



SQUIRE: BRIAN TASKER
 6 ROOPERS, SPELDHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN3 0QL
 TEL: 01892 862301 E-mail: brian.tasker@totalise.co.uk

SQUIRE Elect: PETER HALFPENNEY
 35 - 37 MAIN STREET, NORTH ANSTON, SHEFFIELD, S25 4BD
 TEL: 01909 560059 E-mail: HPAServices@aol.com

BAGMAN: CHARLIE CORCORAN
 70, GREENGATE LANE, BIRSTALL, LEICESTER, LEICS LE4 3DL
 TEL: 01162 675654 E-mail: Bagman@TheMorrisRing.org
 CharlieCorcoran7@ntlworld.com

TREASURER: EDDIE WORRALL
 8 BANKSIDE AVENUE, UPPERMILL, SADDLEWORTH, OL3 6JU
 TEL: 01457 829349 E-mail: edworrall@googlemail.com

Newsletter No.66 Minutes of ARM 2010 April 2010

Congratulations to our Squire Elect: Peter Halfpenney (Harthill MM)

Minutes of the Annual Representatives' Meeting

held at 6 Roopers, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 6th March 2010

1. Apologies for absence received from: Charlie Corcoran, Bagman of the Morris Ring. Present: Brian Tasker, Squire of the Morris Ring
2. The meeting commenced at 1.15pm and was immediately adjourned to reconvene at Abbot's Bromley School for Girls, Staffordshire on 27th March 2010.

Draft Minutes of the Morris Ring Annual Representatives Meeting

Friday 26th to Sunday 28th March 2010

Hosted by Stafford Morris Men

1. Brian Tasker opened the meeting with an explanation that this was a continuation of the meeting opened and adjourned on 6th March 2010.

2. Attendees

(Sides arranged in Area Order)

E	Cambridge Morris Men	John Jenner	Graham Cox	
E	Mayflower Morris Men	Geoff Douglas	Ken Smith	
E	Peterborough Morris Men	Mike Stevens	Mark Swingler	
E	Rutland Morris Men	Mike Hornett	Dave Casewell	Phil Hield
E	Standon Morris Men	Derek Wisbey	Peter Owens	David ?
N	Harthill Morris Men	Neil Fretwell	Peter Halfpenney	
N	Wath-on-Dearne Morris Men	Tim Binns	Eric Presley	Dave Wighfield
		Paul Sattis		
NE	Benfieldside Morris and Sword Dancers	Brian Pollard		
NE	Darlington Mummers	Iain Davison		
NE	Durham Rams	Allan Smurthwaite		
NM	Anker Morris Men	Joe Oldaker		
NM	Bedford Morris Men	John Frearson		
NM	Chester City Morris Men	Dave Loughlin		

NM	Dolphin Morris Men	Andy Padmore	Mike Wilkinson	
NM	Leicester Morris Men	John Armstrong	Charlie Corcoran	
NM	Moulton Morris Men	Barry Care MBE		
NM	Ripley Morris Men	Gilbert Butler		
NM	Stafford Morris Men	Peter Copley	Andy Cooper	James Cooper
		Alan Dandy		
NM	Towersey Morris	Paul Dolman		
NM	Whitchurch Morris Men	Nigel Cox	Jack-Summers-	Glass
NM	Winster Morris Dancers	David Thompson		
NW	Adlington Morris Men	Duncan Broomhead		
NW	Mersey Morris Men	Dave Loughlin		
NW	Saddleworth Morris Men	Ron Yates	Eddie Worrall	
NW	Thelwall Morris Men	Andrew White	Sam Addison	
SE	Broadwood Sword & Morris Men	John Dewdney	Dan Dewdney	
SE	East Surrey Morris Men	Ray Fuller		
SE	Hartley Morris Men	Brian Tasker		
SE	King John's Morris Men	John Burke	Malcolm Cope	
SE	Long Man Morris Men	Alan Vaughan	Dave Rannie	
SE	Men of Wight Morris Men	Geoff Jerram		
SE	Ravensbourne Morris Men	David Hicks		
SE	Spring Grove Morris Men	Colin Messer		
SE	Thaxted Morris Men	Ian Anderson		
SE	Wadard Morris Men	Fred Hands		
SE	Westminster Morris Men	Mike Wilson-Jones		
SM	Grand Union Morris	Gary Willis	Andy Tracz	
SM	Kennet Morris Men	Peter De Courcy		
SM	Letchworth Morris Men	Andy Rouse	Roger Comley	
SM	Offley Morris Men	Jack Summers-	Glass	
SM	Uttoxeter Heart of Oak Morris Men	Mac McCoig		
SM	Woodside Morris Men	John Colbert		
SM	Yateley Morris Men	Ian Sutherland		
SW&W	Bourne River Morris Men	Dicken Keslake	Keith Budd	John Whelan
SW&W	Chalice Morris Men	Roy Busby	Steve Parker	
SW&W	Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men	Cliff Marchant		
SW&W	Dartington Morris Men	Tim Sercombe	Robin Springett	Ken Hudson
SW&W	Exeter Morris Men	Colin Anderson		
SW&W	Mendip Morris Men	Chris Blackman	Clive Du'Mont	
WM	Coventry Mummers	Ron Shuttleworth		
WM	Green Man's Morris and Sword Club	Brian Mills	Robert Bailes	
WM	Jockey Morris Men	Brian Eastwood	John Rose	Jonathan Cole
WM	Silurian Border Morris Men	Keith Francis		
WM	South Shropshire Morris Men	Richard Sinclair		
	Morris Ring Associates			
NM	Man Friday Morris Men	Charlie Corcoran		
WM	Orig.Welsh Border Morris	Fraser Simpson		

