

## Minutes of Open Morris Annual General Meeting 2017

Sunday 26th November 2017  
Coton Village Hall  
Cambridge, CB23 7PL

### 1. Registration

#### Present:

Open Morris Officials:  
Nicki Pickering (Chair)  
Norm Warren  
Liz Scholey  
Malcolm Hills  
Jenny Cox  
Sheila Hill  
Robin James  
Will Nesbitt  
John Scholey

#### Sides represented:

Bedcote Morris (Sharon Dodd, Graham Dodd)  
Beorma Morris (Tony Roberts, Adrian Pitt, Linsey Duncan-Pitt)  
Black Pig Border Morris (Nicki Crane)  
Cadi Ha Morris (Miriam Wildermuth)  
Earl of Stamford Morris (Nicki Pickering)  
Fenstanton Morris (Penny Lury, Robin James)  
Flagcrackers of Craven (Julie Greenwood)  
Harlequin Morris (Will Nesbitt)  
Heartsease & St Neots Sweeps and Milkmaids (Patti Pitt)  
Holt Ridge Morris (Norm Warren)  
Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts (John Edwards)  
Kenninghall Morris (Pete Osborne)  
Lady Bay Revellers (Gill Willson)  
Madcap Morris (John Scholey)  
Rattlejag Morris (Jayne Rose)  
Theale Tattoo (Jenny Cox)  
Tollerton Ploughboys (Barry Roland)  
Wharfedale Wayzgoose (Malcolm Hills)  
Wicket Brood Border Morris (Sheila Hill, Gill Grocott)

#### Life, Honorary and Individual Members:

Chris Hall (Life Member)  
Doug Pickering (Individual Member)

#### Absentee Voters:

Allington Morris  
Blackpowder Morris  
Earl of Stamford Morris  
Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts  
Mucky Mountains Morris  
Roses are Red  
Young Miscellany  
John Clifford (Life Member)  
Kim Woodward (Life Member)

### JMO Representatives:

Melanie Barber (President, The Morris Federation)  
Sam Ross (Magazine Editor, The Morris Federation)  
Eddie Worrall (Squire, The Morris Ring)

## **2. Opening of AGM**

Meeting opened at 13.19, housekeeping notices were given by the Chair.

## **3. Introduction by the Chairperson**

Nicki Pickering opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, with a special welcome and thanks to our JMO guests Ed Worrall and Melanie Barber who had agreed to act as Tellers. Nicki thanked Fenstanton for organising the food and the hall, Gog Magog for the morning workshop, John & Liz Scholey for providing the PA, Sheila Hill for providing the overhead projector, and all those who had contributed to the day. The meeting was declared quorate with 19 sides represented.

## **4. Apologies for absence**

Allington Morris  
Blackpowder Morris  
Borderline Morris  
Bunnies From Hell  
Crosskey Clog  
Eryri Morris  
Lepton Morris  
Mr Baker's Dozen  
Pig Dyke Molly  
Plymouth Maids  
Roses are Red  
Shinfield Shambles  
St Katherine's Morris  
West Somerset Border Morris  
Whitethorn Morris  
Wolfgate Border Morris  
Wytchwood Morris (now disbanded)  
Yorkshire Coast Morris  
Young Miscellany  
Lindsay McComb (OM Treasurer)  
Craig Simmonds (OM Area Representative)  
John Bacon (Honorary Member)  
Ann Baines (Individual Member)  
Mike Barclay (Individual Member)  
Tony Chadwick (Individual Member)  
Sue Deacon (Individual Member)  
Kim Woodward (Life Member)

## **5. Minutes of the 2016 AGM**

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were taken as read.

## 6. Adoption of Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

## 7. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising were left outstanding, except that the creation of a 'Starter Pack' for new sides is not yet complete. Nicki Pickering has been working on this project but would welcome any help anyone may wish to offer, and she asked members to contact her at [chair@open-morris.org](mailto:chair@open-morris.org) if they are able to assist.

This project is separate to the JMO initiative to build a 'Foreman's Handbook.'

## 8. Reports from Officers

(as issued with the Agenda, and available on the OM website):

### a. Chair of OM

Report taken as read. No questions arose.

### b. Secretary

Report taken as read. No questions arose.

### c. Membership Secretary

Report taken as read.

Membership has increased, with no leavers apart from sides who have sadly folded, one of which has since resurrected. There are 4 new member sides in the pipeline to register in January. Numbers are holding steady and creeping back up. Total membership stands at 121 sides, and 6 junior sides. Membership had previously dropped to 112 sides.

Chris Hall asked if the sides that have joined are sides who had left and come back - Liz Scholey replied that these sides are new.

### d. Web Officer

Report taken as read.

Chris Hall thanked Malcolm Hills for his work and praised the new website, pleased to keep the orange colour and our original cartoons, but commented that we've lost the links section which was useful. Malcolm said this had slipped through the net during the redesign, and he'd be happy to put up a links page.

