



THE MORRIS FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 21st September 2024

In person in Cardiff, Wales, and on the Zoom Platform

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

version 2 – with post meeting note under 4.1 c) Treasurer's report

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1 INTRODUCTION, ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) opened the meeting at 16:34 and welcomed everyone, having conducted good housekeeping and explaining that the results of any votes are to be embargoed until 20:00, and confirmed that the meeting is quorate (there being more than 15 group members). Any technical outages would result in the in-person meeting deciding whether to continue or adjourn until another time. All speakers to confirm their names and membership designation.

She welcomed **Jen Cox**, Chair of Open Morris and **Nigel Strudwick**, Squire of The Morris Ring, **Emma Melville**, Squire Elect of The Morris Ring, **Peter Austin**, Bagman of the Morris Ring and **Jon Melville**, past Bagman of the Morris Ring in person. **Jen Cox** and **Peter Austin** were acting as tellers for votes (both in the room and on Zoom). To facilitate the entering of votes in the room to the new voting system ‘Cast Round’ for those without a device to use the system, introductions were made to Voting Clerks **Jess Searle** and **Emma Laister**.

(The role of the Voting Clerk is to enter proxy, paper votes in the room and votes made by instruction by email in advance that were not added to ‘Cast Round’ either in advance or on the day by electronic means – these voting instructions were all handed to the clerks as the votes took place for them to action, these votes are counted in the totals of votes where shown; the role included checking for duplicate votes; a vote made at the meeting by the member representative themselves was taken in precedence to any advance vote, thus any alterations of vote due to the discussions were accounted for).

The Committee were invited to introduce themselves to those on Zoom and assembled in the room which they did.

ATTENDEES

Group Members:

Andrew Knight (Secretary) read out those teams attending in person:

In the room were

Beverley Garland Dancers	Mendip Morris
Cardiff Morris	Mockbeggar Morris
Cogs and Wheels Ladies Morris	New Esperance Morris
Dancing Spires	Outside Capering Crew
Dr Turbervilles	Rag Morris
Enigma Morris	Ripley Green Garters
Fleur De Lys	Rivington
Forest of Dean Morris	Tourbillion
Ironmen and Severn Gilders	Trentside Holmes
Isca Morris	Wild Moon Morris
Jackstraws	Winkleigh Morris
Knights of King Ina	Worthing Larks
Mabel Gubbins	

Morris Federation Committee:

Pauline Woods-Wilson, President, The Morris Federation
Andrew Knight, Secretary, The Morris Federation
Abbi Proctor, Treasurer, The Morris Federation
Eliza Russell, Member Communications Officer, The Morris Federation
Mike Everett, Archive Officer, The Morris Federation
Jerry West, Notation Officer, The Morris Federation – On Zoom

Morris Federation Co-opted Committee & Advisors:

Fee Lock, JMO Secretary, The Morris Federation
Dan Watford, IT Administrator, The Morris Federation – on Zoom
Lin Steel, Keeper of the Bells, The Morris Federation
Roary Neat, EDI, The Morris Federation
Jenny Everett, Special Projects
Michael Stimpson, JMO Insurance Officer – on Zoom
Brian Kelly, Communications IT – apologized
Lucy Grainger, Social Media Officer - Apologized

Invited Guests:

Jen Cox, Chair, Open Morris, Voting Teller
Peter Austin, Bagman, The Morris Ring, Voting Teller
Nigel Strudwick, Squire, The Morris Ring
Emma Melville, Squire Elect, The Morris Ring
Jon Melville, Past Bagman, The Morris Ring
Emma Laister, Voting Clerk
Jess Searle, Voting Clerk
Sam Ross, Technical Support – Zoom host

Individual Members:

Nickie Dailly
Gina Siddons

Honorary Life Members:

Fee Lock – also co-opted as JMO Secretary
Sally Wearing – also Health & Safety Advisor
Sue Swift
Val Parker

On Zoom were

Group Members:

Berkshire Bedlam	Black Gate
Chiltern Hundreds	Five Rivers
Hexhamshire Lassies	Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts
Kirtlington	Knots of May
Phoenix	Pump House Clog
Sheffield City Morris	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group Members:

