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The Newsletter No.56 March 2008

In this Newsletter you should find:

- * Headlines from the ARM [Draft Minutes are on the Google Group - & printed copies available on request]
- * Message from the Squire elect
- * Treasurer's Ramblings
- * English Dance & Song Spring 2008.
- * Joint Morris Organisations
- * Report from the **GREAT YORKSHIRE** about GYM.
- * Fools and Animals (Application form)



Following a suggestion made at the ARM if you are prepared to receive the Newsletters ONLY in electronic form please email me to let me know. It will save acres of trees - and the Morris Ring a lot of money.

Charlie Corcoran



"On behalf of the Morris Ring Officers and their guests many thanks to all at Wadard who made the ARM such a great success. It had a real sparkle and contributed to it being a very positive as well as a fun weekend. Not the characteristics you normally associate with an ARM weekend. Great to share the weekend with you all.

Best wishes" Paul Reece Squire of the Morris Ring

Headlines from the ARM:

Elections: Thanks to John Burke (apologies for the misspelling of John's name in the last Newsletter) who acted as 'Returning Officer' with the assistance of Geoff Jerram. Their task was complicated by those sides who either did not read the information provided with the Ballot paper or who misunderstood how a single transferable vote system works. However in the end there was a clear winner - Brian Tasker *Hartley Morris Men & Castleford Longsword*. Congratulations to Brian who will dance in at the Dartington meeting of the Morris Ring. Commiserations to Paul Beaumont *North Wood Morris Men* and Steve Parker *Greensleeves Morris Men*

Candidate	First Choice	Second Choice	Totals:
Paul Beaumont	25	11	36
Steve Parker	24	X	24
Brian Tasker	36	4	40
	85		

55% turnout

In Newsletters No. 54 and 55, I reported that I had received no nominations for the post of Morris Ring Treasurer. So in line with custom, practice & tradition the incumbent Treasurer, Stephen Adamson BfB, being willing to continue, remains your treasurer for a further two years.

Area Reps Thanks were expressed to Duncan Broomhead and Dudley Binding the retiring reps for North West and South West respectively.

West Midlands Kevin Downham (existing Rep)

North West Dave Louhglin (Chester City) Volunteer

South West & Wales. Alan Chappell (Exeter) Nominated by Dartington

All three were accepted / supported by meeting. [next election due in 2011]

We also confirmed the elevation of **Great Yorkshire Morris** from associates to members of The Morris Ring- but no thanks to the Morris Ring Bagman who omitted this item from the final Agenda of the meeting. (Sorry chaps!)

The Archive Group has a new Chairman: Dick Shilton of Chalice MM, an archivist by profession. This appointment allows John Frearson to stand down. John was persuaded to take over the Chairmanship of the Archive Group when he stood down as Bagman of the Morris Ring and only agreed this as a temporary measure. After three years service, his other commitments now require him to hand this on as well. On behalf of the Morris Ring officers and membership, I would like to publicly thank John for his unstinting efforts on our behalf and wish Dick all the best in his new role.

ARM 2009 Following wide ranging discussions at this year's ARM, both formal and informal, we are going to combine our ARM in 2009 with some instructionals. This is both a blatant attempt to encourage more sides to get involved with the management of our organisation and to keep costs down through economies of scale. It is planned to complement existing instructions. This is what we have in mind - your reactions / opinions ' ideas would be very welcome.

ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009

The Morris Ring - Annual Representatives' Meeting Plus

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th March 2009

Longslade Community College, Wanlip Lane, Birstall LE4 4GH

Hosted by

Leicester Morrismen

Friday evening. *Those who want to enjoy the usual mixture of informal conversation, interspersed with dancing, singing and drinking as the mood takes you will be able so to do but also available will be*

20.30 - 22.00 Instructional Session One

Saturday

9.00 - 10.30 Instructional Session Two

11.00 - 12.30 Instructional Session Three

13.45 - 16.45 Annual Reps. Meeting

17.15 - 18.15 Advisory Council Meeting.

19.00 - FEAST (followed by informal dancing/singing)

Sunday

9.30 - 11.00 Instructional Session Four

11.30 - 12.30 Instructional Showcase / Review

It is hoped that men will book for one instructional and, travel arrangements permitting, attend all the sessions. Those who chose not to attend the ARM will be free to practice, watch sport on TV or sample the delights of Birstall.

