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Newsletter No.70

December 2010

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Saddleworth MM: Santa's little helpers!



Greetings All

In Mid-November the following statement was distributed to the Bagmen of all Member and Associate sides of the Morris Ring, along with explanatory documents (available on the Morris Ring Google Group) :

Greetings to all Morris Ring Sides

You are all aware that the issue of female musicians has come to the fore on many an occasion. We now have another pretender that has raised its head above the parapet and that is the Equality Act 2010. This has a direct bearing on the future composition of the Morris Ring and its constituent members. It is the Officers' belief that compliance with the Equality Act will help us to resolve the debate over female musician membership once and for all.

The law and what is required of it is complex and we have spent considerable time consulting lawyers and the Advisory Council to move forward on the issue. Solicitors' interpretation of the law, our conclusions and notes on how we arrived at those conclusions are available for your perusal. The catalyst which launches the debate is a proposal to change our constitution. This will be voted on at the ARM next February. In light of the Equality Act this proposal supersedes that originally put by Rumford Morris and previously advertised to you but which is now defunct due to the changes in law with which we must comply.

We cannot stress strongly enough that our commitment to all-male Morris dancing is irrefutable and unshakeable.

Gentlemen, it is for you to take us forward and the means to consider the best way to progress are now in your hands. We hope that the package we have put together for you is clear, fair and thorough.

Wassail

Peter J Halfpenney, Squire of the Morris Ring;
Charlie Corcoran, Bagman of the Morris Ring
Eddie Worrall, Treasurer of the Morris Ring

Over the past four weeks there have been an unprecedented number of emails, telephone calls, and entries on the Morris Ring Google Group site. The Area Reps were asked to consult with the sides in their area and feedback to the Advisory Council where they, along with many of the Past Officers, have pooled their information and expertise to advise the Squire as to possible ways forward. On the page opposite is the considered summary / up-date from Peter Halfpenney, Squire of the Morris Ring.

Gentlemen

You are of course aware of the heated debate that has been raging over the Equality Act (EA), female membership and our constitution. Very many of you have contributed to the debate on the Morris Ring GG and the Advisory Council GG and the intensity of the postings has served as a barometer indicating the importance of the issue, the passion felt by all and the necessity of finding a workable and **permanent** solution.

By now you will hopefully have seen and read all the supporting paperwork describing in particular the legal ramifications and options open to us. I can briefly summarise the key points and principal fears expressed thus:

- our constitution was composed under circumstances prevailing some time ago and is inadequate to deal with 21st century conditions
- the Equality Act means that discrimination is outlawed
- some Morris Ring clubs and thus the Morris Ring itself have had women as members for a very long time
- we are a men-only dancing association (and throughout what follows the term 'dancing' also applies to 'acting' as in mumming sides) and are permitted to remain so under the new Equalities Act
- member clubs are overwhelmingly adamant that we remain all-male dancers
- we must insulate our constitution against potential future changes in law to ensure that we are not forced to become fully mixed in all departments in the future
- many sides wish to attend or would be tolerant of attending group events where females would be present, particularly as musicians and/or at feasts
- many sides would still like to be able to attend all-male group events



Squire Peter Halfpenney, with Martin Harris who acted as Squire's Fool when Peter danced in at the 325th Meeting of the Morris Ring, hosted by Castleford Longsword.

Your Officers and the Advisory Council have worked tirelessly in conjunction with a number of legal advisers and have finally forged a framework within which all of the above can be achieved. We have considered a number of approaches each getting more and more complex. Sometimes it is better to stand back from the melée and seek a simpler answer and by so doing a solution became evident. KISS, as I'm sure you already know, is an acronym standing for "Keep It Simple, Stupid". This has been pressure tested by the Advisory Council and we seem to be in agreement that KISS is workable.

The basis of what we have done is to transfer the Morris Ring's responsibility for determining the rules governing the sex of its dancers and compliance with the Equalities Act and place that onus on the member clubs.

We can legally do that thus:

It becomes a criterion of membership of the Morris Ring that constituent clubs either include as part of their formal constitution a clause restricting dancing members to men or provide a written undertaking to the Morris Ring to this effect. This requirement will be written into the Morris Ring Constitution. That would pass the whole onus for ensuring EA compliance onto the clubs. If clubs do not include the clause or undertaking or later change their constitution, then they would be deemed to have resigned (again that could be written into Morris Ring Constitution). No chance of the Morris Ring being forced at some later date to have women dancing.

