

A response from the OM Committee to the OM AGM 2019 – Ordinary Motion put forward by Holt Ridge Morris

The section of the Treasurer's guide to which changes are proposed is attached as Appendix 1.

This section clearly allows Officers and other members to claim appropriate expenses incurred as a result of engaging in OM business. There is no need to change the wording.

Regarding travel expenses for the Sue Dyke Award, there are a number of issues to consider:

1. The donation given to OM in memory of Sue Dyke is a ring-fenced sum in the OM accounts. The money can only be used for the Sue Dyke Award and not on general OM expenditure. The opposite is also true, OM general funds can only be transferred to the Sue Dyke Award by recommendation of the Committee and agreement of the AGM.
2. The rules of the award are clearly stated and there is no mention of travel expenses for award winners to attend the AGM. All entrants last year and this year were aware of that when they entered the competition. It is the view of OM Officers that it is unusual for travel expenses to be offered in such competitions and although they would like to see prizewinners at the AGM there is the alternative of prizes being posted to them. Prizewinners may also seek alternative sources of funding if necessary, for travel to the AGM, e.g. from their family or their own side.
3. If travel expenses were to be offered to winners, the cost should come from the Sue Dyke fund and the fund would be depleted sooner. If the OM Committee decides that the award has met the objective of engaging more young people in Morris and is worth continuing, a proposal may be made to top up the fund from OM general funds. The award needs to run for another year before such an evaluation can be made.
4. Last year, representations were made immediately prior to the AGM that travel expenses should be paid to the winner of the Sue Dyke Award. The Committee agreed that, as a goodwill gesture, an ex-gratia payment of £30 should be made by way of contribution to the winner's expenses in travelling to collect the award. As may be seen from the accounts this was taken from the Sue Dyke Award budget.
5. All eligible claims have been paid relating to the last financial year and the accounts for the year are subject to approval at the AGM. The Treasurer is not aware of any circumstances that would make it necessary for a retrospective payment to be made in addition to the £30 ex gratia payment already made to last year's winner of the Sue Dyke Award. No application has been received from the winner in respect of this.

Recommendations

1. The OM Committee strongly recommends that this Motion should be rejected by the AGM.
2. The Sue Dyke Award budget should remain ring fenced and any transfer of funds from OM general accounts should only be considered after a review of the effectiveness of the award in meeting its objectives.
3. There should be no automatic entitlement to travel expenses for award winners to attend the AGM. As was the case last year representations may be made, and the Committee will consider making an ex-gratia payment by way of contribution to expenses incurred by the winner in attending the AGM. Any such payment should be made from the Sue Dyke Award budget.

NB The 2018 prizewinner and his family wish to make it clear that they did not make any application to OM for travel expenses and did not expect any payment. The representations were made by a third party without their knowledge or consent.

Appendix 1

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Excerpt from The Open Morris Treasurer's Guide

5)

EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS

a)

For costs incurred in the conduct of OM affairs, out of pocket expenses may be claimed as follows:

- i. To claim for any purchases, including tickets, a member must complete a claim form giving brief details and dates of the expenses and provide the Treasurer with appropriate receipts.
- ii. The following members are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses:
OM Officers and Area Representatives;
Any other members who are representing OM in an official capacity with approval of the Committee

b)

The cost of travel to meetings will be reimbursed as follows:

- i. The cost of any public transport used and/or
- ii. An allowance for travel by motor vehicle at the current mileage rate.

c)

The mileage rate will be agreed annually at the AGM and available on request from the Treasurer

d)

The Treasurer may propose that any increase in the mileage rate be back-dated to a specified date with a view to agreement at the AGM.