



Membership Secretary's Report to the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Note – Information in this report is to the end of the Open Morris Financial Year, i.e. 31st August 2019, to accord with the Treasurer's Report.

Statistics at Year End (31st August 2019) – Membership Categories

| Category | Current year, to 31/08/2019 | <i>Previous year, to 31/08/18</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adult sides | 130 | 123 |
| Non -UK sides | 1 | 1 |
| Associate Member sides | 0 | N/A |
| Junior sides | 5 | 5 |
| Total sides | 136 | 129 |
| Individual Members | 13 | 12 |
| Total | 149 | 141 |

How people paid this year

| Form of Payment | Current year, to 31/08/2019 | <i>Previous year, to 31/08/18</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Standing Order | 30 | 31 |
| Bank Transfer | 85 | 32 |
| Cheques | 34 | 77 |
| Cash | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 149 | 141 |

NB Please note the very welcome shift from cheques to bank Transfers, for which many thanks to those who changed their payment method.

We also received one subscription paid by recurring bank transfer – perhaps this means the days are numbered for standing orders. I'm waiting until next year to ensure it works!

The newly introduced membership category of "Associate Member" attracted no takers in this, its first year as a category.



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Arrivals (13 No.)

We have welcomed:

- Brooms, Bricks and Bowlers (joined 13-Sep-2018)
- Far Side Morris, (joined 6-Nov-18)
- Beltane Border Morris (joined 14-Nov-18)
- Individual Member Sophie Watson (joined 23-Nov-18)
- Anderida Morris (joined 12-Dec-18)
- Norwich Pageantry Group (joined 20-Jan-19)
- Corby Conspiracy (joined 20-Jan-19)
- Scotch Mule Morris (joined 20-Jan-19)
- Individual Member Robin James (joined 22-Jan-19)
- The Magnificent Severn Morris (joined 8-Apr-19)
- Ad Hoc Morris (joined 9-Apr-19)
- So Xsighted Morris (joined 17-May-19)
- Shredded Feet (joined 5-Jul-19)

Departures who did not renew (4 No.)

Those who have, sadly, departed are:

- Eryri Morris (Taking time out. NB: theirs is the one less SO this year)
- Upton Occasional Morris (Now incorporated into Ledbury Morris)
- Individual Member Steve Tunnicliff ("lapsing as feet in Fed and Ring camps plus still in OM via Bunnies")
- Buxey Morris (chose not to renew, assumed to have disbanded)

Uncertainties (1 No.)

Ten Lords Morris. They only come back to life in the autumn and so could still yet renew.

One very sad loss

Individual Member Doug Pickering (who died on 21st June 2019)



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Renewal Process (largely form free)

This went very well – members were sent an email tailored to how they paid last time; previous cheque payers were encouraged to try direct transfers and many did. I did receive a small number of vintage Membership Renewal Forms with '2019' over-written on historical examples.

We still maintain application forms for new members, which we send to each applicant because of the 'once only' sign off requirements.

It seems that everyone is happy with updating their OM database info via the weblink, insofar as many of our members have updated their details this way, plus no one contacted me to say they were unable to enter their data.

However, the simplest renewals were from those that just paid (quoting their member reference); I will make that a clear choice in the 2020 renewal reminders.

Emails that went astray

I have again received a trickle of emails regarding non-receipt of renewal confirmations (usually the one with PLI cover statement attached). These were mostly resolved by asking people to check their email spam traps. Perhaps emails with attachments are more vulnerable to pouncing spam hounds.