This is a simple solution that suits all.

1. It requires very little change from the constitution as written or as proposed by Rumford.
2. It provides a totally watertight affirmation that all-male dancing sides only are eligible for membership.
3. Any side that breaks the rule is automatically excluded from or has terminated their membership without recourse to inquisition, meetings, quorums, majorities and all the other paraphernalia connected with expulsion.
4. All-male Morris Ring Member Meetings may still be held hosted by member clubs subject to the hosts' own compliance with the Equalities Act with regard to their own members.
5. Morris Ring Member Meetings with female attendees (non-dancing) may be held again at the discretion of the hosts subject to the hosts' own compliance with the Equalities Act with regard to their own members.
6. Potential future changes in law would not affect the Morris Ring all-male dancers only rule.

The vocabulary and terminology we use, and the way we approach certain aspects of our activities, will have to alter to ensure that they are not *prejudiced* or *giving favour* to one club over another. By law any activity organised by or directly sponsored by the Morris Ring will have to be open to all member sides. Any activity 'hosted' by a member side can be run according to the preference of the host. e.g. an all-male side can run a dance weekend with all male invitees only.

To make sure that we are fair to all under the Equalities Act the Morris Ring will have to treat all **sides** equally as well as all **sexes**. For instance we can't make money available to one side conducting a particular activity and then deny it to another conducting the same activity. What we shall need are Equalities Act compliant benchmark criteria which qualify an event for Morris Ring financial consideration.

The way this is done and the language we use to describe what we are doing will evolve over time. As Squire I see this as a development area where one man's view is limited but a think tank like the Advisory Council could lead the Squire and Officers to a clearly defined policy as

each scenario is considered and tackled. It should not take long to build a template that will serve for all future events.

The mechanics of putting all this into practice will involve an amendment to the Rumford proposal but our present constitution will allow that to be done very quickly.

The Officers and Advisory Council are still thrashing out the voting procedures to ensure that every Club gets time to consider the proposals and has an opportunity to vote. Our conclusions will follow shortly. Without question the best way to achieve this is to attend the ARM so please try to make sure that your Club has a member there to cast the vote for your side.

Enough for one chunk. Amendments to the Rumford proposal will be published in due course once checked by the lawyers for compliance.

May I thank everyone who has contributed to analysing this enigma and thereby helped to forge this resolution. I hope you agree with us that it provides a workable solution that is simple, effective and hopefully acceptable to all.

Peter J Halfpenney
Squire of the Morris Ring



ARM 2011 18th - 20th February Hosts Mendip Morris Men

Venue: Clevedon Community School, Valley Road, Clevedon, BS21 6AH.



It is planned that All reports for the ARM will be circulated prior to the meeting and those delivering them will NOT read them to you but simply comment on or highlight particular points as they see appropriate and answer questions.

Draft AGENDA for 2011 ARM

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last ARM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
 - a. Report on the Youth Fund (*Brian Tasker: Chair of Advisory Council*)
 - b. Up-date on the Olympics (Squire)
 - c. Recruitment leaflet / PowerPoint (Bagman)
 - d. Performance Standards
4. Squire's Report
5. Bagman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report - and proposed subscriptions for next year
7. Constitutional Motions submitted for the 2011 Morris Ring ARM:
 - i. **Women Musicians:** Additions in *italics* / ~~Deletions~~ struck through
"to amend Clauses 2 and 10 to read:
 2. The Morris Ring shall be an association of Men's Morris, Sword and Mummers Clubs and Teams. Any established Men's Club or Team which meets regularly for Morris or Sword Dancing or Mumming, *which restricts its dancing or acting members to men*, and endeavours to uphold the standards and dignity of the Morris, shall be eligible for Membership of the Ring.
 10. There shall be at least one gathering of ~~Morris Men~~ *Morris Ring Clubs* in each year, to be sponsored or arranged by the Morris Ring.
Proposed by Rumford Morris
 - ii. **Composition of the Advisory Council** Additions in *italics*
"to amend Clause 6 to read:
 6. "The three officers, officers elect and all past officers of the Morris Ring for *a maximum of six years following the conclusion of their term of office, together* with the nine elected members shall constitute the Advisory Council of the Morris Ring. The duty of the Advisory Council shall be to advise and assist the Squire and the other elected officers to further the objects of the Morris Ring and to take acting in an emergency. The Advisory Council shall meet at least one a year. In such cases where it is entrusted with executive powers, a quorum shall consist of five members, including three elected members."
Proposed Horwich Prize Medal Morris Men
 - iii. **Standards of Performance** Additions in *italics*
"to amend Clause 9 to read:
 9. Clubs whose standards fall below those generally accepted by the Member Clubs, *or who do not conform to this constitution*, may, following the advice of the Officers, be suspended from

Membership of the Ring if at least two thirds of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting of Club Representatives are in favour of such suspension.

