fleet Morris  
 Fool's Gambit Morris  
 Four Corner Sword  
 Frome Valley Morris  
 Furness Clog Dancers  
 Furness Morris  
 Fylde Coast Cloggers  
 Galliard Folk Dancers  
 Goathland Plough Stots  
 Great Western Morris  
 Green Ginger Garland  
 Haddenham Morris & Mummers  
 Hammersmith Morris  
 Haughley Hoofers  
 Hawksword  
 Herring Gals  
 Hexhamshire Lasses  
 High Spen Blue Diamonds  
 Hobo's Morris  
 Hornbeam Molly  
 Horwich Prize Medal Morris  
 Huginn & Muninn  
 HuMP  
 Invicta Morris  
 Jerusalem Jammers  
 Kingston Spring Grove Morris  
 Kirtlington Morris  
 Knaresborough Mummers  
 Knights of King Ina  
 Leap to Your Feet  
 Locos in Motion  
 Loose Women  
 Mabel Gubbins  
 Makeney Morris  
 Malmesbury Morris  
 Marlings Morris  
 Martha Rhoden's Tuppenney Dish  
 Medlock Rapper  
 Medusa  
 Milkmaid Molly  
 Minster Strays  
 Morris

Mortimer's Morris  
 Mutineers  
 Mythago  
 Nancy Butterfly  
 New St George  
 Newburgh Morris  
 North Star Rapper & Clog  
 Northgate Rapper  
 Old Glory  
 Old Palace Clog  
 Outside Capering Crew  
 Pecsætan  
 Phoenix Clog  
 Phoenix Morris  
 Plum Jerkum  
 Pretty Grim  
 Quayside Cloggers of Poole  
 Rag Morris  
 Ragged Robin Morris  
 Rainbow NW Morris  
 Rampant Rooster  
 Red Stags  
 Ripon Spur Rapper  
 Rivington Morris  
 Rockhopper Morris  
 Rumworth Morris of Bolton  
 Sarum Morris  
 Seven Champions & Seven Sisters  
 Sharp & Blunt  
 Sheffield City Morris  
 Shrewsbury Morris  
 Shropshire Sharpshins Rapper  
 Silhill Morris  
 Silver Flame Rapper  
 Singleton Cloggers  
 Somerset Morris  
 Somerstep  
 Southern Lights  
 Southern Star  
 Spirimawgus Morris  
 St Albans Morris  
 Stone the Crows  
 Stony Stratford Mummers  
 Sussex Junction  
 Sutton Masque  
 The Fabulous Fezheads  
 The Tattered Court  
 Thrales Rapper  
 Three Horseshoes Morris  
 Three Shires Morris  
 Twostep  
 Wakefield Morris  
 Whip the Cat Rapper  
 Willington Morris  
 Wreckers Morris

She received a round of applause (!)

## 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

These had already circulated and taken as read. They were proposed correct by **Sel Adamu (Customs & Exiles)**, and seconded by **Diane Moody (New Esperance)**. Nem con.

### 3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

### 4 OFFICERS' REPORTS

These had been previously circulated and taken as read. There were no queries on the President's; Secretary's; Archive Officer; Notation Officer; Newsletter Editor's. However, **Diane Moody (New Esperance)** explained that the blank column in the accounts of the expenditure of the 2018 AGM in London represented a pledge of support of £1200 for the shortfall of that event by Knees Up Cecil Sharp, the ceilidh series which formed part of the AGM weekend, to make up for the lack of collection on a miserable, rainy day.

### 5 MOTIONS

**To amend the Terms of Reference of the Constitution, Section 4, Committee The officers shall be elected to their posts at the Annual General Meeting, except in the case of a post becoming vacant between AGMs, when an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called to elect a replacement. Their terms of office shall run for up to three years, beginning on 1st January of the year after that in which they were elected, until 31st December of the third year inclusive. In the event of a post becoming vacant before the full three-year period has expired, the term of office of any elected replacement shall run for a maximum of the period remaining of the term of office of the outgoing officer.**

For clarity, the changes are shown below, courtesy of **Val Parker (Honorary Member)**, who pointed this out at last year's AGM. The ~~strike throughs~~ illustrate the removal of text; the *italics* illustrate the proposed changes.