3. Apologies for Absence.

Past Officers of the Morris Ring:

Archives - Keeper of the Sword Archive	Ivor Allsop
Morris (Ring) Shop Keeper	Steve Adamson BFB
Overseas Bagman and Morris Ring Webmaster	John Maher

III. Morris Ring Officers: Squires

Bert Cleaver	Past Sq 1970
Ivor Allsop	Past Sq 1978
Ray King	Past Sq 1984
Mike Garland	Past Sq 1988
Mike Chandler	Past Sq 1990
Richard Hankinson	Past Sq 1994
Daniel Fox	Past Sq 1998
Gerald Willey	Past Sq 2000
Mike Garland	Past Bag 1977
Steve Adamson BFB	Past Tres 1994

Morris Ring Members

Colchester Morris Men	E
Harwich Morris Men	E
Stevenage Sword Dancers	E
Castleford Sword Dancers	N
Great Yorkshire Morris	N
Green Ginger Morris & Sword Team	N
Leeds Morris Men	N
Oakworth Village Morris Men	N
Claro Sword & Morris Men	NE
Richmond on Swale Morris Men	NE
Lichfield Morris Men [Inc. Armitage Mummings]	NM
Britannia Coconut Dancers	NW
Chapel-en-le-Frith Morris Men	NW
Horsich Prize Medal	NW
Leyland Morris Men	NW
Manchester Morris Men	NW
Southport Swords	NW
Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men	SE
Martlet Sword & Morris Men	SE
North Wood Morris Men	SE
Thames Valley MM	SE
Wantsum	SE
Greensleeves Morris Men	SM
Icknield Way Morris Men	SM
St Albans Morris Men	SM
Woodside MM	SM
Isca Morris Men	SW

Men of Sweyn's Ey	SW
Plymouth Morris Men	SW
Taunton Deane Morris Men	SW
Wessex Morris Men	SW
Coventry Morris Men	WM
Faithful City Morris Men	WM
The Traditional Ilmington Morris Men	WM
Lassington Oak Morris Men	WM
Shakespeare Morris Men	WM
Helmond Morris Men	Over

4. Minutes of the last ARM [Previously circulated]

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Ian Anderson (Thaxted)

Seconded: (Tim Sercombe (Dartington))

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were none.

6. Squire's Report. *(All reports were printed in Newsletter No 65 and to save paper they are not re-printed here.)*

There were no questions or points raised by the meeting.

7. Bagman's Report.

There were no questions or points raised by the meeting.

8. Treasurer's Report

A number of questions were raised

- i. Mike Wilson-Jones (Westminster MM) queried where Officers Expenses regarding Morris Ring Meetings: Officers travelling expenses appear in the General Accounts and Accommodation /domestic costs are met within the general costs of the meeting.
- ii. Robin Springett (Dartington MM) asked about the Morris Shop not being at some meetings of the Morris Ring. Tim Sercombe (Dartington) complained vigorously about this and spoke of 'contractual obligations'. Mac McCoig (Uttoxeter) pointed out that alternative arrangements were usually made as they had been for the ARM. Bob Cross (Chalice) was also supportive. Mike Hornett (Rutland) questioned the cost charged by the Morris Shop for bells as he had sourced cheaper ones. Richard Sinclair (South Shropshire)

- responded by explaining that as auditor of the accounts of both the Morris Ring accounts and the company who supply our bells he was able to confirm that the company were the only one (in the world) who made hand-pressed seemed bells which were then plated. 50% of Morris Shop sales were bells!
- iii. Mike Wilson-Jones (Westminster MM) asked how the Archive funds were 'ring-fenced' as some appeared in the General Account. Eddie explained that as part of the subs renewal process some sides contributed to the Archive and the payment arrived on one cheque and separated when cleared.
 - iv. Mike Wilson-Jones (Westminster MM) asked how the 75th Anniversary funds were 'ring-fenced' Eddie replied that this was the same as Archive Funds - and that is now a 75th Anniversary Fund account - as will show in next year's accounts. Brian Tasker (Squire) interjected to explain the nature and future of the fund - seeking voluntary subscriptions to add to the existing £500. Two-thirds of the sides were in favour but not all so not appropriate to use General funds. Now we await applications for grants to assist the establishment of new or junior sides. The exact process is still developing. Mike Wilson-Jones commented that £500 won't go far.
 - v. Mike Wilson-Jones (Westminster MM) asked why Morris Ring Officers Expenses were only paid for 'Ring Business' and not to enable them to visit sides - why don't we pay an allowance? Eddie explained that payments are made following procedures set out at Harthill and that sides did not MR subs to subsidise MR Officer's social lives. Mike Wilson-Jones said that he wanted officers out every weekend. Derek Wisbey (Standon) said that usually Host sides agreed to pay expenses. Bob Cross (Chalice) explained that he had been Squire when the changes were introduced - to avoid a large increase in subs and the consequential loss of members. He said that all sides know that if they want to invite one or more of the Officers then they as the hosts would be required to pay reasonable expenses. Mike Wilson-Jones pointed to the accounts and asked what we were amassing funds for to which responded by explaining that our income was required to cover our core activities and that much of the money Mike referred to were shop assets in the form of stock. The various Bank Accounts, including the Reserve Fund, showed the money available for "use"; how this was to be used was up to the Squire and membership and at every ARM suggestions are asked for. Brian Pollard (Benfieldside) suggested that some be transferred to the Youth Fund but Brian Tasker (Squire) said that he did not think that we should do this for reasons made clear earlier.