Malcolm stated that he does not feel he is creative, and is always open to ideas and constructive criticism, so if there's anything you don't like about the OM web or email facilities, please let Malcolm know at [admin@open-morris.org](mailto:admin@open-morris.org)

Chris Hall said that the old template for a Side Constitution was useful for new sides for purposes such as opening bank accounts.

Nicki Pickering asked the Ring and Federation representatives if they have any such feature, which they did not. Nicki said this could be devised in the future if it was wanted.

Jenny Cox said that it's not generally necessary to have a Constitution to open a bank account nowadays.

### **ACTION POINT**

**Officers to source and publish a Side Constitution Template**

### e. Treasurer

Report taken as read.

Norm Warren and Liz Scholey had collected an up-to-date bank statement from Barclays, (available at the AGM) and all is in order.

Chris Hall asked if we had any plans to use the large amount of money we have in the bank.

Nicki Pickering stated that Lindsay McComb had recommended a period of financial stability and limited expenditure following a loss the previous year, but that we now have the Sue Dyke Award and the prospect of bursaries, though there have been no applications.

Malcolm Hills asked why we were refunding subscriptions.

Nicki Pickering explained that some sides had paid twice in error, so those payments had been refunded.

Chris Hall questioned the fact that income from subs is lower this year, but numbers have gone up.

In the absence of the Treasurer, this point was discussed without conclusion.

Nicki Pickering said that we had lost some Individual Members, and new Junior Sides and an Overseas Side paid lower subs.

Liz Scholey highlighted the fundamental problem ... the date on which the accounts were finalised is not the same as the date on which the membership numbers were totalled. She was not sure it could be sorted out retrospectively, because we have no snapshot of the membership at particular dates. All we can do is provide the total of money in from subs.

Liz Scholey stated that in future, if we knew we had to do it, we could relate the membership numbers at the end of the financial year to the income from membership at the end of the financial year.

Liz Scholey added that membership is a fluid thing that changes across the year.

Nicki Pickering added that a cheque from a member joining one month might not be recorded as paid in until the following month. Liz Scholey pointed out that the Treasurer's Report says income from membership was £191.60 less than last year, but nobody pays an odd 60p for membership.

Sharon Dodd said that there may be a discrepancy between cash based accounting and e-accounting – this common practice is known as “income and expenditure accounting”.

Chris Hall questioned the adoption of accounts with the discrepancy mentioned, a lot of people voiced agreement.

Patti Pitt questioned why the financial year and membership year do not run in parallel.

#### **ACTION POINT**

**Officers to consider coordinating the financial year with the membership year and bring a response to 2018 AGM.**

Norm Warren stated that constitutionally there are only two options:

- a. Adopt the Treasurer's Report as issued to members
- b. Refer the report back to the Officers.

Nicki Pickering recommended adopting the Report as issued, in the light of the Auditor's report (which found the accounts to be true and fair), and Officers will report back on the point raised by Chris Hall.

This was unanimously agreed.

Treasurer's Report was then adopted unanimously by the meeting, and signed by Nicki Pickering and Malcolm Hills. (see Appendix 1).

#### **ACTION POINT**

**Officers to check the point raised by Chris Hall that income from subs is lower this year, but numbers have gone up.**

Chris Hall asked that we make sure we thank Lindsay McComb for her work as Treasurer. Nicki Pickering agreed that Lindsay took over at a very difficult time, but she gave some very good work and sorted out a lot of problems.

Nicki proposed a vote of thanks to Lindsay which received a hearty round of applause.

## 9. Reports from other Officials:

a. Editor of *Dancing On!*

b. Archivist

c. Area Representatives:

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Nicki Pickering: | Wales and NW Area  |
| Jenny Cox :      | Central Area       |
| Will Nesbitt :   | East Midlands Area |

All Reports were taken as read. No questions arose.

## 10. Election of Officers:

a. **Chair of OM** – Nicki Pickering, proposed by Bollin Morris and seconded by Wolfgate Border Morris, was duly elected -

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| For         | 26 |
| Against     | 2  |
| Abstentions | 0  |

b. **Treasurer** – Liz Scholey, proposed by Fenstanton Morris and seconded by Peter Luckin (Individual Member), was duly elected -

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| For         | 27 |
| Against     | 1  |
| Abstentions | 1  |

c. **Secretary** – Norm Warren, proposed by Madcap Morris and seconded by Holt Ridge Morris, was duly elected -

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| For         | 28 |
| Against     | 0  |
| Abstentions | 0  |

d. **Membership Secretary** – John Scholey, proposed by Roses are Red and seconded by Madcap Morris, was duly elected -

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| For         | 27 |
| Against     | 0  |
| Abstentions | 2  |

e. **Web Officer** – Malcolm Hills, proposed by Cadi Ha and seconded by Harlequin Morris, was duly elected -

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| For         | 28 |
| Against     | 0  |
| Abstentions | 0  |

Jenny Cox proposed a vote of thanks to Ed Worrall and Mel Barber for acting as independent Tellers, which received a hearty round of applause.