"The officers shall be elected to their posts at the Annual General Meeting, except in the case of a post becoming vacant ~~before the term of office has expired~~ *between AGMs*, when an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called to elect a replacement ~~to complete the original term of office~~. Their terms of office shall run for up to three years, beginning on 1st January of the year after that in which they were elected, until 31st December of the third year inclusive.

*In the event of a post becoming vacant before the full three-year period has expired, the term of office of any elected replacement shall run for a maximum of the period remaining of the term of office of the outgoing officer."*

Proposed by **Sam Ross (Newsletter Editor)**, seconded by **Jenny Everett (Treasurer)**.

Rationale This clarifies both the circumstances when an EGM can be called in the context of within the new, three-yearly cycle of tenure, and the situation concerning the completion or otherwise of a three-year term.

There were no queries or comments from the floor.

Postal votes received:

For: 618.5  
Against: 6.5  
Abstentions: 37

Votes cast at the meeting:

For: 252  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0

Total: 870.5 in favour; the Motion was carried.

**SHOULD ALL OUR MEMBERS BE MORRIS DANCERS?**

Over the years, our membership has expanded from what we all understand as Morris dancing, in its widest sense, to include teams who don't strictly dance Morris. The first to be included was Appalachian, which we happily accepted as an allied tradition, often danced by people we knew in the Morris.

However, in the past few years, some other groups have been accepted for membership. Often, the only link is that they appear at folk festivals alongside Morris dancers. These include historical and social dance groups, and foreign dance teams. They tend to join so that they can enjoy the benefit of our public liability insurance. Is the membership content that we should include such groups and where should the boundary lie?

Led by **Jenny Everett (Treasurer)**.

**Jenny Everett (Treasurer)**, as recipient of the registration form, has to make a judgement call on relevance. She has recently accepted Ghurkha dancers and Polish dancers,

**Melanie Barber (President)** read out **Somerset Morris'** view:

"We did talk about the discussion at our meeting. The feeling of the side was that the Federation should focus on membership from sides and groups performing traditional UK dances (or those continuing to develop these traditions into new forms), but felt that performance to live music was key. We felt this would help those leading the Federation to be able to focus on specific remit, rather than trying to encompass the needs of a much wider group."

She then read out **Galliard Folk Dancers'** view:

"Being one of those groups who joined to enjoy the benefit of your public liability insurance, I would have liked to join in the discussion whether all members should be Morris dancers. It is a pity that some feel a need to divide our wonderful folk traditions into compartments. We all love folk dancing. Within our small group our members dance, or have danced, English, Scottish, Manx, Welsh, and Morris. We dance socially and in display and feel that our brand of folk makes a nice contrast when sharing a sport with a different tradition. When a Morris dancer is approaching 80 and his knees have given up, he'll be glad that he can find folk with a gentler pace. Members of the public often think we're Morris dancers too and we don't mind!"

**Sel Adamu (Customs & Exiles)** said that she favoured the Federation promoting Morris dancing specifically – other cultures and countries are more proud of their cultures than in England and the English are, so she would not want anything to dilute anything that reduces that.

**Diane Moody (New Esperance)** read out thoughts from her side, and said that if people are joining simply for the insurance, is there not a more appropriate organisation for them to join, such as the EFDSS? Should it only be a dancing team? But, we have to consider mummers: much mumming is done by Morris teams, which suggests a rather woolly boundary to the term 'Morris'; but is belly dancing appropriate? Often they are scheduled alongside Morris dancers at festivals; we don't mind if this is the only way they can get public liability insurance, but if there were to be enough belly dancing teams, should they then be encouraged to form their own organisation? Would that then lead into extremes like aerial dancing, for example?! If it's a dance team based in the UK where there's no other form of insurance, then she feels we should let them in. But if they're a Ghurkha team in India, we wouldn't want to join them as this would not be appropriate; however, if there was an overseas Morris team we would be okay with that.