Proposed Moulton MM

8. Chair of Advisory Council's Report

9. Archival Reports:

- a. Chair of Archive Committee: *Chris Metherell*
- b. Paper: *Chris Metherell*
- c. Photographic: *Duncan Broomhead*
- d. Mumming: *Ron Shuttleworth*
- e. Sword: *Ivor Allsop*
- f. Sound: *Andy Padmore*
- g. New Dance Collator: *Mike Wilkinson*
- h. Keeper of the Morris Ring Scrapbook: *Keith Francis (Final Report!)*

10. Publication Officers Reports:

Editor Morris Circular: *Harry Stevenson*

Editor Morris Dancer: *David Thomson*

11. Overseas Bagman's / Webmasters Reports.

12. Election / Ratification of Area Representatives whose term of office expires but are eligible for re-election:

- West Midlands Pete Simpson
- North West Dave Loughlin
- South West & Wales. Robin Springett

13. Area Representatives Reports.

- a. North West
- b. Northern
- c. North East
- d. West Midlands
- e. North Midlands
- f. Eastern
- g. South West and Wales
- h. South Midlands
- i. South East

14. Future Programme.

- a. Morris Ring Meetings 2012 and beyond. (Bagman)
- b. Instructionals

15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting.

16. A.O.B.

Notes: In an ideal world every Member and Associate side in the Morris Ring would attend the ARM when the discussions can be brought to a close and votes taken. We appreciate that this is not possible for many reasons. In our efforts to ensure as wide a franchise as possible several ideas have been suggested including having a Postal vote, as we do for the election of Officers, or allowing Proxy voting, as used, for example, by the EFDSS for a range of issues at their AGMs. After careful consideration we are advised that even if we allowed postal votes for motions, which is not mentioned in our Constitution, such votes could not take into account discussions and arguments presented or influence or react to any amendments put to the ARM on the day. Whilst some of the same arguments can be applied to proxy voting with this there is more scope for sides to brief their 'proxy' - especially where there has been considerable discussion in advance of the meeting. *Appendix One is our suggested adaptation of the EFDSS Proxy-voting policy.*

We want to be fair to all and to give everyone the opportunity to express their side's opinion with a vote- after all the Morris Ring is its member clubs. Clearly we do not want to contravene our constitution. Having listened to lots of advice we do not believe that to invite non-attendees to appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf would be a breach of the constitution and would allow every club fair opportunity to cast their vote.

With reference amendments proposed at the ARM. These must ultimately be lawful and not require the Morris Ring to act in a way that puts us in conflict with the Equality Act. It would be helpful if amendments submitted to the Bagman of the Morris Ring by mid-January for evaluation against the above rule by a committee appointed by the Squire, then published to all sides end of January. Amendments from the floor of the meeting will be accepted at the discretion of the Squire.

Please can I have reports for the ARM by the end of December to enable me to get them collated and distributed to all sides prior to the meeting. The idea being that they can be read and considered by a wider audience than simply those attending the ARM and questions can be posed and comments made. Reports are expected from Area Reps (and all of the Area Reps would welcome information from their area sides for inclusion in their report) and all the various appointed Officers.





Timetable for 2011 ARM Weekend

Clevedon Community School,
Valley Road,
Clevedon, BS21 6AH.



Friday

- 18.30 ARM Reception opens.
The evening is set aside for the usual mixture of informal conversation, interspersed with dancing, singing and drinking as the mood takes you plus the opportunity to learn about the Winster Tradition for those who will.
- 19.00- 21.00 Food available
Instructional: Winster

Saturday

- 7.30 - 8.30 Breakfast
- 9.15 - 10.30 Instructionals Session 1
Jig Instructional: Opportunity to learn
Welsh Border: Silurian MM interpretation
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 - 11.45 EGM (if necessary) or Area Meetings
- 12.00 - 12.45 Area Meetings *or* Open Discussion re Recruitment
- 1.00 - 1.50 Buffet lunch
- 13.00 - 16.30 Annual Reps. Meeting
- 16.30 - 17.00 Tea break
- 17.00 - 18.15 Instructionals Session 2
Jig Instructional: Opportunity to learn
Welsh Border: Silurian MM interpretation
Advisory Council Meeting
- 19.00 - FEAST (followed by informal dancing/singing)
With invited guests from the Morris Federation; the Open Morris and the EFDSS