- vi. Nigel Cox (Whitchurch) agreed that the MR had "lots of money" but reminded the meeting that we needed reserves for potential disasters - such as the weather-hit Stafford meeting. He asked whether ARM costs might be subsidised. Eddie pointed out that the Instructional costs were already paid for.
- vii. Tim Sercombe (Dartington) suggested that funds be used to recruit and train a National Display Team that could travel the country to demonstrate excellence.
- viii. Richard Sinclair suggested that the Archive might benefit with a boost after several years a low activity.
- ix. Mac McCoig (Uttoxeter) volunteered to help develop a resources pack for schools. This was accepted as a sound idea but the EFDSS already have produced one.

The accounts were accepted.

Proposed: MacMcCoig (Uttoxeter)

Seconded: Nigel Cox (Whitchurch)

Vote of thanks to the Treasurer for clear well-set out accounts.

Proposed Mike Stevens (Peterborough)

Seconded: ?

9. Chair of Advisory Council's Report

- i. ? Asked about the proposed Publicity Officer. Brian Tasker explained that he thought that we had a volunteer but that our candidate has withdrawn due to pressure of work and that it is vital that we find someone with the appropriate skills. A voice from the floor suggested we pay someone but Barry care (Moulton) said that would cost us at least £10,000pa.
- ii. In response to the question How often has the AC met Paul Reece (Thaxted & Past Squire) replied twice - post the 2009 ARM and in November.

10. Elections (Part 1) Squire

The five candidates present withdrew (Will partridge of Headington Quarry absent due to family commitment).

Brian Tasker explained that two of the supporting statements originally circulated had been slightly over the 250 word limit and that when this was pointed-out the Bagman had amended them, by agreement with the authors, and re-distributed. The meeting was asked whether there were any objections to this and none were made.

Geoff Jerram & John Burke of Winchester were accepted by the meeting as Returning Officers with John Frearson (Bedford) acting as adjudicator.

There followed some discussion which it was agreed would not be minuted but two key points procedural points were raised:

- a. It was suggested that in future it might be helpful to sides whose representatives were not mandated in advance if candidates were to make a statement about their aims and an opportunity found for a Q&A session prior to the closing of the ballot. This could occur in advance on the Google Group but all candidates would need to be aware.*
- b. Candidate's ought to have the support of their own club.*

The ballot closed and the team withdrew to start the count.

11. Archival Reports.

- a. Chair of Archive Group & Archivist** Chris Metherell
 - i. Mike Wilson-Jones (Westminster) enquired about access to materials should the move to the Essex Record office take place. Chris reassured him that there would be no problems and that the facilities were excellent - and that he strongly recommended that our paper and video archive be moves a.s.a.p.. The only expense would be the hire of a van.
 - ii. Chris Blackman (Mendip) asked whether this was on a permanent or on loan basis. Chris Metherell reassured the meeting that it was on loan and that we would be free to move at any time - either the whole lot or selected items for display elsewhere. There would be no charge and was had open access.
 - iii. Steve Parker (Chalice) asked whether the materials will be included in the Essex already considerable on-line database. Chris reminded the meeting that the MR had its own database of paper, video and Sword and this was already available but while it will all be included in the on-line database it would be a mammoth job.
 - iv. Nigel Cox (Whitchurch) asked when the Squire would make a decision whether to act upon Chris' recommendation and from which budget the transport cost would be drawn. Brian Tasker stated that he had delayed deciding until the ARM and if there are no problems will now immediately move this forward. Ron Shuttleworth (Coventry Mummers) asked whether the move will be an in-house van.
 - v. Bob Cross (Chalice) congratulated Chris. He went on to query the opening paragraph of Ivor Allsop's (Barnsley Sword / Keeper of the Sword Archive) opening paragraph, who he acknowledged as a long-standing friend. Bob

contended that the Achieve is the jewel in our crown but wondered exactly whose property it is. Chris reassured him that it does belong to the Morris Ring but both the Sword and the Mumming archives are the personal property of the individuals but they have both bequeathed them to the Morris Ring.

