

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



THE COLLECTED LOGS, MINUTES OF THE AGMs, and TEAM MEMBERSHIP.

Notes on Format etc.

Format: The first Logs for 1988 – 91 inclusive were compiled by Bob Collier. Subsequently Joe Oldaker took on the job of Keeper of the Records, and continued until the side wound up in 2017.

Earlier records are hand-written, and have been transcribed. Later typed and computer-generated text has been formatted for consistency. Where it was felt extra detail was useful, but not recorded in the original, it has been added [*thus*]. Some details of the day usually emerged during that year's AGM, and are recorded in the Minutes.

Up to 1992 the Log consisted of a simple summary page of Tour, Dances and Team Members, with a note of total dances performed.

This format continued throughout, but in 1993 and 1994 the summary page was followed by additional short notes about each spot, with a record of those dances performed at each stand separated out.

From 1995 the notes for each spot were expanded further where appropriate to capture the "feel" of the day in more detail.

Early in the history, it was not recorded in the Log with any consistency whether a dance was Stick, Handkerchief or Handclapping. Where the information has been inserted later, the [*italic*] form has been used, as with other additions.

This volume also includes:

A list of Team Members as they changed over the years.

The records are formatted for consistency throughout, though occasional variations may have slipped through the editing.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



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1990 3rd Tour in Derbyshire at Haddon Hall

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



1st [Annual] Tour - 14th May 1988

Shropshire

[Home Base The Sun Inn, Clun]

The Tradition: Oddington

The Dances: Constant Billy
Gallant Hussar
Highland Mary
Old Frog Dance
Trunko
Young Collins

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Chris Barber	Forest of Dean MM	Squire
Bob Collier	Stroud Morris Dancers	
Mike Hitchener	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Simon Rollinson	Whitchurch MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	Foreman

The Itinerary:

9-45am	The Square, Clun
11-00am	Three Tuns Brewery, Bishops Castle
1-00pm	Black Lion, Bishops Castle
3-00pm	The Square, Church Stretton
3-45pm	Long Mynd [<i>Cardingmill Valley</i>] Church Stretton
5-30pm	The Square, Clun
9-00pm	The Sun Inn, Clun

7 Stands, 41 Dances

15th May 1988 The Sun Inn, Clun

AGM

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of AGM Sunday 15th May 1988

Venue: The Courtyard, the Sun Inn, Clun

Present: Chris Barber (Squire); Dave Wintle (Foreman); Tony Ashley; Martyn Thomas; Joe Oldaker; Mike Hitchener; Bob Collier; Simon Rollinson.

This being the first meeting there were no Minutes to be read. Also due to the nature of the side there were no apologies.

The meeting was opened by Chris who thanked everyone for coming to the weekend and making it such an outstanding success. It had gone far better than he had imagined it could do and hoped everyone had enjoyed it as much as he had. He thanked Dave for teaching and leading the side through the Oddington tradition and Mike for his excellent music. A brief résumé was given of how the side was conceived by Chris and Dave in a local after an unenthusiastic tour by their own side and how it was organised initially in conjunction with Tony. Several locations were looked at and Chris said that without apologies he had chosen the Sun at Clun. He thanked everyone once again for their support and suggested a new Squire now be appointed.

Appointment of Squire

A long pregnant pause followed an invitation for volunteers for next year's Squire. Chris tried to encourage people by saying that it was certainly not an onerous task and did not require a lot of time. A short discussion followed and Tony finally volunteered with everybody's full agreement.

Dance Foreman

Tony asked Bob to be foreman the following year and he agreed to accept.

Other Business

1. The subject of a scrapbook was discussed and Martyn was asked to take on this task as he had brought the camera!
2. Membership was discussed in brief. The number in the side was fixed at eight and it was agreed that if a current member was unable to attend the next weekend then it was his responsibility to find a replacement. Also, once a member had left the side he would be unable to rejoin (unless a place became available and he was invited).
3. It was emphasised that membership of the side should not infringe on a man's normal commitments in his own side.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



2nd Annual Tour - 13th May 1989

Shropshire

[Home Base The Sun Inn, Clun]

The Tradition: Fieldtown [*Sydney Harbour Style*]

The Dances: Bobby & Joan
Dearest Dicky
Glorisher
Old Marlborough **
Old Molly Oxford
Trunkles *

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Squire
Chris Barber	Forest of Dean MM	
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Bob Collier	Sherborne MM	Foreman
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

10-00am	The Square, Clun
11-00am	Wood's Brewery & The Plough, Wistanstow
2-30 pm	Ludlow [Various Locations]
8-00	The Square, Clun
9-00pm	The Sun Inn, Clun

8 Stands, 42 Dances

[* 'Trunkles' was substituted for 'Old Woman Tossed Up' by Bob at practice.
**'Old Marlborough' was danced once, at the first stand, but not again, as several men objected to the 'effete' style of the nods and crooked elbows. There is no record of a substitute being used.]