Sunday

- 8.00 - 9.00 Breakfast & departure





December & January at Cecil Sharp House

Fend off the cold with music and dance in December! We've got some lovely festive events this month; **Voices at the Door** with the story of carols told by Coope Boyes & Simpson, Jo Freya, Fi Fraser and Georgina Boyes; **A Ceremony of Carols & Customs** hosted by storytelling laureate Taffy Thomas MBE; **A Feast of Songs and Carols** with the Cecil Sharp House Community Choir, and round off your year with the **New Year's Eve Ceilidh!** Plus a special festive **Family Barn Dance** - wear something glittery! [See December's full list of highlights](#)



Treasurer's Notes:

Apart from a lot of Google Grouping (yes, I do read everything that gets posted...), the admin of the Morris Ring has been taking up a lot of my spare time as usual at this point in the year, with subs and membership renewals. Although approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of sides have now paid their subs, the others have not! I must remind you all, that the terms of the JMO Public Liability insurance spell out, that this covers member clubs of the 3 Morris Organisations, do not let your membership lapse.



So therefore, please ensure you return the renewal forms and subs payments as soon as possible if you have not already done so. The renewal form is important even if you pay by standing order, as it is designed to capture any changes in your preferred contact for inclusion in the Morris Ring database. It is this contact who will be sent information and Newsletters, until we hear otherwise.

Be kind to your ex-bagmen and tell us when they retire, we will then stop harassing them with post!

Away from the grind of paperwork, I'm also running a project to capture information about the year our member clubs were formed and if full members, the year and meeting at which they danced into the Morris Ring. Partial information is known and available on the Morris Ring website now.

However, I want this to cover all current Member & Associate sides and I need your help to do this! Please dig back through your archives and scrapbooks and let me know

your side's history. In time, I hope to make this available to all via the website and it promises to show up some fascinating facts and figures.

In the mean time I hope all have a great Christmas & New Year.

Ed Worrall Morris Ring Treasurer / Saddleworth MM

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MORRIS RING PUBLICATIONS

☺ **Harry Stevenson:** Editor of the Morris Circular

Erin House, 59, Olivers Battery Road North, Winchester SO22 4JB.

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Circular No 62 is now online at: http://www.themorrisring.org/thecircular/images/Circular_62.pdf

☺ **David Thompson:** Editor of The Morris Dancer

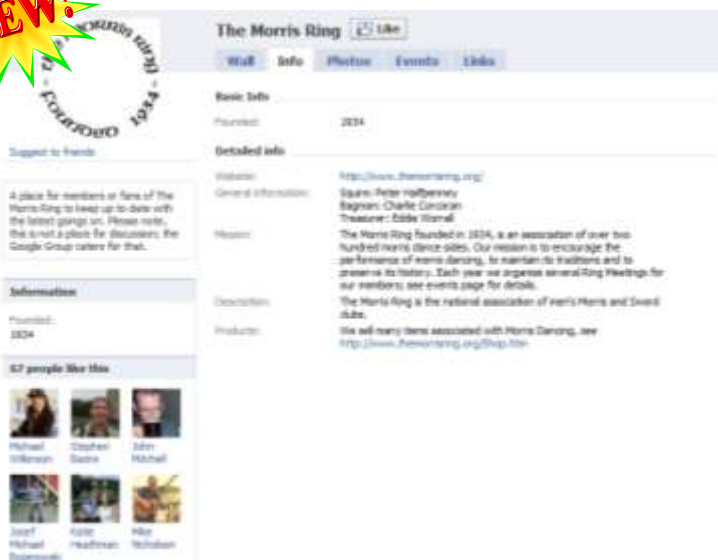
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Ring Facebook Page Stop, press! Yes, the Morris Ring is now in the C21st!



Following a discussion with the Officers, an official Morris Ring Facebook 'fan page' has been set up by Ollie King, Cambridge MM (See below)

Its purpose is to help those with Facebook keep up to date with general goings on, well as promoting the Ring itself. Ollie writes:

"Please note it is not a place for discussion; do not post anything regarding any internal discussions, like those that have been going on recently, as Facebook is public and the Google Group caters for this."