Initial suggestions for Instructions are:

1. Longsword
2. Musicians. (Clive has suggested we might look at how larger groups of musicians playing for the Morris can still be responsive to the needs of the dancers.)
3. One of the traditions - from the point of view of the current generation of dancers of that village.

ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009 ARM 2009

Message from Brian Tasker, Squire Elect.

I am very conscious that a great honour has been bestowed upon me. I hope that I will be able to serve the Morris Ring with the same distinction as my predecessors.

I started dancing the Morris in 1971 with Hartley MM and I still dance regularly with them. I moved to Tyneside for a while and as a member of Sallyport Sword Dancers learned to dance rapper. Following a move to Yorkshire, I joined Castleford Longsword. Upon returning to Kent I picked up the threads with Hartley MM but also set up White Star Sword Dancers because I wanted to continue dancing sword. More recently I joined North British Sword Dancers, an itinerant side with whom I dance both rapper and longsword.

I want to support all the British dance traditions and hope that during my term as Squire of the Morris Ring those of you who dance rapper, longsword, North West, border and molly as well as the Cotswold fraternity will support me by playing a prominent role within the Morris Ring. I would like to see the Morris Ring establish a broader base and be seen to encompass all of our wonderful dance traditions.

I share Charlie's concerns about Morris Ring Meetings. In my biographical sketch I stressed my commitment to participation and excellence in all that we do. An important part of this is attendance at Morris Ring meetings which are our showcase events. In the previous newsletter some of the problems were aired. Better planning will solve some of them and we, your Morris Ring Officers, are here to give advice and help whenever it is needed. I believe that the question of cost is important and I have no doubt that this is an issue standing in the way of greater participation.

During my term in office I intend to travel as much as possible and meet as many of you as I can. I will be at the Sidmouth, Whitby and Bromyard festivals this summer and at the Sword Spectacular in May and Saddleworth Rushcart in August. I am going to the Thaxted, Mersey (with Hartley) and Dartington Morris Ring Meetings. Paul will dance out and I will dance in at Dartington. Like previous Squires I will accept invitations on a first come first served basis in my first year and give preference in my second year to those that I was unable to accept in my first year but have to remind you that like other Morris Ring Officers my expenses will need to be met by the host side.

I will serve the Morris Ring and its member and associate clubs to the best of my ability.

Brian Tasker

Proposed amendments to the Constitution: As you will read in the Minutes of the ARM the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Morris Ring were deemed to be unnecessary. The different title for the Area Reps was seen as irrelevant as neither appear in the actual constitution, and changes to the areas considered unnecessary for although London is an important government region we have few member sides within that geographical area and to artificially create a region within our organisation simply to provide a link between us and various quangos - whether arts or sports related seemed daft.

Rolf Gardiner Dr David Fowler of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, is completing the first full-scale biography of Rolf Gardiner, founder of the Cambridge Morris Men and a key figure in folk dance and British/German youth movements between the Two World Wars. Do any members have any personal recollections of Rolf Gardiner (1902-1971)? Dr Fowler would be delighted to hear reminiscences, contacts, stories. He can be contacted at:
Clare Hall, Cambridge, Cambridge CB3 9AL or via email at dmf28@cam.ac.uk

Treasurer's Ramblings: Well, that's the ARM over with for another year. All points generating from the Treasurer's report are covered with the meetings minutes (included with this Newsletter). Here are the important ones that you need to know:

Subscriptions: After a short but poignant debate it was agreed that the annual subscriptions rate and method of payment is in need of up-dating and subsequently simplifying in order to pave the way for payment via banking Standing Orders. With immediate effect the subscription for both members and associates will be at a fixed rate of:

Members £50.00

Associates £40.00

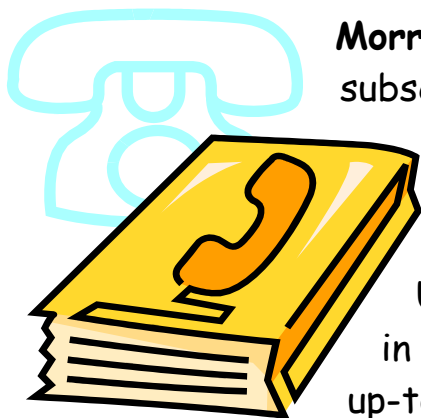
This subscription includes the member/associate sides receiving the all important public liability insurance document, two copies of each Morris Circular and one copy of each Newsletter.

