



THE MORRIS FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Saturday 27th September 2025

In person at The Perch Brewhouse, Sheffield, and on the Zoom Platform

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

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1 INTRODUCTION, ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Pauline Woods-Wilson (President) opened the meeting at 16:43 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, **Lewis Elliott**, South East Area Rep of The Morris Ring, and **Darren Nugent**, North Area Rep of The Morris Ring, in person. **Jen Cox** and **Lewis Elliot** 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, Emma Laister, and Helen Elliott**.

(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) - the meeting agreed to waive reading out the names of members present.

Adlington Morris Men
 Amble Sword
 Beverley Garland
 Black Gate Morris
 Clausentum Morris
 Customs and Exiles
 Dancing Spires

Dr Turberville’s Morris
 East Kent Morris
 Enigma Border Morris
 Five Rivers Morris
 Hobos Border Morris
 Jackstraws Morris
 Jerusalem Jammers – on Zoom

Knights of King Ina
Mabel Gubbins
Maltby Sword
Mendip Morris
Mockbeggar Morris
New Esperance Morris
Pecsaetan Morris
Phoenix Morris – on Zoom
Pilgrim Morris
Ramshackle Morris

Rattlejag Morris
Rivington Morris
Seven Sisters Molly Dancers
Sheffield City Morris
Stroud Morris Dancers
Three Man Morris
Trentside Holmes
Windsor Morris
Worthing Larks

Morris Federation Committee:

Pauline Woods-Wilson, President, The Morris Federation
Andrew Knight, Secretary, The Morris Federation
Jenny Everett, Treasurer (Appointed), The Morris Federation
Eliza Russell, Member Communications Officer, The Morris Federation
Graham Lee, Archive Officer, The Morris Federation
Jerry West, Notation Officer, The Morris Federation
Melanie Yates, Events Officer, The Morris Federation - apologized
James Merryclough, Marketing Officer, The Morris Federation - apologized

Morris Federation Co-opted Committee:

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

Invited Guests:

Jen Cox, Chair, Open Morris
Lewis Elliott, South East Area Rep, The Morris Ring
Darren Nugent, North Area Rep, The Morris Ring

Individual Members:

Nickie Dailly

Ginetta Siddons

Honorary Members:

Sally Wearing
Fee Lock

Val Parker
Beth Neill

AGM Assistance:

Jess Searle, Voting Clerk
Emma Laister, Voting Clerk
Helen Elliott, Voting Clerk

Barry Pitman, Photography
Owain Boorman, Videography
Sam Ross, Technical Support – on Zoom

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Group Members:

Armaleggan	Knarborough Mummers
Aurora	Lymm Morris Dancers
Beetlecrushers Clog and Step Dance Group	Malkin Morris
Berkshire Bedlam	Misfit Molly
Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers	Mish Mash Morris
Bideford Phoenix Morris	Mythago Morris
Black Bess Border Morris	Nancy Butterfly
Bower Street Morris	Pateley Longsword
Chiltern Hundreds	Phoenix Clog
Chingford Morris Men	Pigsty Morris
Clerical Error	Rampant Rooster Morris
Clogarhythm	Red Stags Morris
Cricket on the Hearth	Rights and Lefts Running set
Dartmoor Border Morris	Ripley Green Garters
Dead Horse Morris and the Broomdashers	Ripon City Morris Dancers
Dukes Dandy	Rockhopper Morris
Ebor Morris	Roots Morris
Feet First	Rumworth Morris
Frome Valley	Sarum Morris
Glorishears of Brummagem	Somerset Morris
Green Willow Clog Team	Spirimawgus
Hammersmith Morris Men	Stone the Crows Border Morris
Harlequin North West Morris	Stony Stratford Mummers
Harry Taylor's Morris	Sweet Coppin
Hastings Jack in the Green	Temporary Measured
Hereburgh Morris	The Nine Ladies
Hexham Morris Men	The Outside Capering Crew
Hexhamshire Lassies	Tower Ravens Rapper
Highside Longsword	Treacle Eater Clog
Invicta Morris	Tylers Men
Invictus Mugistis Equinus (I.M.E.)	Weald of Kent Morris
Kinfauns Step Dancers	Westminster Morris Dancers

Individual Members:

Jane Cunio
Steve Cunio

Honorary Members:

none

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting on 21st September 2024 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 **Fee Lock** (HLM) seconding. These were approved For 79; Against 0; Abstain 9 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.

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.

- Accept the Treasurer's Report

Accepting the report was proposed by **Michael Stimpson** (Phoenix Morris) and seconded by **Graham Lee** (Mabel Gubbins) and carried - Votes For 87; Against 0; Abstain 5.

d) Membership Communications Officer

No comments.

e) Archive Officer

No Comments.

f) Notation Officer

No comments.

g) Events Officer

No comments.

h) Marketing 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) Keeper of the Bells

f) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

g) Special Projects Officers

h) 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) 50th Anniversary (2000-2025) Book and CD

d) Morris Dance Database (MDDDB)

e) Voices of Morris Project

5 MOTIONS - None

No motions were received.