"So, if you have Facebook, just type in **The Morris Ring** into the search bar and 'like' us. Please do add photos to the group of various Morris Ring Meetings, Instructionals or other Morris Ring events and help fill out the page a bit; it's looking a bit lonely over there!

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Request for recordings of Roy Dommett: Roy and Marguerite Dommett are trying to acquire copies of recordings of Roy's teaching sessions / workshops. In the past people asked permission to tape/record these events so if you have any such recordings, please, let me know and I will pass on the contact information. Roy wants to get as much of this sort of material together for the future, whilst he is still able to make notes and check the content.

☆☆☆☆☆



Recruitment:



This works for Grand Union.....



... and this for Green Oak.

Do you have any examples of what works for your side?

If so please let either your Area Rep or one of the Officers of the Morris Ring have a copy so that we can all benefit from 'good practice'.

Advertisement



Four Square Design and the Morris. With Christmas fast approaching, what better gift for the Morris man in your life than a personalised cartoon or painting?

As well as being an active dancer and musician with the Mendip Morris Men I run a small graphic design and illustration business. I'm passionate about the Morris and folk music in general and I'm keen to promote my Morris-related paintings, illustrations, cartoons and graphic designs. I would be delighted to quote for design or illustration for CD sleeves, programmes, Ale or Feast invitations, birthday celebrations, retirements, long service awards – anything Morris-related basically.

Go to the Four Square Design link on the Mendip Morris Men web site – www.mendipmorrismen.org - for more information and a downloadable PDF, or contact at Neil Ross via neil@foursquaredesign.com



Morris Ring Instructionals

Jigs Instructional 21st -23rd January 2011 Sutton Bonington

Only £42 and we will again be offering a £10 subsidy to sides for first time attendees and a £5 subsidy for any first-timers who attended last year who return for a second helping. An Application Form is included in this Newsletter and is available on the Morris Ring Google Group..



Morris Ring Musicians' 2 Instructional Day

Hosts: Moulton MM Book up now!

Date: **Saturday 12th March 2011 9.30am - 6pm.**

Venue: Moulton VH

**Please note change of
Date & Format**

A day course for musicians concentrating on playing for the different genre of Morris. There will be different groups available with tradition-specific playing skills: Border, Cotswold, etc.

Food provided plus evening pub session for those interested.

Female musicians are welcome to attend.

Full details: Simon Care, 30 Manor Road, Moulton, Northampton NN3 7QU

Email - melodeonplayer@hotmail.com Tel: 01604 670192





A Manchester Morris Man for £10.50! Well, a 6½" tall version of one, was sold on eBay for £10.50. Duncan Broomhead (MR Photo Archivist) brought it to my attention. We monitored the sale, of course, and I believe that none of the MMM bought it (or is owning up to buying it). The costumed figure was one of a batch made for us several years ago, and most were presented to our hosts on foreign visits ; although we still have one in the club's possession.

Keith Ashman Bagman Manchester Morris Men

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One Day Rapper Project was set up in January 2008 to provide a taste of tradition with a performance element. As well as One Day Rapper the following day sees workshops run by local teams in varying styles to give you a more varied experience of English traditions. The next One Day Rapper project is taking place in Leicester on 8th January 2011 and you can be part of it for just £20 This project will be focussing on the traditional dance Newbiggin from Newbiggin taught by [Alice Coady](#).

New to One Day Rapper is 'playing for performance', [James Tween](#) will be advising musicians on how to raise the standard of playing for performance. Tunes will be practiced on the day and the choice of tunes will depend on the participants. Tunes can be taught and learnt from written music, however please be aware that in performance there won't be any written music so this will need to be learnt prior to or during the course of the day.

One Day Rapper will be joined on Saturday evening by [Stony Steppers](#) who will also be running workshops on Sunday from 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

Costs for the weekend are; One Day Rapper £20, Indoor camping Saturday evening £5, Sunday workshops £5 each or £8 for both, full weekend £30.

For further details please contact visit www.natashawoodward.co.uk

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MORRIS SHOP RAMBLINGS.

It has been rather quiet without a great deal appearing on the Morris related production line of late. However, you will find a few things in the centre fold of this newsletter.

