



The Morris Federation

**THE MORRIS FEDERATION
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)**

Held on Saturday 3rd December 2022

Online via the Zoom platform

<https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm>

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Introduction

Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) welcomed everyone, having conducted good housekeeping and explaining that the results of any votes are to be embargoed until 2000 hours, confirmed that the meeting is quorate (there being more than 15 group members).

She welcomed Nicki Pickering (Wales & NW Area Rep, and a previous Chair of Open Morris) and confirmed Nicki would act as Teller.

The meeting was being live streamed via YouTube and a recording for minuting purposes is automatically made. This is not made public; participants were requested not to make their own recordings as no permission from participants had been sought in advance.

Attendees

Andrew Knight (Secretary) read out the attending members.

Group Members:

Berkshire Bedlam
Black Gate Morris
Chiltern Hundreds
G&G Morris
Hexham Morris
Hexhamshire Lasses
IME
Jackstraws Morris
Kirtlington Morris
Knights of King Ina
Knowle Morris
Maltby Sword
New Esperance
Nonesuch Morris
Phoenix Morris
Trentside Holmes Morris
Windsor Morris
Stone the Crows Border Morris

Individual Members:

Sally Wearing – Honorary

Morris Federation Committee:

Pauline Woods-Wilson, President, The Morris Federation
Andrew Knight, Secretary, The Morris Federation
Jerry West, Notation Officer, The Morris Federation
Jenny Everett, Treasurer, The Morris Federation
Mike Everett, Archive Officer, The Morris Federation
Sam Ross, Newsletter Editor, The Morris Federation

Morris Federation Co-opted Committee:

Fee Lock, JMO Secretary, The Morris Federation

Invited Guests:

Nicki Pickering (Wales and NW Area Rep and a previous Chair of Open Morris) – acting as Teller

1 Apologies for absence

Acorn
Aldbrickham Clog and Step Dancers
Armaleggan
Aurora
Barfront Guizers
Beetlecrushers Clog and Step Dance Group
Beverley Garland Dancers
Bideford Phoenix Morris
Blackadder Morris
Black Bess Border Morris
Boughton Monchelsea
Chinewrde Morris Dancers
Cockleshell Clog
Cricket on the Hearth
Customs and Exiles
Downes on Tour
Fidlers Fancy Morris
Five Rivers Morris
Garston Gallopers
Haughley Hoofers
Highside Longsword
Invicta Morris
Jerusalem Jammers
Mabel Gubbins
Milkmaid Molly
Moonshine
Mortimer's Morris
Mythago Morris
Nancy Butterfly Women's Morris
Offcumduns
Oyster Girls Morris Dancers
Persephone Morris
Rights and Lefts
Ripley Green Garters
Ripon City Morris Dancers
Rivington Morris
Sarum Morris
Sheffield City Morris
Somerset Morris
The Outside Capering Crew
Tinnars
Tylers Men
Whitethorn Morris
Wyld Morris

Alison Dunn – Individual Member
Jess Searle, Membership Communications Officer (from 1/1/2023)
Brian Kelly, Communications & IT Officer, The Morris Federation
Abigail Banfield, Social Media Officer, The Morris Federation

2 Constitution Review

MOTION 1 - To accept revised Constitutional Documents

The new Constitution documents had been circulated for comments and the proposed documents circulated in the pack for voting in advance.

EGM Pack of papers: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/MF-EGM-2022-Pack.pdf>

It was confirmed that Motion 1 had received 391 votes For; 7.5 votes Against; 131.3 Abstentions.

Thanks for getting us this far were extended to Jerry West (Notation Officer) who has been heading up the review, and our consultation group: Pam Morley (Aelfgythe), Duncan Moss (Hammersmith Morris), and Fee Lock (JMO Secretary) with written input from John New (Cockleshell Clog) and Bob Barker (Ripon Spur Rapper). They received a round of applause.

Jerry West (heading up the review) gave some background to the alterations made saying that the constitution group had kept as far as practicable within the spirit of the original constitution. During this review, he noted the polarized approaches to writing a constitution and fed this back to the group. He explained that they had tried to be formal but accessible and use language for clarity rather than precise but obscure.

Just prior to this EGM meeting, 33 amendments had been tabled.

Via screen share to all present, each of the amendments was taken in turn and wording discussed. The document was updated at the meeting, the document with the amendments shown in Mark Up had been shared in advance. This process continued up to point 7.4 (Definition of Postal Ballot) when the meeting closed being out of time.

Items prior to 7.4 that remain unresolved are:

- Voting and Show of Hands
- Resolutions to take immediate effect or at closure of the meeting?
- Officers – it was agreed 6 elected officers to include those named, President, Treasurer, Secretary but no agreement was reached on what the other 3 would be called or who writes the job descriptions.
- Accounts at AGM – title and remit of the verifier of the accounts and to what level of checking is undertaken.

Before closure, discussion took place as to how completing this process should occur. It was agreed that the following would be the next steps for action:

1. Jerry West to make updates to the documents based on the EGM discussions.
2. A meeting to be held to discuss 'Voting' (and anything else outstanding) – we will send an invite to attend to all those who attended the EGM, to act as an advisory group. *[Post-meeting note: this was held on 13th December 2023]*
3. Revised version to be circulated to all of the EGM participants for review.
4. Jerry West to review comments and create a final version.
5. Final version to be circulated to the whole Membership to vote on, with a summary of what has changed.

3 Discussions

DISCUSSION 1 - Honorary Life Membership

This item was not considered, but the new mechanism agreed at the 2022 AGM is absent from the new constitution; the pre-existing method of awarding Honorary Life Membership is in Standing Orders.

Post-Meeting Note: *In future, the Committee will ensure that Nominations for awarding Honorary Life Membership and Friendship of the MF will become an Agenda item on AGMs. Requests for nominations will be included along with requests for nominations of Elections of Officers, Motions and Discussion items. A nomination form is now available on this web page: <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm/>*

Meeting closure

The meeting was closed at 18:04 with thanks to those attending.