A banking Standing Order form will be included with the Newsletter No. 57. It is hoped to have everything set up and running in time for the next subscription deadline of 30th November 2008.

At the time of this newsletter going to press, we still have one side that has not yet bothered to renew their membership of The Morris Ring (now 108 days after the subs deadline and 52 of those now without P/L insurance). Might I suggest that all sides request a view of your public liability insurance document at your

next Morris practice. The introduction of subscriptions via S/O's will totally prevent this ever happening again. Peace of mind is worth a fortune !!

Individual Publication Subscription remains available to all those wishing to receive their own personal copies of the Morris Circular and/or Newsletter. Please contact Harry Stevenson or myself for the application form. We currently have 23 individual publication subscribers.



Morris Ring Directory: As a result of the above, the annual subscription renewal form will be made redundant in its present form. However, a member/associate renewal of contact information form will replace it. As in the past, this form will be included with the Oct/Nov Newsletter. Upon receipt, it is imperative that you complete this form in order for us to operate as efficiently as possible with our up-to-date register of Morris Side contacts. At all other times of the year, please get in touch with me direct regarding any change of Bgm/Trs or Contact information.

Elected Officers Expenses: My grateful thanks to all those sides that have assisted with the continuation of the recently defined **Essential Morris Ring Business (EMRB)** with regards to the expenses incurred when officers are travelling to and from some events. In order to clarify: EMRB includes and covers a) ARM's, b) Morris Ring Meetings, c) Joint Morris Org meetings and events, d) Any other event/s that are of a tangible benefit to The Morris Ring and/or The Morris in general. The latter being subject to prior deliberation between the three elected officers.

The above does not include every Morris sides a) feast, b) ale, c) weekend/day of dance, d) birthday/retirement party, etc, etc, etc. A great deal of hard work has been invested by your incumbent officers in putting all of this into practice. It can only get easier with time and your continued understanding and support.

The Morris Bells are here at last !! Please see the pricing schedule previously published in Newsletter No. 55 (p.11)

And finally. My grateful thanks to all those that have assisted me with all aspects of what I/we do. Be that general administration or lugging boxes around when either setting up or down the Morris Shop. And here's to another successful, but busy year ahead.

Steve Adamson BFB (Treasurer)

Meetings of the Morris Ring 2008. The contacts for this 2008 meetings are:
Thaxted. Ian Anderson iandbanderson@btinternet.com
Whitchurch Chris Strong E-mail Address: strongscam@aol.com
Dartington. Ken Hudson E-mail address bagman@dartingtonmorrismen.org.uk
Liverpool (Mersey) Andrew Siddons Andrew.Siddons@veolia.co.uk

If your side is attending one of these meetings you should have paid a non-refundable deposit of £25 per man. Please note that this is essential as over the past couple of years sides and individuals have dropped out at short notice and this has put the viability of individual meetings of the Morris Ring in jeopardy.



English Dance & Song Spring 2008. To celebrate **Liverpool European Capital of Culture**, the EFDSS magazine has several features about music in the city. After an introduction, entitled 'In My Liverpool Home', the feature **Songs of a Seaport** looks at Liverpool's maritime heritage, with a 'new' version of the well-known song 'The Leaving of Liverpool'.

Jack Coutts writes about the International Shanty Festival, **Shanties 08**, which will accompany the start of the Tall Ships Race in July. The importance of **Irish music** in the city is explained by Chris Boland, chairman of the local branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (the Irish traditional music association) and Clive Pownceby looks at the long-running **Radio Merseyside Folkscene** programme. There are also features on eighty years of morris dancing in Liverpool, and Mersey Morris Men's Morris Ring meeting in July, and on the folk scene in Liverpool.

In **Sam Bennett - the Film Star**, Elaine Bradtke describes an amazing film of the traditional Warwickshire fiddle player - a 'talkie' that pre-dates *The Jazz Singer*. The EFDSS is appealing for funds to help restore this unique film.