After Dinner Clog	Mary Rose & Royal George Morris
Armaleggan	Mish Mash Morris
Aurora	Mythago Morris
Barfront Guizers	Nancy Butterfly Morris Dancers
Beetlecrushers Clog and Step Dance Group	Newburgh Morris
Belles of London City	Pateley Longsword
Berkshire Bedlam	Persephone Women's Northwest Morris
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers	Pigsty Morris
Bideford Phoenix Morris	Raise the Dust
Black Bess Border Morris	Rampant Rooster Morris
Bower Street Morris	Rattlejag Morris
Carlisle Clog and Sword	Red Stags
Chinewrde Morris Dancers	Richmond Castle Clog
Chingford Morris Men	Rights and Lefts
Clausentum Morris	Ripon City Morris Dancers
Cricket on the Hearth	Sarum
Customs And Exiles	Sheffield City Morris
Ebor Morris	Sheffield Steel Rapper
Five Rivers Morris	Shrewsbury Morris (Shrewsbury Lasses & Shrewsbury Bull & Pump Morris Men)
Garston Gallopers	Somerset Morris
Harlequin NW	Stone the Crows Border Morris
Haughley Hoofers	Stony Redcaps (formerly Old Mother Redcaps)
Hereburgh Morris	Temporary Measured
Hexham	The Knots of May
Hicca Hoodlums	The Minster Strays
Highside Longsword	The Tattered Court
Jerusalem Jammers	Twin Sword
Kinfauns Step Dancers	Weald of Kent Morris
Knaresborough Mummings	Westminster Morris Dancers
Liberty Hill North West	Wreckers Morris Border Side
Lymm Morris Dancers	

Individual Members:

None Received

Honorary Life Members:

None Received

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting on 30th September 2023 were available in the AGM pack and also online at <https://www.morrisfed.org.uk/agm/>. These were taken as read.

Diane Moody (New Esperance) proposed them as correct, with **Gina Siddons** (Individual) seconding. These were approved 68 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions without amendment. **Pauline Woods-Wilson** (President) signed these as correct.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

No matters arising were mentioned by the meeting.

4 ANNUAL REPORTS

These had been previously circulated and taken as read. They are reproduced in Appendix 1 below.

4.1 Reports from Elected Officers:

a) President

No comments

b) Secretary

No comments.

c) Treasurer

The report was presented as in the AGM pack.

Jenny Everett (previous Treasurer; Special Projects) reported on an erroneous budget entry and explained the reasons behind this were related to the Schools Project, part funded by The Arts Council, and represented extra Schools Pack resources and hidden costs for team travel to showcases and hire of PA equipment. The adjusted figures were presented (see Appendix 1), and the amended report and accounts were presented for voting. The AGM Pack will also be updated and made available on the AGM web site.

Diane Moody (New Esperance) asked if the amendment altered the 'in advance' voting cast. **Pauline Woods Wilson** (President) stated that it was only the budget that was amended and not the statement of accounts, therefore the in advance votes taken on the accounts were still valid. This point was accepted.

The Treasurer's report, accounts and amended budget were then proposed by **Fee Lock** (Hon Life member, JMO Secretary); seconded by **Michael Stimpson** (Phoenix, JMO Insurance officer).

This motion was accepted: 75 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention.

[Post-meeting note: A typo on the expected income for the remaining 10% of the Arts Council Grant (page 22 of the Pack) was identified after the meeting. The Pack (version 3) has been updated to show the correct figure. Again, this only affects the budget, as it is pertaining to future income.]

d) Archive Officer

No Comments.

e) Notation Officer

No comments.

f) Membership Communications Officer

No comments.

4.2 Reports from Co-opted Officers & Advisors:

No comments were made on the following reports:

a) JMO Secretary

b) IT Administrator

c) Communications & IT Officer

d) Social Media Officer

e) Health & Safety Advisor

4.3 Projects – reports from others working on projects or in receipt of funding:

No comments were made on the following reports:

a) Arts Council England Grant “Old dances, new People, new Age”

b) Book: “You’ll never stop it!” The Morris Federation: The First 25 years (1975-1999)

c) Book: 25th -50th Anniversary (2000-2025)

d) Morris Dance Database (MDDDB)

e) Voices of Morris

5 MOTIONS

No motions were proposed by the deadline.

6 DISCUSSIONS

No discussion items were notified by the deadline.

7 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

As per clause 4 of the Constitution, committee members (officers) must stand for re-election every three years (in rotation). Officers can stand again.

7.1 Secretary

Andrew Knight, Secretary since 2022, is willing to stand again. No other nominations were received by the deadline. This is a 3-year term starting 1st January 2025. Proposed by Knights of King Ina, seconded by Dr Turberville's Morris, Mendip Morris and Worthing Larks.

Andrew Knight was duly elected as Secretary: 720 For, 1 Against, 73 Abstentions

7.2 Notation Officer

Jerry West, Notation officer since 2011 is willing to stand again. No other nominations were received by the deadline. This is a 3-year term starting 1st January 2025. Nominated by Windsor Morris and seconded by Berkshire Bedlam.

Jerry West was duly elected as Notation Officer: 727 For, 0 Against, 77 abstentions

7.3 Archive Officer

Mike Everett, Archive Officer since 2004, was appointed in 2023 for 1 year as no nominations were received and is standing down this year. This is a 2-year term starting 1st January 2025.

One nomination was received for **Graham Lee**, proposed by Hereburgh Morris and seconded by Mabel Gubbins.

Graham Lee was duly elected as Archive Officer: 732 For, 0 Against, 61 Abstentions

7.4 Marketing Officer

Two nominations were received for the new post of Marketing Officer. This is a 3-year term starting 1st January 2025.