## 11. Appointment of Officials

Jenny Cox is happy to continue as Editor of *Dancing On!*

Sheila Hill is happy to continue as Archivist.

Nicki Pickering proposed that they continue these appointments, with unanimous Committee approval.

Area Representatives: Nicki Pickering (Wales & NW), John Scholey (South East), Jenny Cox (Central), Robin James (East Anglia) and Craig Simmonds (West Midlands) are happy to continue as Area Reps.

Malcolm Hills (North East) and Lindsay McComb (South Central) will continue holding the fort under forbearance, but would both be glad to be replaced.

Will Nesbitt (East Midlands) stood down and was thanked for his work in the role.

This leaves East Midlands, West/South West, North East and South Central areas available. Nicki Pickering asked members to contact her at [chair@open-morris.org](mailto:chair@open-morris.org) if they are able to volunteer to represent any of these areas.

Nicki stated that the Area Representative role can be as much or as little as you want, but should be a conduit for information from member sides to OM and vice versa, and could include visiting sides at practice and dancing out.

Linsey Duncan-Pitt asked for clarification of the actual areas, Jenny Cox suggested an area map could be included in a future *Dancing On!*

### **Action Point**

Officials to create a map showing the Area Representative regions, to appear in an edition of *Dancing On!* and to be made available on the website.

## **12. Appointment of Auditor**

Malcolm Hector does not wish to continue as Auditor with the change of OM Treasurer, as he lives on the Isle of Wight near the outgoing Treasurer, making the arrangement impractical going forward.

Nicki Pickering has approached Stephen Archer, who is current treasurer of The Morris Ring (shortly to step down). Although he isn't an auditor by trade he has both run his own business and served as Morris Ring and JMO Treasurer for some years. Stephen lives close to Liz Scholey, so future dealings would be mutually convenient. The appointment of Stephen Archer as Auditor was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

## **13. Nominations for Honorary / Life Membership**

None received.

## **14. Constitution Motions and Amendments as published with the Agenda**

Motions and Amendments were taken as read.

Constitution Motion 1 - Batch voting on Motions at the 2017 AGM

Constitution Motion 1 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Constitution Motion 2 – Absentee Voting.

This has been trialled. Norm Warren raised a point of order, 14.g (“If no nomination is received ...”) had accidentally disappeared from digital copies, but was correct on the hard copies in circulation at the meeting.

Constitution Motion 2 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Batch of Constitution Motions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Constitution Motion 3 - “Last-minute” nominations.

Constitution Motion 4 – To correct the contents of AGM Notices to members.

Constitution Motion 5 – To include reference to the OM Equality Policy in the Constitution.

Constitution Motion 6 – Motions and Amendments at an AGM or EGM.

A Committee Amendment to Motion 6, as published with the Agenda, highlights exceptions to Rule 11 in Rules 23 and 24, and was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Constitution Motion 7 – Constitution Motions or Amendments at an AGM or EGM.

The batch of Constitution Motions 3, 4, 5, 6 (as amended) and 7 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Batch of Constitution Motions 8, 9, 10

Constitution Motion 8 – To allow electronic transfers from an online bank account. Some explanation was given that the Motion maintains the requirement for two signatories, and adds that only the Treasurer or Chair will be able to initiate a payment.

Chris Hall questioned the availability of double signatory functionality for electronic transfers. The Chair explained that this is a relatively new feature of some banks and is now available to OM through our Barclays account.

Constitution Motion 9 – To allow online viewing of the OM bank account

Constitution Motion 10 – To reduce the maximum number of OM bank account Signatories. Some explanation was given that the OM Constitution currently requires a minimum of 4 signatories to be available, but we have only 5 Officers, so it was felt at review to be a more robust strategy to constitutionally require only 3 signatories, and reduce the likelihood of becoming unconstitutional in the event of illness, or at officer changeover. The current Officers intend to keep 4 signatories on the account. A Committee Amendment to Motion 10, as published with the Agenda, replaces the terms 'audit' and 'auditor' with 'independent review' and 'independent reviewer' throughout OM documents, and was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

The batch of Constitution Motions 8, 9 and 10 (as amended) was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

## **15. Other Motions and Amendments as published with the Agenda**

### Batch of Motions to amend the Treasurer's Guide and Chair's Guide

Motion TG1 – Notifying members of a change to the mileage rate.

Motion TG2 – Dealing with the Treasurer's Report at AGM.

Motion CG1 – to clarify the role of the Chair of OM at Meetings.

Motion CG3 – Chairperson's discretion to determine the timing of items on the Agenda

Motion CG2 – Discretion for the Chair to deal with Motions. Some clarification was given that a Late Motion may be submitted up to 48 hours before the AGM, but Late Amendments may be submitted during the AGM. Any Late item is heard at the Chair's discretion.