Ron Smedley draws on his experience as a dance teacher with the Royal Ballet School in the article **Teaching Billy Elliot**, to explain the use of folk, morris and rapper sword dance in the training of the young ballet dancers. (*See note below*)

The EFDSS has a new Chief Executive, **Katy Spicer**, and this issue has a feature article about her.

English Dance & Song magazine also includes regular features such as Festive Round Up; Lives Remembered, News; The Spring Dancing Season (list of dance events); and EFDSS Matters. The magazine's website <http://eds.efdss.org> gives

access to sound files of the Coppers' Come All Bold Britons, as well as to illustrations of the front cover and details of back issues.

The list of **folk festivals in 2008** published in the Winter issue has now been updated and is available on the EFDSS website, www.efdss.org Over 130 events throughout England and Wales.

English Dance & Song magazine has been published regularly since 1936, making it one of the world's longest-established folk magazines. Since 2005, the editor has been Derek Schofield - Bagman of Manley Morris

Extract from an EFDSS Press Release

Note: Photo of Bow Street Rappers On pages 30-31 of EDS, as part of the Teaching Billy Elliot article, there is a photograph of the Bow Street Rappers. This was originally printed in the Morris Ring Brochure but we have been unable to trace the original when asked but Alf, designer of English Dance & Song, scanned the photo from the brochure and managed to disguise the staple and crease marks, enhance the image, and the result is stunning! An electrifying image.

Charlie C

EFDSS SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC WORKSHOPS. The English Folk Dance and Song Society is publicising a series of Saturday workshops at Cecil Sharp House. Beginning on 19th April 2008 the sessions are geared toward beginners, although students of all levels of experience are welcome. Classes will occur on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 10.30-12.30 at Cecil Sharp House in Camden Town. Instruction will be offered in banjo, piano accordion, and voice. Each day will include both classes and lectures, with classes in the morning and lectures following. Please see the EFDSS web page for more information.



Dert 2008 The annual Dancing England Rapper Tournament took place in Liverpool over the weekend of 7/9 March. The hosts this year were Southport Swords.

The competition was as usual divided into two classes: the Premier and the Open. The Premier class was won by the Newcastle Kingsmen with a series of stunning performances. The power and precision of their dancing simply takes the breath away. They were followed into second place by Thrales and into third place by Black Swan. The Open was won by Gaorsach, a ladies side from Aberdeen. Second were Smutt, a new mixed side and third were Whip the Cat, last year's hosts.

The only Morris Ring side taking part were Hexham. Although they did not win any of the major prizes they were awarded the prize for the best side who dance rapper as a second tradition.

The next competition will be held over the weekend of 13/15 March 2009 in Newcastle. It will be hosted jointly by the Newcastle Kingsmen and Sallyport. It would be wonderful to see more Morris Ring sides entering. Those that have done so in the past have always enjoyed themselves. The organisers are always pleased to welcome entries from sides who dance rapper as a second tradition as well as from dedicated rapper sides. Those whose rapper is not of the highest standard will receive nothing but encouragement from the experts.

Full details of this year's results can be found on the web site: www.dert08.org.uk and many of the sides performing can be viewed on YouTube.

Brian Tasker



Sword Spectacular 2008 The 5th International Sword Spectacular Festival will take place in York over the weekend of 23rd - 26th May 2008. Currently there are 47 groups attending including 15 from Europe and the USA. All five traditional

longsword and rapper teams will be there: Flamborough, Goathland Plough Stots, Grenoside, Handsworth and High Spen. For more details visit: www.swordspec.org

Joint Morris Organisations. Unfortunately, due to a prior commitment, **Katy Spicer** of the EFDSS was unable to join the Officers of the Morris Ring when we met with our counterparts on Sunday 2nd March for one of our regular meetings. These meetings are building upon the success of our joint insurance, PRS venture and our now biannual gathering that have grown out of our united protest against the Licensing regulations in Trafalgar Square in 2003, followed by Newcastle 2005, the Brum Caper in 2007 and the planned Nottingham Revels (28th March 2009).

There are many challenges that face the future of Morris and there are a lot of advantages in the three Morris Organisations working closely together - along with the EFDSS - to use the economy of scale and promote our common interests.

We discussed:

- The Morris Futures project
- Nottingham Revels - 28th March 2009 (with hopefully 62 Morris sides including 12 sword teams).
- Public Relations - a joint approach.