6 DISCUSSION – First Aid Workshops

Provision of First Aid

The discussion was presented by Owain Boorman looking at the possibility and feasibility of The Morris Federation or the JMO hosting basic First Aid courses possibly as part of an AGM or similar event. It noted the existing advice and the increasing age of team members.

Sally Wearing (H&S) recommended 'General First Aid' rather than 'First Aid for Dance' (e.g.) and noted the need to refresh every 3 years that may present some logistical problems. Minimum would be 4-hour Red Cross Course, others like 'Emergency First Aid at work' (1 day) being very easily available. Costs vary – the 4-hour course at £72 and a day ranging between £150-£230.

Jen Cox (OM Chair) recognised the logistical problems around providing training as part of an event and suggested that Open Morris would look to collaborate on this.

Sally Wearing (H&S) reminded the group that any course in First Aid would be for 12 maximum and that local hubs of training would be more feasible

Chris Gill (Mockbeggar) suggested more than one First Aider per team would be needed.

Diane Moody (New Esperance) inquired about suitability of online provision but Sally Wearing (H&S) felt that would not be as useful as the practicalities of in person practice for some procedures would be necessary.

Lewis Elliot (MR Rep) – asked how many in room were First Aid trained and assessed the response as about 1 in 6.

Several others in the room gave instances where the need for emergency First Aid was needed (Mersey Morris, Seven Champions).

Peter Celi-Stamp (Three Man Morris) suggested the advice extends to include an advise that teams be aware of the locality of AED devices and checking the phone signal (and location of landline if no signal available) would be wise.

Jerry West (Notation Officer) reminded the meeting not to let cost be a barrier to running a training and that The Morris Federation has a grant scheme to apply to.

Jon Brenner (Five Rivers) suggested the actions to take forward are:

- assess demand
- assess regional spread of any demand

Fee Lock (HLM) confirmed with the meeting that the actions noted below were what they would like to see – general agreement in the room was noted.

Actions arising:

1. Sally Wearing (H&S) to extend the current guidance to include advice on types and suitability of training.
2. Survey based on Jon Brenner's comments re. regional and level of Demand.

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 President

Fee Lock (HLM) took the chair for this item.

Pauline Woods-Wilson, President since 2019, will finish her term of office in December 2025 and is willing to stand again. No other nominations were received.

Votes For 876; Against 0; Abstain 79.

Pauline Woods Wilson is therefore re-elected as President; this is a 3-year term to begin on 1st January 2026.

7.2 Treasurer

Jenny Everett was appointed as Treasurer during the year when Abbi Proctor had to resign the post for personal reasons. This was a 1-year appointment.

Two nominations for the post of Treasurer were received:

Peter Celi-Stamp (Three Man Morris) and Angela Burgess (Hobo's Morris).

Votes For Peter Celi-Stamp 426; For Angela Burgess 203; Not either 4; Abstentions 295.

Peter Celi-Stamp is therefore elected as Treasurer; this is a 1-year term to begin on 1st January 2026.

7.3 Membership Communications Officer

Eliza Russell (Worthing Larks), Membership Communications Officer since 2023, will finish her term of office in December and is willing to stand again in the role. No other nominations were received.

Votes For 860; Against 0; Abstain 62.

Eliza Russell is therefore re-elected as Membership Communications Officer; this is a 3-year term to begin on 1st January 2026.

7.4 Events Officer

Rob Tidy (Roots Morris and Adlington Morris).

Votes For 832; Against 0; Abstain 71.

Rob Tidy is therefore elected as Events Officer; this is a 3-year term to begin on 1st January 2026.

7.5 Marketing Officer

Helena Painting (Pilgrim Morris).

Votes For 831; Against 0; Abstain 73.

Helena Painting is therefore elected as Marketing Officer; this is a 2-year term to begin on 1st January 2026.

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.

Nominations were given in the AGM pack.

Honorary Life Membership was voted on, and awarded to, the following:

8.1 Honorary Life Membership – Melanie Barber

Melanie Barber. Jenny Everett said the nomination by the committee was to recognize Melanie for her presidentship 2015-2019, during which she introduced new IT systems and set the Federation on the path to be the proactive organization it is today.

Votes For 852; Against 0; Abstain 82.

Melanie was unable to attend but has indicated that she will accept this Honorary Life Membership. A certificate and badge will be presented in due course.