Melanie Yates (Knots of May) and **James Merryclough** (Five Rivers)

The votes were confirmed as: 154 For **Melanie Yates**, 560 for **James Merryclough**, 2 for None of the above, 109 Abstentions

James Merryclough was duly elected as Marketing officer.

7.5 Events Officer

This is a new role - a 3-year term starting 1st January 2025.

One nomination was received but sadly had to withdraw for personal reasons.

Prior to the Marketing Officer election, both candidates were asked whether they would consider this role if unelected. **Melanie Yates** submitted in writing that she would do so at the meeting. This was presented to the meeting and a nomination was forthcoming from **Eliza Russell** (Worthing Larks), this was seconded By **Fee Lock** (Individual) and **Jerry West** (Berkshire Bedlam).

A vote was taken in the room.

Melanie Yates was duly elected as Events Officer - 441 For, 1 Against, 25 Abstentions.

Future elections. **Pauline Woods Wilson** (President) informed the meeting that at the next AGM the posts of President and Membership Communications Officer are due for election, and in 2026 the Treasurer and Archive posts are to be elected.

8 NOMINATIONS: HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP, OR FRIEND, OF THE MF

Honorary Life Membership is intended for an individual within The Morris Federation community and gives the same benefits as Individual Membership. **Friend** is intended for an individual or organisation outside The Morris Federation community. The nominations state what unique contribution they have made to Morris dancing and related activities in general, or what exceptional contribution they have made to furthering the aims of The Morris Federation.

Citations were given in the AGM pack.

8.1 Honorary Life Membership – Jenny Everett

Jenny Everett for 21 plus years serving on The Morris Federation Committee as Events Officer (4 years), Treasurer (17 years) - Votes For 771, Against 0, 54 Abstentions.

Proposed – Fee Lock on behalf of the Committee; Seconded – Sally Wearing, Dukes Dandy, Treacle Eater Clog, Rattlejag, Trentside Holmes, Berkshire Bedlam, Winkleigh and Magog.

8.2 Honorary Life Membership – Mike Everett

Mike Everett for 21 years as Archive Officer - Votes For 772, Against 0, 54 Abstentions.

Proposed – Fee Lock on behalf of The Morris Federation committee; Seconded – Rattlejag, Trentside Holmes, Magog, Black Diamond, Berkshire Bedlam, Winkleigh.

Both confirmed their acceptance, so **Pauline Woods Wilson** (President) presented Jenny and Mike with certificates and bespoke leather badges, and they were accepted into Honorary Life Membership.

9 DATE(S) OF FUTURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING(S)

The dates for future AGMs (including a Day of Dance) are:

The 2025 AGM will be held on **27th September 2025 in Sheffield.**

If you would like to host a Day of Dance and AGM or host a JMO Day of Dance, please discuss it with your team and contact us.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items were taken by the deadline.

11 PRESENTATIONS AND VOTES OF THANKS

We presented our thanks for the superb hosting and Day of Dance to our hosts, **Cardiff Morris** and in particular thanked **Mike Angove** and his team for doing the majority of the organizing for this event, special mention was made of the boards and easels at each dance spot. **Ben James** received the commemorative badges from **Andrew Knight** (Secretary) on their behalf.

Some further thank yous to **Sam Ross** and **Ian Lewis** (Cardiff Morris), Dan Watford, Eliza Russell, and Jess Searle for technical setup and running of the hybrid (in person and online) meeting and the voting system.

12 MEETING CLOSE

A reminder that the results of votes are embargoed until 20:00.

The draft minutes will be emailed to member contacts, to be approved at next year's AGM.

The meeting was declared closed at 17:49 hours.

Note: The AGM Pack will be found in a separate document.

Appendix 1 – Updated Budget

Budget adjusted figures

BUDGET 2024/2025			
	Unrestricted account	Arts Council England restricted account	Bells designated account
balance b/f from 2023/2024	£27,274.90	£7,780.00	£22,259.86
Expected income			
Arts Council Grant (restricted)		(* revised figure £2,846.00 [was £1,846.00])	
Subscriptions	£16,000.00		
Sale of bells (inc p&p)			£8,000.00
Total	£43,274.90	(* revised figure £10,626.00 [was £9,626.00])	£30,259.86
Expected expenditure			
Operating expenses	£20,700.00		
GRANTS etc	£2,000.00		
Arts council (phase 2 seed money)	£5,000.00		
Arts Council England Project (restricted account)		(* revised figure £11,260.93 [was £13,540.88])	
Contingency (up to 10%)	£2,500.00		
Purchase of bells (designated account)			£22,259.86
Total	£30,200.00	(* revised figure £11,260.93 [was £13,540.88])	£22,259.86
Expected balances to c/f to 2025/2026	£13,074.90	(* revised figure -£633.95 [was -£3,914.88])	£8,000.00
Reserves are set at £13,000			