- Insurance.
- Security at events - a reminder about the need for site security
- 2012 Olympics (see below)



Cultural Olympiad (1) I am aware that many of you have strong views about the whole issue of the 2012 Olympics but as it has been suggested that the event might provide a wonderful opportunity to raise the profile of the Morris we (the Morris Ring and our partners in the Joint Orgs.) need to be proactive.

To explain the Cultural Olympiad I will quote from their handbook:

"The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are about more than sport. Host cities must also stage the Cultural Olympiad - a series of events to showcase the city's arts and culture to the rest of the world. For the first time ever, London has won the right for culture to play a central role in the 2012 Games.

The Cultural Olympiad will be launched on the weekend 26 - 28 September 2008. It will be a four-year celebration on a scale never before seen in Olympic and Paralympic history, designed to enable the widest range of people across the UK to take part.

London 2012 is opening up its culture programme as never before by inviting not-for-profit organisations throughout London and the UK to submit ideas and projects for the Cultural Olympiad.

Selected projects will be able to use a new official badge, the London 2012 Inspire mark which is a first for any Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

Details will be released on 11 March about how cultural organisations can apply to take part. A team of Creative Programmers with people in every region of England and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland has been appointed to manage the process.

The London 2012 Inspire mark will form a key part of the Games lasting legacy and will be awarded to innovative, non-commercial projects and events inspired by the Games across sport, culture, education, environment and volunteering. Each cultural organisation's project will be evaluated and assessed, and can take place anytime between 25 August 2008 and 9 September 2012. Each project will be evaluated against three core values established last year for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad (see section 3). LOCOG and "Arts & Business" will be working together over the coming months to explain the opportunities offered by the new Inspire mark, as well as the guidelines for its use. A series of seminars and special meetings will be mounted in various parts of the UK.

The process of building up the programme will begin this year, with at least some

events planned for this autumn, and then developing in pace and scale as 2012 becomes closer. Once established London 2012's ambition is for the scheme to expand significantly over the four years towards 2012. Culture will be at the heart of the London 2012 Games and the Cultural Olympiad will provide an opportunity to try something new, to encourage community involvement, to think differently about the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and to showcase the UK's creativity to the rest of the world.

"The Olympics is the wedding of sport and art." Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937)

Until 1948 medals were awarded for sculpture, music, literature and art. The role of the arts in the Olympic movement has increasing importance as young people seek to achieve excellence and explore their role in the world through all creative fields."

Cultural Olympiad (2) We have just received the latest criteria for taking part in this UK-wide festival. I have copied it here so that you can appreciate the complexity of the task and appreciate that we stand more chance of success if we present a united application under the JMO umbrella.

"Be inspired. In a way that has never happened at any previous Olympic Games or Paralympic Games, the London 2012 culture programme has been opened up for all the communities of the UK to join in. It's part of a commitment to make London 2012 "Everyone's Games" and to put culture at the heart of the 2012 Games.

The Cultural Olympiad is a four-year cultural celebration across the UK running from September 2008 until the end of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will comprise a raft of local and regional projects and events including the large-scale "signature" projects which were part of the London 2012 bid, and the mandatory ceremonies. It launches over the weekend of 26-28 September. The launch will promote the start of four years of cultural celebrations and announce the "signature" creative projects - it is at this point that you will get detail of some of Cultural Olympiad programme content as well as a timeline. There will also be events to mark the Olympic Handover on the afternoon of August 24 and the Paralympic Handover on the afternoon of September 17. Everyone is encouraged to take part in or organise an event for one or all of these key dates.

The attached document has the most up to date information on the Cultural Olympiad, you will notice a number of significant changes since June 07's Culture Update document. There is also further information on the Cultural Olympiad in the South East on:

<http://www.seco.org.uk/themes/2012games/regionalstructure/ourcreativeprogrammer/culturalolympiad.html>

The Inspire mark. From 11 March 2008 projects wishing to be considered for inclusion in the Cultural Olympiad can submit an application for the Inspire mark through their regional Creative Programmer. For example in the South East this is Caterina Loriggio. Her role is to encourage and support the development of project and event ideas from the region which could be part of the Cultural Olympiad. She will recommend which projects should be

selected, based on regional/ local knowledge and expertise and on the London 2012 criteria. Anyone in the South East wanting to put in an application needs to talk to Caterina first but before contacting her they should read the information on what is required at www.london2012.com/beinspired.