THE BELLS: We already have a goodly stock of Morris Bells from our last mega replenishment but I now have another order in place with the manufacturers in an attempt to avoid the January VAT increase. This should secure our current prices for the next 18-24 months or so. That is unless every Morris side suddenly decides to go for a bellpad refit in the month of January.

The very popular pewter and brass lidded one pint tankards are no more as Carl Longshaw has now moved away from this particular production line. Our stocks of these are now zero and there are only a few of the pewter 1½ pinters remaining.



Due to the sad demise of most things to do with Google Groups, the Morris Shop cyber activities have now advanced towards the preferred FaceBook social networking. I know that many of you are already familiar with this and that 'Ollie' Squire of Cambridge Morris Men, has now set up the first Morris Ring FaceBook page. If you are not yet familiar with these and wish to know more, please get in touch.

Steve BFB, The Morris Shop



JMO Sheffield National Morris Spectacular



Sat 14th May.

Venue: Sheffield

Hosted by the Morris Ring.

You want to be there. It will be a full day, lots of opportunity to dance and not too much hanging around.

2011 Meetings of the Morris Ring

326th Meeting 20th - 22nd May Hosted by Moulton Morris to mark the 40th Anniversary of the revived Moulton Festival. Sides attending are King John's; Richmond on Swale and Yateley

There are still a few spaces available at this meeting.

327th Meeting 3rd June ~ 5th June hosted by Thaxted Morris. This meeting marks their Centenary. Sides attending include Dolphin; Moulton; Helmond; Westminster; Ravensbourne; Leicester; Cambridge; Dartington; St Albans; Chanctonbury Ring; Saddleworth; Mayflower; Greensleeves; Monkseaton; Stafford; Letchworth; Shakespeare; Standon; Jockey; Whitchurch; Harthill; Chalice; Hageneth MM; East Suffolk; Offley; East Surrey; Het Utrrecht and Bedford.

There are still a few spaces available at this meeting.

328th Meeting 24th - 26th June Hosted by Wath-on-Dearne Morris
Unfortunately this meeting was undersubscribed and cannot run in the planned format. Instead Wath-upon-Dearne Morris are offering a day of dance, with a feast in a local hall. Those requiring accommodation will be able to B&B at the hotel as planned for B £50 per night, with two people sharing. For teams travelling and staying on the Friday and Saturday evening there will be a "session" in a local pub on the Friday, with dancing on Sunday morning for those that will. Wath will run it as a "family day of dance" with wives / partners and children being welcome to attend on the day and at the feast. If your side was booked to attend this meeting Paul Saltis will be in touch. If you would be interested in attending the event in its new format please contact Paul on paul.saltis@btinternet.com.

329th Meeting 8th - 10th July Hosted by Greensleeves Morris Men to mark the 50th Anniversary of their Chipperfield weekend. Sides attending include Dolphin; Martlett; Long Man; Ripley; Greenman and Winchester.

330th Meeting 22nd-24th July Hosted in Rutland by the Rutland Morrismen. Sides attending include Devil's Dyke; Thelwall; Foresters; Northwood; Colchester; Hartley; Thaxted; St Albans; Peterborough; Men of Wight; Traditional Illmington; Horwich Prize Medal; Redcar Sword and Lincoln & Micklebarrow.



Morris 18-30 Weekend

7th - 9th October 2011

Venue: Oxford.

Hosts: Icknield Way MM



Further information and application

information see <http://www.morris1830.org.uk>

Morris Ring Meetings - 2012 and beyond.

2012

3rd ~ 5th March (?)

ARM Hosted by TBA

25th - 27th May

Chipping Campden Cotswold Olympic MR Meeting

1st June - 3rd June

Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

27th - 29th July

Hartley 60th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

TBC

Letchworth Centenary Morris Ring Meeting

2013

? March

ARM Hosted by TBA

31st May - 02nd June

Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

21st - 23rd June

Dolphin Morris Men



2014

? March

ARM Hosted by TBA

TBA

Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

Caption Competition from Newsletter No 69

The picture was taken by Steven Archer, and submitted with the caption: **BAGMAN STRIPPED OF BAG IN REGIME CHANGE.**

I asked for other suggestions - and only received one:

"I may be the bagman but I'm not bloody fetching your bag".

from Graham Lee.

As the only entry Graham wins the pint!



This photograph was taken moments after Peter danced in as Squire of the Morris Ring at the Castleford Meeting.