The batch of Motions TG1, TG2, CG1, CG3, CG2 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

### Batch of Motions to amend the Complaints Policy and Procedure

CPP Motion 1 – Delete the redundant word "surface", and the inappropriate phrase "scratched on a brickbat" from 1.b.

CPP Motion 2 – Amend the final bullet-point to ensure the complainant has the appropriate contact details.

CPP Motion 8 – Delete the final bullet-point in 2.a ii.

CPP Motion 3 – Amend to allow for the possibility of unsuccessful mediation.

CPP Motion 4 – Amend to ensure that a mediation agreement will remain confidential.

CPP Motion 5 – Amend to remove repeated "if" phrases at the beginning of the sentence.

CPP Motion 6 – Amend to make clear that the Appeal Panel's decision is final.

Linsey Duncan-Pitt suggested that it should be possible to give the complainant an avenue to complain about the CONDUCT of the panel, as an addendum to the closure of an appeal. Malcolm Hills suggested adding 'unless further appeal is needed', however Liz Scholey suggested that a problem with Personnel Panel conduct would be characterised as a separate complaint. Following this discussion, Motion CPP 6 was left unchanged.

CPP Motion 7 – Amend to comply with the OM Equality Policy by replacing the word “member” with the word “person”.

The batch of CPP Motions 1, 2, 8, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Volunteers for the Personnel Panel were requested, 3 volunteers from the Meeting will contact Norm Warren regarding this.

#### Batch of Motions to amend the Complaints Policy and Procedure

CPP Motion 11 – Complaints Policy 1.d) and Complaints Procedure 2.c)

CPP Motion 12 – PERSONNEL PROCEDURE 3.c) and Complaints Policy 1

CPP Motion 13 – PERSONNEL PROCEDURE. Regarding dealing with a complaint about the Committee independently. The intention is that in the event of a complaint against the Committee, the Personnel Panel would implement the Complaints Procedures.

CPP Motion 10 – Complaints Policy

Linsey Duncan-Pitt questioned that the wording doesn't include reference to the Committee.

Chris Hall clarified that 'All of OM' is a constitutional category which includes the committee.

Discussion around this point regarding how an official would be regarded in the event of a complaint being made against anyone who may also be performing as part of a member side, and how a member of a member side would be viewed if they were not performing but volunteering as a steward at an OM event.

Tony Roberts asked what would happen if a complaint was made to OM about a whole side.

Nicki Pickering stated that this would be dealt with by OM.

Liz Scholey clarified that the intent of this amendment is to emphasize that OM as an organisation does not interfere in the running of member sides.

Linsey Duncan-Pitt suggested that the procedure should include people acting in an official capacity for OM.

Norm Warren drew up a Late Amendment to CPP Motion 10 to add 'or any person acting in an official capacity for OM'. Tony Roberts of Beorma Morris proposed it, and Malcolm Hills seconded for Wharfedale Wayzgoose, and it was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

CPP Motion 9 – Amend Complaints Policy 1.g) to read:

1.g) If a need for change is indicated, the Committee will propose appropriate updates to the Complaints Policy and Procedures for adoption at AGM or EGM.

The batch of CPP Motions 11, 12, 13, 10 (as amended) and 9 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

#### **16. Late Motions (at Chairperson's discretion, subject to time limitations)**

None submitted.

#### **17. JMO National DOD 2018**

Nicki Pickering read a report from Pete Stafford-Honeyball of Crosskey Clog who are JMO NDOD 2018 Hosts on behalf of OM (see [Appendix 2](#)).

Nicki stated that in addition to the allocation of 50 side places we are hoping to include some additional opportunities for sword dancing on the day.

Official invitations will go out to OM, and to the Morris Federation and Morris Ring shortly after this AGM, and we hope to draw allocations for places before Christmas.



Melanie Barber said that the Morris Federation would put out a closing date in January, and let sides know by the end of January.

Eddie Worrall said that the Morris Ring will let teams know as soon as invitations are live, and would hope to know by Christmas which sides will attend.

Tony Roberts said that last year's JMO NDOD in Leicester, organised by the Morris Ring and Charlie Corcoran, was superb, with many thanks offered to the organisers. Tony would urge anyone to apply. Beorma Morris had a really good day out and found it a great side bonding experience.

### **18. Other JMO business**

Nicki Pickering reported on the JMO AGM.

Currently, the main JMO initiative is to create a Foreman's Handbook which would be available to all JMO sides.

Eddie Worrall said that the Morris Ring have put general questions to all sides, and the MR AGM would address this in March.

Melanie Barber said that JMO had discussed identifying people who could help new teams, financially or with other aspects of starting up.

Nicki stated that the feeling from JMO is that everyone is gearing up to support and help new sides.