This is an innovative new venture so Caterina will be starting with just a few carefully selected projects. Once the process has bedded down, the aim is to expand its remit more widely over the four year programme.

The process. What you're applying for? You're applying to be part of the Cultural Olympiad. If you're successful, your project will be awarded the non-commercial brand, the Inspire mark. This is a first for any Olympic or Paralympic Games and it's for non-commercial projects and events across culture, sport, education, environment, volunteering and business. The Inspire mark operates under licence, and there are very strict criteria for using it. If your project is selected, it will be included in Cultural Olympiad national publicity.

There is no funding associated with the Inspire mark and applicants are expected to have their full (or as good as) budget in place before submitting an application.

How projects will be selected? Please look at www.london2012.com/beinspired for more detailed information on the selection criteria. London 2012 is looking for inspirational ideas from all sorts of people across the UK – really special projects which are both new and innovative or, have taken bold new steps forward. The project needs to be primarily cultural and of course, be inspired by London 2012. The selection process will take a broad view of what 'culture' is or could be.

You'll see from the website that there are various criteria that your project has to meet in order for it to be considered for inclusion in the Cultural Olympiad. The Creative Programmers will assess all the applications they receive according to those criteria. These projects will be part of a national programme and London 2012 will need to make sure that there is a balance of projects across the country.

How long it will take? You will have a decision 7 weeks after submitting your application form but due to licensing processes and marketing sign off you are encouraged to apply at least 14 weeks ahead of your project start date. For example, if you are applying for an Inspire mark for a project to take place on the Cultural Olympiad launch weekend, you need to apply by June 13. Projects can not carry the Inspire mark until the launch weekend.

You'll find more information to help you decide whether to put your project forward for the Inspire mark and what to do next, at www.london2012.com/beinspired.

You will be sent more information shortly on the launch of the Cultural Olympiad 26-28 September 2008. Between times, please contact Caterina if you plan do organise something for either August 24th or September 17th. “

inspire



URGENT ASSISTANCE REQUIRED!

THE JIGS INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS A HOST.

As you may have seen in the Squire's report, or heard mention at the ARM, Dolphin MM have decided that ten years hosting the Jigs Instructional is enough. They have done sterling work over that time, organising the event, liaising with venue bookings, ordering the beer, assisting with the catering, waiting on table, cleaning the loos – in short all the things that make an event run smoothly and reduce the hassle for the instructors.

The Instructional is the only regular Morris Ring event offering tuition in a number of Cotswold traditions from the basics of the steps and evolutions, through to the performance of solo or double Jigs. It caters both for dancers with little experience and for those who have danced for some years in set dances and would like to express themselves more freely. For the last ten years it has been held at Sutton Bonington in Leicestershire and this year expanded the venues to accommodate parallel sessions and Showers, a luxury we could only previously dream about!

We need a club or individual to offer to host the event. If it could stay at Sutton Bonington that would have the advantage of facilities we know well, central location, and a pub that hasn't yet heard of closing time! However, it effectively limits the clubs who may feel inclined to offer their services to those in the Nottingham/Leicester area. So we are happy to consider anywhere within reason but, to keep things simple it would probably be best if it could stay in its new home for a few years at least.

The work the host would need to take on need not be to the same extent as that undertaken by Dolphin, welcome though that was. We really need somebody to take on contacts with venue organisers and sort out the local pub. We have an in-house catering team in place and other house-keeping chores can be undertaken by those attending the weekend. In other words, if you are interested in offering your services let's talk about what's required – don't assume a heavy workload.

If you think you might be interested please talk to me, or the Squire, or Bagman of The Morris Ring – the sooner the better! If no-one comes forward the future of this very important and popular event may be in jeopardy.