Use of the Morris Ring Logo I received a request from Mark Swingler, webmaster and lead musician of Peterborough, for permission to include the Morris Ring logo on Peterborough Morris' website. Mark had looked at a few other Morris Ring Sides websites and none that he visited displayed the logo. He commented "... if this is to be encouraged, perhaps a note on the Google group and newsletter would be appropriate." This is an excellent suggestion. So, all Morris Ring sides that have their own website, please include the Morris Ring logo, and add a link to the Morris Ring website. <http://www.themorrisring.org/>



And finally.....

Thank You again to those who have contributed news and information for inclusion in this Newsletter. I asked for details of your Christmas / New Year programmes, and those that I have received are printed as **Appendix Two** at the end of this Newsletter. *For future publication please let me have details of your May Day venues so that I can publish and publicise a similar list.*

A great deal has been said and written over the past few months, frequently passionate and at times intemperate, and I hope that these discussions will continue in the run-up to the ARM in Clevedon, so as to ensure that votes can be taken and decisions made based upon knowledge and facts rather than prejudice and rumour. Whatever happens at the ARM I hope that it is now clear to all that individual sides are responsible for meeting their own obligations under the Equal Opportunities legislation. One thing that remains abundantly clear from all the discussions is that everyone involved is passionate in their desire to see the Morris, and the Morris Ring, survive and prosper in the future.

In the immediate future if your side has yet to pay its subscription please may I remind you that you will not be covered by our insurance unless you do and if you have booked places at one of the Morris Ring Meetings in 2011 please get your deposits paid a.s.a.p.. Included as an appendix is the renewal / application forms for 2011 Personal Accident Insurance. Any questions about this please address to Michael Stimpson and not to myself or Eddie. (StimpsonM@aol.com or Tel: 01923 770425).

Finally on behalf of my fellow officers may I wish you an enjoyable Christmas; hope that the dancing and mumming over the holiday period goes well, and look forward to seeing many of you during 2011.

Charline

Bagman of the Morris Ring

Appendix One: Proposed adaptation of the EFDSS Proxy-voting policy:

Proxy voting allows a side who is unable to attend the ARM to appoint a person to speak and/or to vote on their behalf. This allows all Members equality of opportunity for a wider engagement with the affairs of the Morris Ring and provides for greater democracy. It is entirely possible for the votes cast at a meeting to be overturned by the proxy votes and vice versa.



Policy

1. The Squire of the Morris Ring, as Chairman of the ARM will always use the proxy votes he holds in accordance with the stated wishes of the member sides who have made him their Proxy, regardless of what the Morris Ring Squire and / or Officers may be proposing.
2. When preparing voting papers the Morris Ring Bagman will advise Member sides how the Squire will exercise discretionary votes he is given, namely:
 - a. The Squire will normally use discretionary votes to support resolutions put forward by the MR Officers;
 - b. If the MR Officers have not taken a view on a resolution put forward by a member side the Squire may ask for discretionary proxy votes so that he can listen to the views expressed at the ARM and take a view based on that debate
3. Member Sides will be advised that most members nominate the Squire to act as their proxy and that any person appointed as a proxy must attend the meeting for the proxy vote to be counted.
4. Any member side who has already appointed a proxy retains the right to send a side member to attend the meeting in person. On so doing, he will be given the opportunity to revoke their proxy appointment, if they so choose. This representative will be entitled to speak and vote at the ARM only if the proxy appointment has been formally revoked at least ten minutes before the start of the meeting.
5. Members will be offered four options from which to choose when directing their proxy: "*For*"; "*Against*"; "*Vote withheld*"; or "*Discretionary*". The "*Vote withheld*" option allows a positive indication of the decision not to vote. Votes withheld in this way will not be counted when calculating the portion of votes for or against the resolution.
6. In accordance with Best Practice the Squire will not reveal in advance of a poll the number of proxy votes cast or the net weight of the proxy voting, as this could be seen as seeking to influence the poll.
7. In accordance with Best Practice the meeting will be informed of the outcome of the poll and the following information will be included in the minutes of the meeting:
 - a. the number of people who have made valid proxy appointments;
 - b. the number of votes cast for the resolution;
 - c. the number of votes cast against the resolution; and
 - d. the number of votes in respect of which the vote was directed to be withheld
8. It is normal practice for a poll (a paper ballot) to be taken on any resolution that appears contentious, so that proxy votes can be taken into account.