### **19. Sue Dyke Award**

Nicki Pickering presented a piece about The Sue Dyke Award (see [Appendix 3](#)).

Sue was a past OM officer and dancer with Lady Bay Revellers who passed away suddenly earlier in the year. Ken Dyke, her widower, has donated £645.15 to Open Morris to fund a bursary or award in Sue's Name, and Lady Bay Revellers have donated a commemorative tankard in her memory.

To open the discussion, the Committee suggested that the tankard and award might be presented annually at AGM.

As Sue was concerned about the future of Morris, the Committee suggested an annual competition for OM members under 30, or those who work with those under 30. Winners are to make a display which could be used throughout the year, and compile a piece for inclusion in Dancing On!

Nicki Pickering suggested that the award consist of a cash prize of £100, with £40 and £20 for runners up, which the donation could fund for 4 years. OM could then take this up if funds allow. This was discussed and it was felt that the lesser prizes were too small. A first prize of £100 and one runner-up prize of £50 was settled upon.

A disclaimer will be built into the rules so that prizes are only awarded if entries are of suitably high calibre.

Nicki asked for discussion around confining eligibility to youth, or including those who work with them?

Barry Roland suggested keeping the remit as broad as possible so as not to struggle for entries, simply to promote dance in general, song, and youth involvement in Morris.

Sharon Dodd felt that including someone who acts as a mentor facilitates youth involvement in Morris, and Sheila Hill suggested that it may be difficult to judge young people of different ages alongside each other.

Engraving the tankard was discussed and generally felt to be a good idea, as was a certificate for recipients to keep.

It was suggested that a sub-committee should be set up to finalise the details.

Nicki proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Bay Revellers and Ken Dyke. A proposal will be drafted in time for the first Award to be made at the 2018 AGM.

### **ACTION POINT**

Officers to set up a sub-committee and draft a viable proposal in time for the first Award to be made at the 2018 AGM. Members to contact [chair@open-morris.org](mailto:chair@open-morris.org) should they wish to join the sub-committee.

## **20. Items raised before start of the meeting:**

### Communications (Malcolm Hills)

Malcolm opened a discussion of OM email use policy. (see the discussion document issued with the Agenda, and available on the OM website):

He is concerned about the volume of emails sent by OM. Privacy and Data Protection policies are being looked at, but it's a minefield which is taking longer than anticipated. OM can only use the info we hold in certain ways – we can use your email address to tell you about OM and OM events only. We could either change the constitution to say that OM can email you further info, or try to limit our use of emails. Suggest an opt-in for those who wish to hear about events from other organisations. Malcolm asked for the Meeting's opinion, with a view to formulating policy for the 2018 AGM.

Melanie Barber stated that the Federation policy is to keep the email broadcast system only for Morris Federation Business, and use social media to send out anything more general.

Eddie Worrall stated that the Morris Ring had looked at this issue when he was treasurer. The Ring have a few different communication methods, an email list, a googlegroup online forum which anyone can opt into though they have to be approved, also a Newsletter which advertises events, usually within the Ring. The Morris Ring membership renewal states that they use info for Ring business, and they ask for reaffirmation every renewal.

General feeling from the Meeting was that items such as advertisements for events and opportunities are very welcome to sides.

Tony Roberts said that he uses discretion as a Bagman to filter emails a little, but is happy to receive things and do this for his side.

Liz Scholey reminded the meeting that new data protection legislation is on the way.

Jenny Cox said that marketing and event emails are very welcome but feels that multiple OM emails can get a bit too much for side members.

Malcolm said that this has hopefully been a one-off situation resulting from the Motions to amend the constitution.

It was decided that no change to the Constitution or to current practice was needed, but that we will in future include an 'opt in' to email communications on our membership renewal form.

### **ACTION POINT**

Officers to update the membership renewal form in time for it to go out with the next renewals.

## **21. AOB**

Tony Roberts of Beorma Morris reported an incident (see [Appendix 4a](#)) when Beorma had cause to use the blackface handout, and Julie Greenwood, Squire of Flagcrackers of Craven, reported a similar incident (see [Appendix 4b](#)).

Nicki Pickering said that it's great to hear that when people have complained these things can be settled amicably.

b) Robin James of Fenstanton said, regarding talk of supporting younger Morris groups, that NYFTE have been showing themselves to good light this year and have been looking for support, and asked if OM would consider making a donation.

It was discovered that NYFTE are Morris Federation members, and Melanie Barber confirmed that there is a bursary scheme to which they could apply, however NYFTE are believed to be looking for personnel support rather than financial assistance.

## **22. Date and venue of next AGM**

Bedcote Morris have offered to host next year's AGM in Stourbridge on Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018.

## **23. Close of AGM**

Malcolm Hills proposed a vote of thanks to Norm Warren for his hard work on the Constitution and amendments, applauded by all present.

Meeting closed at 16.20 with thanks to hosts Fenstanton, and to all those who helped during the day.