[Post-meeting note: Melanie replied – I am both honoured and humbled to have been awarded Honorary Life Membership of The Morris Federation. My sincere thanks to the Committee for nominating me, and to seconders, Rivington Morris, Silkstone Greens, Whip the Cat, and especially Shropshire Bedlams & Martha Rhodens Tuppenny Dish who nominated and seconded me for the post of President in the first place.]

8.2 Honorary Life Membership – Michael Heaney

Mike Heaney. Jerry West said the award recognizes the work that Mike has done over several decades on researching the History of Morris, and culminating in his latest book, 'The Ancient English Morris Dance'. It is an absolutely fascinating book which complements very nicely the work done by John Forest.

Votes For 837; Against 0; Abstain 76.

Mike was unable to attend but has indicated that he will accept this Honorary Life Membership. A certificate and badge will be presented in due course.

[Post-meeting note: Mike replied - Thank you very much for this honour, I am sorry my plans to be with you on the day have been disrupted. I'm very much aware how few honorary memberships have been awarded over the past fifty years, so this is really special for me. I hope I can continue to do my bit to advance the cause of the morris for a few more years yet. The certificate will go up on my wall and I'm sure it will inspire me for the future!]

8.3 Friendship of The Morris Federation – Eddie Worrall

Friendship of The Morris Federation is awarded to people outside of the Federation who have supported the aims of the Federation in a particular way.

Eddie Worrall. Fee Lock said that having a legal advisor who not only understands the law but can interpret it for this particular hobby is invaluable. His ability to interpret something so easily and give advice that would stand up and is sensible are skills that had been called upon during her time as Secretary.

Voted For 835; Against 0; Abstain 89.

Eddie was unable to attend but has indicated that he will accept this Friendship award. A certificate and badge will be presented in due course.

[Post-meeting note: Eddie replied - My sincere thanks to Pauline Woods-Wilson and all on the Fed committee for nominating me, and also to the 5 supporting Fed members who seconded: Westminster Morris Dancers, The Belles of London City, Chinewrde Morris, Wakefield Morris, and Melanie Barber as 'Three's a Crowd'. I'm rather gobsmacked and humbled by it all. I've always felt that there is much common ground between us all in the Morris world. Much more than that which may seem to divide us. In the roles I've been fortunate to serve in over the years in the Morris Ring and JMO, I've always held that thought as a guide. Whilst this may be an honour for one person, its one I dedicate to all in Morris who see that essential truth and reach out to build bridges, rather than raise walls.]

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

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

- In 2026, our Day of Dance and AGM will be held on Saturday 26th September 2026 in Stoke-on-Trent, hosted by Domesday Morris.
- In 2027, our Day of Dance and AGM will be held on Saturday 25th September 2027 in Stockport, hosted by Roots Morris and Adlington Morris.

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 received.

11 PRESENTATIONS AND VOTES OF THANKS

11.1 EFDSS Gold Badge - Pauline Woods-Wilson

Fee Lock took the Chair for this item.

The Citation was read by Eliza Russell which was accompanied by a Slideshow of pictures of Pauline's morris and rapper dancing history. This will be added as an Appendix to these Minutes after a summary has been published in EFDSS' EDS Magazine, as per their requirements, and will also be found at this link in due course: <https://www.efdss.org/about-us/our-history/gold-badge-awards>.

The badge was due to be presented by Mike Heaney on behalf of the EFDSS but, sadly, on the day he was indisposed and unable to be with us, nor was there time to courier the badge to the event. A personal gift from Eliza Russell was substituted as an item to present at the last minute. This was a golden coloured plastic duck with the EFDSS sword lock on the front.

Frank Lee presented the duck to Pauline and was wearing his Gold Badge so the audience could see what would be presented in due course.

Pauline received a standing ovation.

Pauline gave a heartfelt response.

11.2 Thank you to the host teams and any other presentations

The first updated badge presented was to **Jenny Everett**, our Treasurer for 18 years, from 2007-2023 and appointed in 2025. Which, in addition to her 4 years as Events Officer (1986-1989), makes a whopping 22 years.

The second updated badge presented was to **Mike Everett**, our Archive Officer for 20 years, from 2004-2023 and a further year as appointed in 2024.

We also presented badges to **Sheffield City Morris, Pecsætan Morris and Five Rivers Morris** for hosting the event.

Some further thank yous to **Sam Ross** and **Dan Watford** for setting up and running the online part of this 'hybrid' meeting, and to all who helped with the voting.

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 AGM Pack will be found in a separate document.

The meeting was declared closed at 17:58 hours.

APPENDIX 1 – EFDSS Gold Badge Citation for Pauline Woods-Wilson (to be added in a future revision of these minutes)

The Citation for the award of the EFDSS Gold Badge to Pauline Woods-Wilson, written by Eliza Russell, and the response by Pauline Woods-Wilson, will be added as an Appendix to a revised version of this document.