- vi. Barry Care (Moulton) admitted to holding items 'on behalf of the Morris Ring', including the fiddle played by Jinky Wells; Ascot Bells and lots of original letters but they had been given to Barry on the understanding that he would take care of them. Such 'items on trust' do present a problem. E.g. John Wells' papers had been given to Ivor.
- vii. Ian Anderson (Thaxted) asked how much was given to individuals within the Archive group in the belief that they were the Morris Ring.
- viii. Mike Wilson-Jones (Westminster) reminded the meeting that he had suggested at the last ARM that we employ a part-time professional archivist. Chris M said that he was looking into the possibility of grant to make this possible but such applications were a very slow process.
- ix. Mac McCoig (Uttoxeter) proposed a vote of thanks to all who work on the archive. *There was general agreement.*
 - x. Chris M thanked everyone for their support and pointed out that he was looking to 'retire' as Morris Ring archivist, as it was a long way from Northumberland to Essex, but that he hoped to remain as Chair of the Archive Group. We are, therefore, looking for a new Paper and Film Archivist

After the meeting Geoff Douglas (Mayflower MM) offered to become the new paper and film archivist and Brian Tasker gratefully accepted his offer.

- b. **Photographic** Duncan Broomhead
- c. **Mumming.** Ron Shuttleworth
- d. **Sword** Ivor Allsop
- e. **New Dance Collator.** There was no report as for the past two years the position has been vacant. Barry Care (Moulton MM) said that he knew that the previous post holder had done quite a lot of work on this and enquired as to whether we ever received this. Sadly we had done not.
After the meeting Mike Wilkinson (Dolphin) offered to take on the role with regards to Cotswold-style dances was gratefully accepted by the Squire.

f. **Keeper of the Ring Scrapbook**

Joe Oldker (Anker MM) reminded the meeting that whatever electronic format was selected to store archive material it would need to be regularly up-graded to keep pace with changes in technology. Brian Tasker took the opportunity to remind the meeting that he was looking to step down at the end of 2010 and that the Squire was looking for replacement Logbook and Scrapbook keepers and whilst he, Brian, would prefer the Logbook to be maintained in longhand written format that this would be up to whoever volunteered to take on the task.

- g. **Sound Archive** Andy Padmore (Dolphin) was introduced to the meeting and explained that he was working on a quantity of both reel to reel and cassette recording to make them usable. Andy made a request for any recording 'out there' to be sent to him - recordings made at Morris Ring meetings; feasts; recordings of old Morris dancers singing, whatever. His details are in the MR Directory and on the MR website.

12. Publication Officers' Reports.

i. Editor Morris Circular: Harry Stevenson

Harry reminded the meeting how successful the 'Special' Anniversary edition had been – and said that extra copies were on sale for £5. Future editions will be on glossy paper but in black & white.

ii. Editor Morris Dancer: David Thomson

Brian Taker pointed out that the January 2009 edition of the Morris Dancer was available on the Morris Ring Website - many people seemed not to be aware despite notification via Newsletters. The Bagman reported that a small number were printed for archive purposes.

David Thomson reported that the 2010 Edition, on the North West tradition was on its way, and would also be on the website and not in hard copy but that, in his opinion; it ought to be printed as the Morris Ring could afford it. The next edition would focus on the 'remnants' of the Cotswold tradition from Sharp's Diaries to mark Thaxted MM's centenary.

As to the debate between electronic and hard copy the only comment was from Andy Padmore (Dolphin) who said that it makes more sense to publish electronically and those who wish to can print out or make a separate subscription.

Eddie Worrall (Treasurer) reminded the meeting that if anyone wanted to subscribe for personal printed copies of the various publications that he had the application forms.

11.i. Overseas Bagman

John Maher

In John's absence there were no comments or questions about this report.

ii. The Morris Ring Website: <http://www.themorrisring.org>

John Maher

In John's absence there were no comments or questions about this report.

iii. Google Groups

Brian Tasker told the meeting that amongst the replies to his questionnaire were comments that made it clear that there is a clear division between those who felt that the Morris Ring Google Group should only be used by officers of the MR to disseminate information and those who were content for it to be a venue for wider discussion. The MR Officers have considered this and the suggestion of having two separate group - an information Group and a 'chat' Group but have concluded that the current level of use does not warrant this. All can post to the Group but need to ensure that postings are of general interest and not personal messages to individuals.

As the new 'Owner' the MR Bagman promised to up-date addresses to ensure that all Bagmen had access to the site and requested that if people wished to share information that they deposit documents as files in the 'File' section rather than appending them as attachments - but these can be used up to 200k.

Mike Stephens (Peterborough MM) pointed out that the File section was a problem if files were carefully titled.

Clive DuMont (Mendip MM) suggested that Yahoo Groups were better as bigger capacity and has a poll facility.

Ron Shuttleworth (Coventry Mummers) added a plea for brevity!