## APPENDIX 1 – Treasurer’s Report

### Treasurers Report 2017

Firstly, I would like to apologise for my absence, this is caused as usual, entirely by my daughter who is in a school production and I stupidly offered to help with costumes and stage sets, all of which are being finally sorted today!

The financial problems which occurred due to the previous Treasurer have been rectified and the matter is closed and should be put behind us.

The review by an independent person of the books and bank statements has led to a transparency and reassurance for the members that the money paid in as subs in good faith is now safe in the hands of the Treasurer.

The bank account is in a good financial state, partly due to the paying back of sums taken out dishonestly, and partly due to a large donation made earlier in the year.

Subscription payments are slightly lower this year, £191.60 less than 2015-2016.

Officer's expenses are lower, and are more accountable due to a more rigorous system of record keeping, all expenses are paid on receipt of invoices and an Expense Form being submitted. Mileage costs are reduced due to a reduction in the agreed rate from 45 pence per mile (although this could never be verified exactly due to lack of records kept previously) to 25 pence per mile.

Dancing On costs have been substantially reduced, although I would still recommend that this be issued via email rather than printed, which would really reduce the cost massively.

The website has had a complete overhaul this year and the costs for this will be a one off apart from any subscriptions which will be due (not being computer literate, I trust the Web Officers integrity on this matter!).

Looking at the income for the year, £10,242.67, minus the payment from Mr Watson of £5227.87, we are left with £5014.80. We could also take away the donation of £645.15 leaving a total income of £4369.65.

Expenditure is £4373.84, if we take off the Web costs, we are left with £4051.30 making an annual profit of £318.35.

The profit is not high, however with careful management of the accounts and rigorous scrutiny of expenses, Open Morris can maintain a healthy bank balance going forward.

Lindsay McComb

11/11/2017



## OPEN MORRIS

### YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31st 2017

#### TREASURERS REPORT

| <u>INCOME</u>                                | <u>2016-2017</u>          | <u>2015-2016</u>         |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| SUBSCRIPTIONS                                | 4,356.00                  | 4,557.60                 |
| PHIL WATSON (1)                              | 5,227.87                  |                          |
| DONATION                                     | 645.15                    | 0.00                     |
| INSURANCE CERTS                              | 0.00                      | 20.00                    |
| OTHER (7)                                    | 3.65                      |                          |
| <b><u>TOTAL</u></b>                          | <b><u>£ 10,232.67</u></b> | <b><u>£ 4,577.60</u></b> |
| <br>   |                           |                          |
| <u>EXPENDITURE</u>                           |                           |                          |
| OFFICERS EXPENSES (2)                        | 1,525.26                  | 2,327.02                 |
| DANCING ON (3)                               | 904.64                    | 1,195.86                 |
| INSURANCE                                    | 1,331.12                  | 1,714.30                 |
| AGM EXPENSES                                 | 100.00                    | 420.52                   |
| EGM EXPENSES                                 | 0.00                      | 40.00                    |
| AOM EXPENSES                                 | 30.45                     | 0.00                     |
| JMO EXPENSES                                 | 0.00                      | 0.00                     |
| PRS  | 35.19                     | 45.90                    |
| efdss FUNDING                                | 0.00                      | 0.00                     |
| SUBS REFUNDS (4)                             | 67.00                     | 140.00                   |
| MISCELLANEOUS (5)                            | 57.64                     | 43.25                    |
| WEBSITE (6)                                  | 322.54                    | 0.00                     |
| <b><u>TOTAL</u></b>                          | <b><u>£ 4,373.84</u></b>  | <b><u>£ 5,926.85</u></b> |
| <br>   |                           |                          |
| <b><u>Surplus / Deficit for the year</u></b> | <b>£ 5,858.83</b>         | <b>-£ 1,349.25</b>       |
| <br>   |                           |                          |
| <b><u>BALANCE B/Fwd</u></b>                  | <b>£ 6,866.44</b>         | <b>£ 8,215.69</b>        |
| <br>   |                           |                          |
| <b><u>BALANCE C/Fwd</u></b>                  | <b><u>£ 12,725.27</u></b> | <b><u>£ 6,866.44</u></b> |

Notes to accounts:

- 1 - Money paid back from Phil Watson
- 2 - Officers expenses reduced substantially due to reduction in mileage rate and proper costing of spending allocation.
- 3 - Magazine costs reduced.
- 4 - Subs refunds to 2 teams who paid twice.
- 5 - Miscellaneous payments include donation to Peter Halfpennys funeral and T shirt costs.
- 6 - Website costs - much of this will be one off costs incurred from purchasing new software etc
- 7 - Receipts from AOM drinks (officers)

Verified by Malcolm Hector 22/08/2017.