**Appendix Two: Where you can watch Morris over the Christmas / New Year period
Boxing Day 26th December**

Buckland Shag Morris Men	1.00pm Skimmington Castle, Bonnys Road, Surrey RH2 8RL
Chanctonbury Ring MM	11.00 am The Marquis of Granby, Sompting (BN15 0AP) 12.30 pm The Frankland Arms, Washington (RH20 4AL)
Charlbury MM	1.00pm - 2.30pm TheBell Hotel, Church Street, Charlbury
Colchester	12noon Black Buoy, Wivenhoe
Dartington MM	12 noon Seven Stars Inn, Plains, Totnes.
Gloucester MM	9.30am Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham 10.30am Imperial Gardens, Cheltenham 12.30pm Gloucester Cathedral 1.30pm The New Inn, Gloucester
Greensleeves MM	12.15 Rose and Crown, Wimbledon Village SW19 5BA. 13.15 The Hand in Hand, Crooked Billet, SW19 4RQ.
Harthill	11am The Blue Bell Harthill 12 noon The Beehive Harthill (followed by carol singing inside)
Hartley Morris Men	12.00 noon Black Horse, Stansted 1.15 p.m. Rose and Crown, Wrotham
Isca Morris	12 noon - 2.30pm Ostrich Inn, Newland (just outside Monmouth).
Leicester Mm (aka Red Leicester)	12noon- 2.30pm The Griffin Inn, Swithland
Manchester MM	12:00 noon The Fox Inn, Brookbottom, Derbyshire SK22 3AY
Men of Wight	12 noon Arreton Barns, Arreton
Mersey MM	11 am Willaston Green
Peterborough Morris	11:00 Peterborough, Cathedral Square 12 noon The Botolph Arms PE2 7DD
Ravensbourne	12.30pm The Greyhound, Keston in Kent
Ripley MM	11am - Ripley Market Place 12 noon Devonshire Arms, Buckland Hollow 1pm Cliff Inn, Crich. 2pm Canal Inn, Bullbridge.
Rutland Morris Men	11.00am The Horse and Jockey at Manton 12 noon Uppingham Market
The King's Morris	12noon Swan Inn, South Wootton, King's Lynn, PE30 2NG
Towersey Morris	12.15pm Three Horseshoes, Towersey, Near Thame, OX39 3QY
West Somerset	11.00am Yarn market, Dunster nr. Minehead, Somerset
Whitchurch MM	12 noon The Plough at Cadsden near Princess Risborough.
White Horse	12noon - 1.30pm The Spread Eagle, Stourhead
Yateley Morris Men	12:00 The Dog & Partridge, Yateley GU46 7LR 13:15 The Queen's Oak, Finchampstead RG40 4LS

"Boxing Day" 27th December

Headington Quarry	11.15 Crown & Thistle
	12.15 The Chequers
	13.00 The Six Bell
	13.45 The Masons Arms.
Moulton MM	11.00am Stocks Hill, Moulton

28th December

Moulton MM	? Sulgrave Manor, Northants.
Saddleworth MM (<i>as Lordsmere Longsword</i>)	3.00 p.m. onwards Villages of Saddleworth

1st January

Alvechurch Morris	11.45am The Crown, Withybed, Alvechurch
Crendon Morrismen	12 noon Brill
Dartington MM	12 noon Hope and Anchor, Hope Cove, Devon
Kennett MM	12.30pm Calleva Arms, Silchester, RG7 2PH
Mersey MM	12.30 The Plasterer's Arms, Hoylake
Monkseaton Morris Men	12:00 noon The Ship Inn, Monkseaton.
Rose & Castle Morris Men	12 noon The Boat, Stoke Bruerne, Northants NN12.
Yateley Morris Men	13:30 The Cricketers, Hartley Wintney RG27 8QB

Sun 2nd January

Leicester MM(aka Red Leicester)	12noon onwards Markfield, Leicestershire
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Sat 8th January

Chanctonbury Ring MM	6.00 pm : 'Apple Howling' - Old Mill Farm, Bolney RH17 5SE
Jockey MM	10.00am Plough Tour of Birmingham City Centre

Saturday 15th January

Dartington MM	Wassail, National Trust, Saltram House, Plympton, Plymouth
Leicester MM (aka Red Leicester)	Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival www.strawbear.org.uk
The King's Morris	Whittlesea Straw Bear Festival

See also: Master Mumpers 'Directory of Folk Play Groups'

<http://www.mastermumpers.org/groupslist.php?oID=&format=full>

Founded ~ the MORRIS RING ~ 1934 ~