12. Elections (Part 2)

Election of **Squire** 86 sides voted - 56% of membership entitled to vote

42 Postal votes - 49% of votes cast

There were no spoilt papers

Accumulated totals after transferring votes after elimination:

Peter Halfpenney	41
Fred Hands	6
Steve Parker	3
Will Partridge	8
Robin Springett	40
Harry Stevenson	18

Otherwise, they dance at interstate ales, paid bookings, wedding, wineries, pubs, and generally anywhere that's nice.

And of course we are the creators of "Bound for South Australia" as collected by Roy Dommett from us in 1983 and published in *Morris Matters!*"

- Proposed: Eddie Worrall (Saddleworth MM)
- Seconded: Barry Care (Moulton MM)

Accepted by all (Enthusiastic applause followed)

Tim Sercombe enquired as to whether Oolan Bator Outer Mongolia MM had applied for membership. Eddie (Treasurer) told the meeting that whilst they had been sent the form they had yet to reply - but that he had seen the video of their performance. Eddie assured the meeting that this was not a spoof!

13. Area Representatives' Reports.

- a. North West David Loughlin No report received
- b. Northern. Stuart Bater

Report included here as submitted in time for inclusion with the Agenda papers

The overall impression is one of stable team numbers, ageing, but, still very much enjoying the dance.

BARNSELY LONGSWORD DANCERS The team has a stable dancer as, they only dance Long sword including Haxby and Kirkby Malzard also Rapper, New Biggin. Festivals attended were Shepley Folk Festival, Barnsley Festival and the Green sleeves week end. For 2010, they have invited Chester MM to visit.

CASTLEFORD LONGSWORD DANCERS The sides numbers are the same as for the last few years, and one new member unfortunately he lives in London and visits Castleford monthly, however, he is in regular touch with our squire Brian Tasker, they dance the same dances as Castleford including Boosbeck, Riccall and Escrick. Attended the Thaxted Ring meeting and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, also, the Best of British festival, which was not so enjoyable. As with most sides, injuries are causing more problems, as we age we do not heal as quickly.

CHAPEL-en-le- FRITH MORRIS MEN As usual they hosted a very successful day of dance at the Buxton Festival, and the invites are out for 2010.

At practise there are usually enough men for two sides. To help with the organising of dance outs etc the bagman has introduced a "tick list" sheet, which helps to keep track of potential and actual numbers for an event, whilst this is not new to many teams, it could be of interest to teams who do not use such a system. They have attracted two new members, who are coming on well, and will be attending the Trigg Ring meeting this year.

EBOR MORRIS MEN The team are "keeping going" and have recruited one new member a muso, at practise they usually have enough people for two sides.

As always they have organised the wonderful York traditional week end of dance.

They enjoy two regular weekends per year one in the Lakes and one in Northumberland.

This year (2010) the side are going to the Prague dance festival at the end of July / start of August, no doubt the trip will feature in next year's report.

GREAT YORKSHIRE MORRIS "Still alive and going strong" what more can we wish for!

Attended the Helmond Ring meeting also the Uttoxeter feast. After this my notes are a "little hazy" however, they do mention North Yorkshire Easingham, Gloucester, Benfield and Persephone, perhaps Bob Carter the bagman will remind me when I see him at the ARM, until then, I can only apologise to Great Yorkshire Morris.

GRENOSIDE SWORD DANCERS I have concentrated on the forthcoming year (2010) for the majority of my report on Grenoside, due to the amount of interesting events due to take place. However, I shall start with the earlier part of the year, the annual Grenoside traipse, which takes place in January around the village, this time the team went around some of the "big houses" in the area, this was done as part of the celebrations to mark the centenary visit of Cecil Sharp to collect the Grenoside dance. For more information on the event, see their Centenary website. Also, the team released a DVD in January. They have recruited one new member. The side have a busy schedule for the rest of the year: - During the week leading up to June 18th - 20th, the local schools will be looking at "village life" and teaching the Grenoside Processional, which has not been performed for 20+ years.

On the week end of 18th - 20th Grenoside along with other local villages will be taking part in a celebration of village life, as part of the Grenoside Gala festivities, the local carols will be sung and lots of teams have been invited. On Friday the 27^h of August 2010 Grenoside will perform their dance in the same barn, and on the same stone flagged floor as Sharp collected the dance (to the day) 100 years earlier.

GRIMSBY MORRIS MEN The side is doing "not too bad" with a static team of eight to ten dancers at practise, no recruits over the past year and as with most teams the average age is creeping up. They are turning down events etc due to not having enough men; however they are hosting a Spring Bank Holiday of dance on the Sunday and Monday.

LINCOLN & MICKLEBARROW They are "limping along" as they have for the past few years, no new members. This year they will be attending the Trigg Ring meeting also, a visit to Germany as part of a long standing twinning; it is Lincoln & Micklebarrow's turn to visit.

HANDS WORTH TRADITIONAL SWORD DANCERS We have gained a further two members and both are doing well; the "junior" / young side have learnt the whole dance now and will be performing it out this year. In January we attended the Grenoside Traipse evening event together with the Newcastle Kings men.

On St. George's day we danced in Sheffield city centre with many of the local sides.