**Melanie Barber (President)** said that we may be putting other organisations in jeopardy eg Polish dancers coming from a Polish dancing society, etc. Morris is largely an umbrella in many ways.

**Sel Adamu (Customs & Exiles)** clarified her point by quoting the aims of the Morris Federation as described in the constitution: this includes any group that will continue to promote Morris dancing, and that is the main area she would want to continue to accept teams.

**Jenny Everett (Treasurer)** thanked the meeting, and said that it is helpful to know that we are all in one mind. This is helpful.

## **7 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

Under the three year tenure voted in last AGM, two posts, President and Newsletter Editor, were up for election, the others remaining in post unless someone else stood.

### **(a) President**

**Melanie Barber (President)** is standing down. There have been five candidates. In accordance with the change in the constitution last year, four of the remaining posts do not need re-elected.

**1/5**

**LINDA POUND**

**Proposed by Persephone Women's NW Morris, seconded by Chinewrde Morris**

Postal votes received:	229
Votes cast at the meeting:	13
Total:	242

**2/5**

**HEATHER LEECH**

**Proposed by Hannah's Cat, seconded by Mad Jack's Morris**

Postal votes received:	108.5
Votes cast at the meeting:	2
Total:	110.5

**3/5**

**SEL ADAMU**

**Proposed by Ebor Morris, seconded by Belle d'Vain**

Postal votes received:	350
Votes cast at the meeting:	70
Total:	420

**4/5**

**PAULINE WOODS-WILSON**

**Proposed by Downes-on-Tour, seconded by Rivington Morris**

Postal votes received:	462.5
Votes cast at the meeting:	60
Total:	522.5

**5/5**

**DIANE MOODY**

**Proposed by New Esperance Morris, seconded by Thrales Rapper**

Postal votes received:	102
Votes cast at the meeting:	16
Total:	118.

**Melanie Barber (President)** announced the clear winner to be Pauline Woods-Wilson with a total 522.5. She offered her thanks to **Linda, Heather, Sel, Diane**, as their nominations had brought much discussion and support to the Federation, thereby promoting awareness. She also thanked Nikki Pickering, Chair of

Open Morris, and Simon Newman, representing the Morris Ring, for their assistance as tellers. All candidates received a well-deserved round of applause.

**(b) Newsletter Editor**

This post, under the new, three-year tenure, is up for re-election at this AGM and the post needs to be filled. **Sam Ross (Newsletter Editor)**, the incumbent, is willing to stand again and is proposed by **Fee Lock (Secretary)** and seconded by **Mike Everett (Archive Officer)**. There have been no other nominations received. No postal vote was conducted.

(c) For: 300  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0

Individual Members:

For: 2  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0

**Sam Ross (Newsletter Editor)** was re-elected 302:0

All other officers were willing to continue, and no other nominations received:

- (c) **Fee Lock (Secretary)**
- (d) **Jenny Everett (Treasurer)**
- (e) **Mike Everett (Archive Officer)**
- (f) **Jerry West (Notation Officer)**

**Jenny Everett (Treasurer)** said that the posts of Treasurer and Archivist will be open to re-election next year.

**Melanie Barber (President)** noted that the new membership application being online had made things easier for the Secretary, and that we were hoping to make public liability insurance certificates available online due course

**Mike Adamson** is co-opted for IT support.

## 8 DATES OF THE NEXT AGM

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in Reading, courtesy of Customs & Exiles.

2021 – Darlington, courtesy of Black Diamond.

2022 – we need a volunteer! If you would like to organise the 2022 AGM Day of Dance, please get in touch with a member of the committee. Offers of AGMs in further years will not be turned down!

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

## 10 VOTES OF THANKS AND PRESENTATION

**Melanie Barber (President)** presented Butterworth badges to our hosts, Kinfauns Step Dancers. Nikki Pickering, Chair of Open Morris, presented an officer's badge to **Melanie**.

There being no further discussion, the meeting closed at 1715 hours.