# Open Morris Accounts – Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017

## Accountants Report on the Accounts for the above year.

I have reviewed the Accounts and relevant documents for the above accounting period. In my opinion the accounts as presented are a true and fair representation of these transactions and I can find no matters that I need to bring to the attention of members.

*Malcolm Hector*

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Certified Accountants

11<sup>th</sup> November 2017



G 0047 XUB1389A 1719 1209567011

MS LYNSAY MCCOMB  
OPEN MORRIS  
TYR MYNYDD  
TAN Y BWLCH FARM  
LLANLLECHID  
BANGOR  
LL57 3HT



### OPEN MORRIS

Sort Code 20-17-19  
Account No 23963586 DUPLICATE  
SWIFTBIC BARCCGB22  
IBAN GB81 BARC 2017 1923 9635 86  
Issued on 1 September 2017

## Your Community Account

| Date   | Description                        | Money out £ | Money in £ | Balance £ |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 Aug  | Start Balance                      |             |            | 13,074.27 |
| 22 Aug | Deposit at Barclays 42Paddock Wood |             | 10.00      | 13,084.27 |
| 29 Aug | Cheque issued<br>Ref: 100336       | 349.00      |            | 12,735.27 |
| 31 Aug | Balance carried forward            |             |            | 12,735.27 |
|        | Total Payments/Receipts            | 349.00      | 10.00      |           |

**Anything wrong?** If you notice any incorrect or unusual transactions, see the next page for how to get in touch with us.

## At a glance

### 01 – 31 Aug 2017

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Start balance           | £13,074.27 |
| Money out               | £349.00    |
| ▶ Commission charges    | £0.00      |
| Money in                | £10.00     |
| ▶ Gross interest earned | £0.00      |
| End balance             | £12,735.27 |

Your deposit is eligible for protection by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Over the next few months you may notice a change to the numbering of your statements. For each of the accounts you hold, the page numbering will start from page 1. The issue date at the top right hand corner will help you sequence your statements. Please be aware you may receive this message more than once.

## **APPENDIX 2 – JMO NATIONAL DAY OF DANCE 2018**

Welcome to Peterborough and the celebration not only of JMO National Day of Dance 2018 - May 19th, but also Peterborough cathedral's 900th anniversary March 1118 > 2018 and... the 570th anniversary of the earliest known reference to Morris dancing in England, May 1448 (my thanks to Morris historian Matt Simons for that). The cathedral is that of St Peter, (St.Peter's Cathedral) and after whom the city is named. The symbol of the city is the crossed keys, said to be the keys to heaven held by St. Peter.

On the west front of the cathedral you can see the stone carving of St. Peter, top centre and the intriguing unfinished tower to the right. It's a majestic building and worth a look if you're so inclined. One dance site is just inside the Great Gate, so you can enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the Precincts (and tea room!!)

The DoD has been planned for 50 sides, not as many as other JMO's but a number of the identified dance sites were deemed "...unsuitable..." by Morris officialdom, hence potential numbers were reduced. From furthest point to furthest point is in the region of 10 minutes' walk so that 10 minutes has been built into the timetable.

The city centre is well served with watering holes, some big, some small micros, most offering excellent ale, though it should be pointed out that the city centre is technically a no alcohol area, you can take your chances with tankards, but don't complain if Mr. Plod tells you to pour it... just so you're aware!!

If my plan works, no side will dance with the same side more than once. Not every side will get prime spot, but each site has a reasonable footfall.

Similarly the centre is well served with eating houses, take away and sit downs, some pubs do food, but that varies as to what, as is usually the case... I'm for simple (assorted daughters agree with the simple bit!!), but all the relevant will be available, but more in my own "...it's over there..." style, I'm not even going to attempt to come close to Charlie's (Leicester MM) unrivalled and meticulous attention to detail...

There are a number of car parks, some more expensive than others, but I'm suggested one that's about 8 minutes' walk from the centre and is one of the cheapest at 4 quid for the day as opposed to multi-storeys small mortgage... but it's your choice..

Crosskey have been in existence for 30 plus years and stemmed out of the Northampton NW side Poly Olbion. With their blessing a few of the Peterborough dancers met in the pub and formulated Crosskey Clog, our great friend, the late Tessa Goldsmith being one of them. Originally all ladies, but later becoming mixed with the help of assorted partners, some of who are or were Cotswold men.

If it works, it's down to a number of contacts in high places who've helped with official stuff and linked JMO with the 900th, plus of course the support of the side, if it don't work, I'll probably find a lonely peak, a blunt one and sit on it... (Tony Hancock, circa 1950!!)

**Pete Stafford-Honeyball**  
**Crosskey Clog**

### APPENDIX 3 - The Sue Dyke Award

Following the untimely death of Sue Dyke in January, her husband Ken generously donated the funeral donations to Open Morris, Sue was a member of Lady Bay Revellers and former OM Officer and Lady Bay Revellers have also kindly donated an engraved tankard. At the Officials' Meeting in June we discussed how we might present the tankard and some cash annually in Sue Dyke's name.