A highlight of the year was a visit to the Moulton MM festival in May, a wonderful village event which we have been to before, and a wonderful week end. In July we were asked at short notice if we could stand in at the Winster Wakes, the invited side had had some problems and had to cancel. Also in July we were asked to take part in the monthly "Folk Train" event, the folk train is a train journey from the centre of Sheffield to a village called Edale (at the start of the Pennine way), on the way out and back the group and supporters sing and play folk music, or, in the case of Rapper dancers, they dance.

When we arrive at Edale there is quite a rush to the local pub, where dancing singing and drinking is done until time for the return journey. The expressions of some of the commuters going to Manchester varies enormously, most certainly enjoy the event and some even clap when we get off, relief perhaps? The annual Sword Dance Union Tournament was hosted by Handsworth this year; the standard was as high as ever and included some of the youngest dancers we have ever seen. In November we took part in the Belper (South Derbyshire) Mystery Play, this was a first for us and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

December saw us dancing at the Hathersage (Derbyshire) Christmas lights switch on, which sounds fine, but, the spot where we were dancing was probably the darkest in the whole village, for this year we have been promised some extra lighting. On the last Sunday before Christmas we have a family gathering at a local pub which is a wonderful gathering, this year we put out our newest and youngest members of the team (in a shortened version). As someone noted the audience was one of the most knowledgeable, critical and forgiving (the dancers hoped).

We also performed this year's Mummings play, a version of St George and some Cotswold Morris. Boxing Day, our day of dance, what a wonderful day this always is we all look forward to this day. This year (2010) Boxing Day falls on the Sunday which means that we will be dancing on the Monday; this will give us a chance to watch other sides dance on the Sunday. On a sad note, we attended Trevor Stone's Funeral.

LORD CONYERS MORRIS MEN The usual mixture of commitment and or enthusiasm, sometimes they have two sets up, at other times they struggle to put out a side. The number of members is static, which is a useful, but, no new member in the last year. Darren made an interesting point "there are lots of new teams springing up, but, they are not joining the existing teams," which poses the question why not. ?

Conyers also dance long sword, and are members of the Sword Dance Union.

HARTHILL MORRIS MEN We have one new member, who is learning the dances well. We started the New Year with our annual visit to the wonderful Ripley Ale Feast at the end of January. This was followed in March with a first for us, we attended the 35th Saddleworth Feast, and a truly memorable / wonderful time was had by all. Also in March we attended the Joint Morris Bash in Nottingham, it was wonderful to see and dance with such a variety of

other sides demonstrating both traditional dance traditions and "evolved" dances which indicates that the Morris is a balanced and thriving entity.

In early May we joined Richmond on Swale for their annual Dale Ale week end, which involves touring and dancing in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Late May saw us on a trip to the sea side for a day of dance in Cleethorpes on the East coast July is the time of our annual well dressing; we were joined by the ladies of the Three Shires Clog team for dancing in front of the local well. Also in July, as always we joined in the Harthill carnival, parading through the village (stopping for refreshment half way round) then onto the huge field and our stall.

Another wonderful day of dance in September was the Buxton festival, thanks to Chapel - en - le - Frith MM for hosting the dancing, we look forward to attending another knees up in 2010.

The usual reprobates were present at the Whiby Folk week to dance as the Whitby scratch Morris team. The last major dance out of the season was a visit to York to attend the York week end of traditional dance. The very last dance out of 2009 was on Boxing Day.

GREEN OAK MORRIS MEN One new dancer in his thirties, dance out every Wednesday in the summer. The most enjoyable tour of the year was in the village of Heckleton, in spite of or because of torrential rain they had to dance in the local pub, (what a shame). They are organising a week end of dance for July 2010. Some members will be attending the Castleford Ring meeting in 2010, they have been dancing longsword based on Kirkby Malzard for two years.

LEEDS MORRIS MEN One new member who is learning fast and will make a good dancer. Practise is in a mixed sixth form college and occasional visits to primary school. Keeping the spirit alive. Regular associates are Leicester MM and two honorary members from Handsworth Sword. The team will be undertaking a tour in Brughes at Easter; also at Spring bank they will be running their annual Yorkshire Dales tour with four coaches. Dances include Oddington and Wheatley although this tradition has not been danced for some time.

OAKWORTH VILLAGE MORRIS MEN No new members and struggling with nine members. They are organising a week end of dance for June 25th - 27th 2010.

For the first fifteen years the side danced Lichfield as a single tradition, and have adapted some of the four man dances from Lichfield. They attended the Thaxted Ring meeting and had a most enjoyable time.

SPEN VALLEY LONGSWORD DANCERS No new members. Boxing Day is their main day of dance. They are regular visitors to the Cleckheaton Folk. Festival, also, the Moor & Coast festival at Whitby. The team were in attendance at Trevor Stone's funeral. Their dances include North Skelton and Helmsley.

WATH upon DEARNE MORRIS MEN The team are "doing marvellous " lots of members, twenty three plus on the books five of who are under thirty, twelve plus at practises. The

team organise two feasts per year, a members only at the end of April and another feast in September where other teams are invited.

Annual outing include the Pretty villages in South Yorkshire and the Wath festival.