Geoff Jerram, Past Squire Geoff@Jerram.org.uk 01380860280

Jigs Instructional 2009. Sutton Bonington Village Hall provisionally booked for
16th -18th January 2009



Pipe and Tabor Players

1. Pipe and Tabor Beginners **Free** Workshop. Sunday afternoon, 13th April at the
2. Gala Club, Fairmile Gardens, Longford, Gloucester. No booking necessary

International Pipe and Tabor Festival 13th- 15th June

2008 Workshops, concerts, symposium, morris, medieval, street performance.

Westgate Street, Gloucester

3. Morris Musicians Workshop: Pipe and Tabor - *The Original Morris Instrument. Whether you are an experienced taborer, or thinking about learning, this is the workshop for you.* Sunday 26th October 2008 10am - 4pm at Pitchcombe Village Hall, Pitchcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire. £12 includes lunch. Tabor pipes will be on sale

To book contact Steve Rowley 01453 763181 steve@artension.com

Further details of all three can be found on: www.pipeandtabor.org



Nut Extract: This is from an article in "The Nut" – not the newspaper of a teachers union but the Rapper Magazine – submitted by Brian Tasker.

A Sword Dancer becomes Squire of the Morris Ring.

Ivor Allsop was the last sword dancing Squire but that was 30 years ago. He was not the first: Bill Cassie (Kingsmen) was Squire in 1956, Nibs Matthews (Gloucester and Jockey) was Squire in 1960 and Alan Brown (Kingsmen and Monkseaton) was Squire in 1966. There has been a long break which has been filled by Cotswold men with the exception of Richard Hankinson of Saddleworth who was elected in 1994.

Most of the members of the Morris Ring dance Cotswold but there are some clubs who dance only sword or North West Morris. A lot of Cotswold clubs dance one of the other traditions as a secondary interest. One of my objectives as Squire is to get those clubs who dance sword as a secondary interest to perform it more often and to get those who dance rapper to enter Dert.

The three Morris organisations work together very well at the highest level and the contacts between clubs are increasing. We all get the same pleasure from dancing the Morris in its various forms and we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by working together to promote our common interest.



GREAT YORKSHIRE

AlmostFAIL TO GET RING STATUS

A report by our Kent correspondent A. Caper

The hierarchy of Great Yorkshire Morris headed for the garden of England in the high hopes of clinching full membership of the Morris Ring at its Annual Meeting last Saturday. With an age difference of almost fifty years, Squire Andrew Lynch and, baldrick seamstress, John Page headed for Meopham (pron. Meppam) for an 11.30am meeting. Armed only with their kit, spare underwear (each), toothbrushes, and a multimap with a red circle on it, the pair was on the southbound M1 by 7am. By Nottingham they were starving and turned off the motorway to seek affordable, edible food from a butty van only to find no such establishments. After a fruitless half hour and a scenic circuit of Nottingham, bacon was tracked down on a layby on the opposite side of the M1 and their hunger was duly sated.

Travel continued well, even through the notorious road works near Luton, and the famous M25 car park.

They arrived in Kent in good time for the meeting and navigated to the red circle on the map only to find themselves in the middle of a housing estate. They subsequently discovered that Wadard had published the wrong postcode for the event! All seemed lost. However, bagmen's duties are quite varied and here was no exception. Bob Carter, who thought he was going to have an easy Saturday morning in his Ilkley showroom selling dubious double glazing, found himself, after a frantic telephone call from Kent, trawling the internet for details of the ARM location...

...Great Yorkshire became instantly known to all other attending sides as Andrew and John burst into the meeting in the middle of BFB's treasurer's report. He kindly announced his fellow dancers and GYM achieved instant fame until

everyone sloped back into that semi-slumber associated with this type of meeting.

The meeting droned on with Past Squires popping up like jack-in-the-boxes making interjections and quizzing Steve on his excessive expense claims. Only half a dozen stayed awake for the Area Reps reports, where, in fact, the Squire discovered who GYM's rep was!... and it wasn't who he thought it was! Then suddenly the meeting was over and everyone rushed to the bar. Then, suddenly, the Ring Bagman ran into the bar saying that there had been a terrible oversight on his part and the meeting needed to be reconvened because he had forgotten to put GYM's application on the agenda. Andrew and John had heard that Brian Pollard and a sizeable following were going to vote against GYM inclusion and so they locked them in the toilets and re-entered the hall to see everyone's hand in the air and Charlie announcing that GYM were duly accepted into the Morris Ring as Full Members. BFB announced that subs were going up and then suddenly the bar was full again.