We decided that the idea of bursaries was not viable using this particular finite pot of money but that prizes for an annual competition would be a good way forward. As Sue was concerned about recruitment and the future of Morris, we agreed that involving youngsters from the OM Morris world would be ideal, provisionally defining "young" as under 30.

It was decided to present the tankard annually at AGM, along with some cash prizes, for suitably excellent projects by or about young members of Open Morris. Ken Dyke has since agreed that outline proposal.

#### Ideas based on AOM discussions are:

1) An annual competition for OM members who are aged under 30 or who work in Morris dancing with young people aged under 30, as part of OM.

2) **either** for a different categories each year for a project based around what Morris means to them, for instance:

- Photography;
- Collage;
- Art;
- Textile;
- Essay;
- Dance book;
- Composing a new dance which is used;
- Writing a Morris tune which is used;
- Starting up and maintaining a new young Side;
- Organising a Day of Dance.

**or** as an alternative suggestion (which I fear would be too difficult to judge):

- to an individual who has revitalised the side by their enthusiasm, dancing ability or musicianship in the current year.

3) To be accompanied by an article for Dancing On written by the competitor with support from the magazine editor.

4) The winner to make a presentation at the AGM and/or a display board which could be used at AGM and throughout the year at other suitable venues.

5) We discussed awarding the tankard ( to be returned annually for the next presentation) at AGM, with £100 as first prize, then 2 smaller cash prizes - £30 & £15/ £50 & £20 were suggested. We have £645 in hand so, if we plan for 4 years, prizes of £100, £40 & £20 would take almost all the money. If OM



felt they had the resources they could then take up the expense from OM funds in the future.

- 6) The prizes would have to be dependent on entries being of suitably high calibre as judged by an external judge with some expertise in the relevant field. I have had some thoughts about suitable judges, if we could get them on board, but would welcome suggestions. Otherwise but less satisfactorily, the entries could be judged by the Officers with the entries made anonymously to avoid any bias. There would be a disclaimer so that the prizes would only be awarded if the entries were judged to be of a suitably high standard.
- 7) An additional thought is to either engrave the tankard annually, which is probably not a good idea, or an accompanying plaque, with the winner's name (& possibly category of competition). If OM were happy to pay for that, the prizes could remain as I suggest, otherwise they could reduce to allow for the additional cost of plaque & engraving

I would like to get a feel today as to whether we confine this competition to youngsters themselves and whether the cut-off age should be younger – say 25. We do have a sizeable cohort of youngsters in their mid to late twenties who might be interested in taking part, which is why 30 was suggested by some of them.

Also, how much do members feel the prizes should be and do we buy and engrave a plaque?

**Nicki Pickering**  
**OM Chair**

## **APPENDIX 4 – “AOB”**

### **a) Report received from Beorma Morris**

Complaint: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Beorma danced, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, at Lichfield Folk Festival on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, with a number of other sides. The organisers and local council subsequently received a complaint from one member of the public re our face paint, accusing us of racism. The local media asked for our response, which was published with extracts from the letter.

The feedback, both t the media and to ourselves, was overwhelmingly supportive of Beorma. Lichfield festival made a point of inviting us again for next year.

The day after the article appeared, we danced in Birmingham City Centre to great acclaim and have since had support from all sections of the community.

We found the handout from OM and the Morris Ring Invaluable, both to hand out and to reassure our members.

All in all, it gave us an opportunity to explain ourselves and served to make us stronger.

Thanks to OM & The Morris Ring.

To sides who do not have a publicity officer – a piece of advice; get one!

**Tony Roberts**  
**Beorma Morris**

### **b) Report received from Flagcrackers of Craven**

Complaint: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Flagcrackers of Craven (F/C) were invited by Great Yorkshire Morris (GYM) to join their annual tour of Leeds City.

There were about 6 other sides on the tour. F/C were the only side to black up. During the morning we enjoyed a good day's dancing there was lots of interest and the sides received positive comments from the audiences.

After lunch the Squire of F/C Julie Greenwood and Squire of GYM, Paul Cross were approached by Leeds City Liaison officers. They asked that F/C stopped dancing as they had received complaints about dancers with black face paint.

F/C agreed to stop dancing for the day.

Following the incident, Squire of GYM wrote to Chairman of Leeds City Council (copying in Open Morris, Morris Ring, and Morris Federation) explaining the origins, and tradition of black face paint.

He received a reply from Tom Bridges from Leeds City Council apologizing for the misunderstanding and thanking for the information on Black face paint. He offered to meet and discuss further.

Squire of GYM accepted the invitation and explained that reps from Open Morris, Morris Federation, and Morris Ring would be willing to attend to support the discussion.

At present we are waiting for a date for the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Morris Organisations for their support in this matter.

**Julie Greenwood**  
**Squire of Flagcrackers of Craven**