They are organising a Ring meeting for 2011, be there. Boxing Day (the day after Xmas. even if this is a Sunday, as will happen this year) is their day of dance including a mummers play, alternating St. George with the Derby Tup. Over the year the team has danced out with amongst others White Rose MM, Grenoside Sword Dancers and Sheffield City MM. Rapper was tried, but, it "fizzled out." Once a month they hold a music and singing event.

WHITE ROSE MORRIS MEN The team is in "good heart and enjoying it."

An average turn out for practise is two sides with tops of nineteen men. There are two new members. The age range from two fourteen year olds, four in their early twenties to well, the usual. Their scion Dog Rose are now in their thirties (my how time flies, I remember them when they were young whipper snappers leaping all over the place). They are regular visitors to the Shepley festival and have attended the Whittlesea Straw Bear meeting annually for thirty plus years. Also in 2009 they attended the Buxton festival; also, at the Westminster gathering where a Bollywood film was being made, they were invited and took part in the film. Traditions danced include Fieldtown, Bampton, and Heddington; Oddington is being "rested." "Cotswold is alive, well, and living in Huddersfield."

THE SQUIRES QUESTIONNAIRE Approximately half the sides said that they had answered the Squires questionnaire.

THE OLYMPICS There is very little interest in the idea, only two sides thought that it was a good idea and would generate interest and or be useful exposure. One of the two suggested that it could be followed up on a local level.

Stuart N Bater

- c. North East. Brian Pollard.
- d. West Midlands. Pete Simpson
- e. North Midlands. David Thompson
- f. Eastern. Graham Cox
- g. South West and Wales. Robin Springett
- h. South Midlands. Roger Comley South Midlands Area Rep & Fool to the MR Squire
- I. South East. Fred Hands

Ian Davison (Dartington MM) stated that the South West and Wales area was far too big and suggested that it be split into two: South West and Wales. Brian Tasker likened Wales to London - both areas having very few sides. *There were comments from the floor referring to the Overseas bagman.*

14. Report & Discussion Items:

a. Report on Consultation with membership of the Morris Ring (Brian Tasker)

92 replies from Member sides and 11 from associates but closing date extended to 31st March 2010 so expecting a few more. Full report will follow in due course but so far three areas of principle concern are emerging and these will be considered with the Squire Elect and the other Officers of the MR:

- i. Membership of the Advisory Council
- ii. Demand for different formats for meetings of the MR to increase participation
- iii. Area Reps - they have an important role but membership not clear what that is.
(See draft paper at end of minutes)

b. Report on the Youth Fund (Brian Tasker)

The Squire told the meeting that this had been dealt with in his report but would take the opportunity to remind everyone that the Fund was up and running and that MR Officers would welcome applications for eligible your sides / organisations for financial assistance. Full details were available on the MR website.

c. Report on the progress being made with the 2012 Olympics (Paul Reece)

Latest news was that the Cultural Olympiad that had hereinto been a rather vague concept is now trying to unite the different regions and the traditions therein into a united festival (in the form of an Open Weekend) on the last weekend in July. This is already established in the South West - with the *Dinosaurs not Allowed* youth project - and they want to use this pattern nationwide. There are plans for a twelve week festival in 2012 from May until the opening ceremony and there are clear indications that the organisers want to encourage the Morris to get involved across the country. This is the best platform we will ever have. Whilst we are approaching this from a JMO / EFDSS united front it is really up to individual sides who want to get involved with local schools and youth groups to seize the opportunity. Next month the Artistic Directors for the Opening and Closing ceremonies will be appointed, as well as those for the Paralympics - plus their supporting committees. We need to be active and set out to impress.



Tim Sercombe asked whether Lord Coe's comment about having 5,000 Morris dancers at the opening ceremony was just a joke but Paul replied that I showed that whilst he had never acknowledged any correspondence that Paul's campaign message had got through to Lord Coe - that Morris dance existed. We now need crack young teams to produce something special.

Some dissent was expressed about the title *Dinosaurs not Allowed* but Paul explained that this title came from the youngsters themselves and mirrored their location on the Jurassic coast and was not meant to be ageist.

Paul reminded everyone that there is lots of information and potential help out there in the regions and that he is willing and able to provide further information about the various Regional Cultural Programmers, web links, existing projects, and the like.

Brian Tasker told the meeting that the vast majority of sides who had completed his questionnaire were in favour of our getting involved with this project so we will to continue to actively support it.

c. Recruitment leaflet / PowerPoint

The Bagman said that Brian's questionnaire has shown that there was some interest in the MR producing a simple generic recruitment leaflet that sides could customise for their own use. He then apologised for the lack of the promised display of example Recruitment Leaflets but too few had been received from sides to make it worthwhile. He had also produced a simple PowerPoint to show some examples but there was no screen. This also prevented him showing the Aunt Sally PowerPoint that he had put together as a basis for sides and individuals who might be asked to do a talk about the Morris. Both the draft leaflet and PowerPoint are available from the Bagman for anyone who would be willing to view them and make suggestions as to how to improve them. The results of this collaboration will be presented to the Squire and the Advisory Council later in the year for further consideration.