At the feast, apologies were given to GYM from the Ring Squire; if no-one knew who GYM were before this meeting, they sure did after it. Andrew and John were given extra helpings of roast pork to help them forget their traumatic but exciting day. The post-feast dancing was only marred by the Ring Bagman continually asking GYM if they were full members and whether they should be present.

Here is a news cutting highlighting the Great Yorkshire Morris outing last weekend. Thought you might be interested...

Spotted by Andy Lynch GYM Squire

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CONCLUSION

How about this for really positive publicity:

Subject: BBC Radio 4 - Team Spirit programme - focus: Jockey Morrismen

Their programme will be on Radio 4 at 9.30am on Tuesday 25th March. It'll be the second programme in the 'Team Spirit' series. (The first one is about the London Air Ambulance Service and goes out on 11th March at the same time if you're interested). The producer wrote:

"The Morris episode sounds great and I'm very pleased with how it turned out. I hope you guys like it too. Please let all of the Jockey men know the date and do thank them all again for making myself and Claudia feel so welcome."

The programme will also be available to listen online after broadcast:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/teamspirit_20080325.shtml

Paul Reece commented on this, saying *"I believe this will be a really positive insight into the Morris that should be encouraged and hopefully will do us a lot of good and should be built upon. Together with Chalice's efforts and the Joint Morris Organisation's decision to go on the PR offensive I think these are interesting times which we need to capitalise on to further the cause."*

Lots of food for thought here - lots of news and information hidden within these pages. Please do share it with your side and let us have feedback. I know that I keep banging on that this is your Newsletter and I need your contributions - please do react.

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring

The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts
Fools and Animals Unconvention, Colton, Staffordshire

Hosted by Stafford Morris

17-19 October 2008

Open to all Fools, Beasts and Morris Characters from any team from the Ring, Open or Federation. Accommodation will be Indoor Camping in Colton Village Hall. There will be various Workshops over the weekend, and the tour on Saturday will probably be to Rugeley – further details to be announced. Cost £50 per person.

Please book your place by filling out and submitting this form a.s.a.p..

Applications for Saturday attendance only with or without Feast welcome -pro rata.

Queries by phone or e-mail to Robert Chisman

Application Form

Delegate: 1).....Fool/Beast/Other.....

2).....Fool/Beast/Other.....

Team:.....

Address for correspondence.....

Tel:Day:..... Eve:.....

e-mail.....

Any Special Dietary needs.....

Please tick (✓) All weekend; []

Sat only with Feast (POA) []

Sat only without Feast (POA) []

We anticipate having further applicants, if places available.

Return this form with cheque for the full amount (£50 pp) payable to "The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts" to

Robert Chisman, Fools and Beasts Convener,

Robert's Pharmacy, The Coombes, Polperro, Cornwall, PL14 2RG,

Tel: 01503 272250 (day) 01503 272437 (eve);

E-mail: triggertrout1@aol.com

Future Dates:

2008

29 th Feb- 2 nd March	ARM - Hosted By Wadard MM
30 th May ~ 1 st June	313 75 th Anniv. Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
4 th - 6 th July	314 Whitchurch MM 60 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting
11 th -13 th July	315 Mersey MM 80 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting
5 th - 7 th Sept.	316 Dartington MM 40 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

2009 *THE MORRIS RING'S 75th ANNIVERSARY*

6 th - 8 th March	ARM Hosted By Leicester Morrismen
28 th March	Nottingham Revels - Hosted by Open Morris in Nottingham
29 th May ~ 31 st May	317 Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
24 th - 26 th July	318 Exeter Morris Ring Meeting
21 st - 23 rd Aug	319 Men of Wight Ring Meeting
4 th - 9 th - September	320 Bathampton MM 75 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

2010

5 th - 7 th March (?)	ARM Hosted by TBA
4 th June ~ 6 th June	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting

2011

4 th - 6 th March (?)	ARM Hosted By TBA
3 rd June ~ 5 th June	Thaxted "Centenary" Morris Ring Meeting
TBA.....	Bristol 60 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

2012

3 rd - 5 th March (?)	ARM Hosted by TBA
25 th - 27 th May	Chipping Campden Cotswold Olympic Morris Ring Meeting
1 st June ~ 3 rd June	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
27 th -29 th July	Hartley 60 th Anniversary Morris Ring Meeting

Founded ~ the MORRIS RING ~ 1934 ~