John (Stafford) said that we needed a mixture of resources - display banners, simple handouts, PowerPoint presentations, the lot. Variety was the key to success.

Nigel Cox (Whitchurch) said that 18 months previously Whitchurch had been looking for the MR display boards - one set having been produced for each area (initially in the custody of the Area Rep) with a large set currently in the custody of Thaxted. Nigel had contacted the Squire with details of a display board that Whitchurch had produced for their own use with the offer that further copies might be made for use by other sides. Whilst the boards had been well received by many they had heard nothing from Brian. The boards were currently in the library (at the ARM venue) for all to examine.

It became clear that many of the original boards are missing. Eddie asked everyone to look behind their sofas and to let one or other of the MR Officers know if they found one. We need to know what we have before we can decide upon repair or replacement.

The Bagman told the meeting of a Morris Shop Special Offer: copies of The Morris Tradition Booklet - so popular with the crowds - at a seriously discounted price whilst stocks last.

d. Performance Standards (Arising from Google Group Discussion)

There were no comments about or discussion arising from this agenda item.

15. Future Programme.

Brian explained that he was really keen to have a variety of styles of MR meetings as not everyone likes the traditional Feast etc. and the range would be clear in 2011 when price per man would range from £30 to £100 to suit all tastes.

The date of the ARMs was discussed, over recent years fixed at the first weekend in March to assist people with forward planning, whether it was best in or out of school holidays, with schools being a favourite venue. It was clear that this varied with the type of school used.

The Bagman asked sides to be responsible when applying to attend meetings as in recent years the viability of several meetings has been put at risk when sides pulled out at short notice. The meetings are costed per man and host sides do their best to keep the costs to a minimum. This careful planning is thrown to the wind if they are then let down. Eddie explained that there is now a standard budget procedure and that once this is agreed by the MR Treasurer should something totally unexpected happen - as happened at Stafford a couple of years ago - the MR would underwrite the losses.

Joe Oldaker (Anker MM) raised the issue of members of host sides having to pay full price - especially as they were bound to miss some of the event because they were working. Brian said that many sides subsidise their members but Joe said that was OK if your team have sufficient funds. Eddie explained that each case had to be considered on a case by case basis.

a. Morris Ring Meetings - 2011 and beyond.

2010

30 th April - 2 nd May	322	Helmond MM's 75 Anniversary
4 th June - 6 th June	323	Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
3 rd -5 th September	324	Trigg Morris Ring Meeting
10 th -12 th Sept	325	Castleford Longsword Morris Ring Meeting

2011

4 th - 6 th March (TBC)		ARM Hosted By Mendip Morris Men (TBC)
20 th - 22 nd May	326	Moulton Morris Ring Meeting (40 th Anniversary of revamped Moulton Festival)
3 rd June ~ 5 th June	327	Thaxted "Centenary" Morris Ring Meeting
24 th - 26 th June	329	Wath-on-Deerne Morris Ring Meeting
8 th - 10 th July	328	Greensleeves 'Chipperfield' Morris Ring Meeting

Rutland are keen to hold a small meeting in 2011 but are not yet able to confirm.

2012

3 rd ~ 5 th March (?)		ARM Hosted by Ripley MM (TBC)
25 th - 27 th May Meeting		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

Letchworth would like to celebrate their centenary in 2012 with a small Ring meeting, but again they are not yet able to confirm.

2013

? March		ARM Hosted by TBA
31 st May - 02 nd June		Thaxted Morris Ring Meeting
?		Dolphin Morris Men

b. Instructionals

The Bagman made his annual appeal for hosts / suggestions for instructionals. These can be morning / day / weekend events. Brian's questionnaire has made it clear that we can provide instructors in almost every tradition almost anywhere in the country. In fact there are more sides offering instructors than those saying that they might need some instruction but the offer is there.

22 nd - 24 th October 2010	Fools and Animals Weekend
21 st - 23 rd January 2011	Jigs Instructional Sutton Bonington
25 th - 27 th Feb	Musicians Weekend hosted by Moulton MM

16. Date and Venue of Next Meeting. Mendip MM have offered to host the ARM in 2011 - date to be confirmed

17. A.O.B.

John Jenner questioned Queen's Delight - Full version, Bucknell as a massed dance as there was confusion over length. Brian explained that he expected six crossings - normal music for the first four and two slows.

The Meeting of the Morris Ring Advisory Council will follow the ARM.



Suggested Terms of Reference for Area Reps:

1. There are 9 Areas and 9 Area Reps
2. Area Reps are elected to sit on the Advisory Council (AR).
3. Area Reps are elected at an ARM for a 3 year period. Three Area Reps are elected each year.
4. At AC meetings, Area Reps represent the region for which they were elected. They are to present a report at the ARM AC meeting.
5. Area Reps should establish contact with sides in their area, and set up a data base for contacts.
6. Area Reps should highlight success and problems in their area to Ring Officers.
7. Area Reps are to encourage best practice in recruiting, local events and media

Charlie

Bagman of the Morris Ring

Founded ~ the MORRIS RING ~ 1934 ~