13th May 1989

The Sun Inn, Clun

AGM

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of AGM Saturday 13th May 1989

Venue: The Sun Inn, Clun

Present: Tony Ashley (Squire), Bob Collier (Foreman), Chris Barber, Pete Barker, Dave Brown, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Dave Wintle

Minutes of Previous AGM: These were taken as read and accepted without comment.

Apologies for absence: None.

Thanks: Tony Ashley as outgoing Squire thanked Bob Collier for teaching the Fieldtown dances and leading the side through the day's dancing. He also thanked Dave Brown for his excellent music, and Dave Wintle for playing the music for the Trunkles dance that Bob substituted for Old Woman Tossed Up at the "eleventh hour".

The side thanked Tony for his excellent Squireship, and it was unanimously agreed that the decision to return to Clun for the 2nd Annual Tour had been a good one, and that our second visit had, in its own way, been as successful as the first.

Appointment of Squire and Foreman: The "offices" of Squire and foreman were offered to Joe Oldaker and Martyn Thomas. After these two had discussed their preferences, it was decided that Joe would become Squire for the 1990 Tour and Martyn would be Foreman.

Any Other Business: There was a long discussion concerning the intrusion into the evening of the One Day Wonders Tour by the Forest of Dean Morris Men's Squire's Tour, the details of which shall be passed over. The One Day Wonders were unanimous in their opinion that what had been intended as a joke had, in the event, been considerably less than amusing.

It was agreed that Bob Collier would become Keeper of the Scrapbook

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



3rd Annual Tour - 12th May 1990

Derbyshire

[Home Base: The George Hotel, Tideswell]

The Tradition:: Longborough

The Dances:
British Grenadiers
Country Gardens
Cuckoo's Nest
London Pride
Maid of the Mill
Travel by Steam
Young Collins

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Chris Barber	Forest of Dean MM	
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Bob Collier	Sherborne MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Squire
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Foreman
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

10-00am	Pot Market, Tideswell
11-00am	Ashford-in-the-Water
12-15pm	Bakewell
3-30 pm	Haddon Hall
5-30pm	Pot Market, Tideswell
9-00pm	The George Hotel, Tideswell

7 Stands, 38 Dances

13th May 1990 The George Hotel, Tideswell **AGM**

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of AGM 12th May 1990

Venue: The George Hotel, Tideswell

Present: Joe Oldaker (Squire), Martyn Thomas (Foreman), Tony Ashley, Chris Barber, Pete Barker, Dave Brown, Bob Collier, Dave Wintle

Minutes of the previous AGM : These were taken as read and accepted without comment (since Bob Collier forgot to bring them!)

Apologies for Absence None

Thanks: Joe Oldaker, as outgoing Squire, proposed a vote of thanks to Martyn Thomas for teaching the Longborough dances and leading the side in the dancing. The side thanked Joe for organising the tour, and recognised in particular that he had had a hard act to follow after Clun. Dave Brown was thanked for his excellent music. Appointment of Squire and Foreman: By the process of elimination, it fell to Pete Barker and Dave Brown to decide who would do which, and it eventuated that Dave Brown would be Squire and Pete Barker Foreman.

Any Other Business: Dave Wintle expressed the opinion that choosing the Longborough tradition had not been a good idea.

There was some discussion as to whether the red and white striped jackets and straw boaters worn by two members of the side ought to become part of the side's costume, to be worn between stands. Joe Oldaker suggested that if we all wore them we would look like "refugees from Henley Regatta". It was finally decided they would be optional.

It was decided to increase the numbers of large bells on the side's bell-pads from 2 to 4 on each pad.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



4th Annual Tour - 11th May 1991

Oxfordshire/Gloucestershire

[Home Base: The Red Horse, Shipton-under-Wychwood]

The Tradition: Adderbury

<u>The Dances:</u>	Beaux of London City	<i>[Stick]</i>
	Black Joke	
	Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl	<i>[Stick]</i>
	Postman's Knock	<i>[Stick]</i>
	Shepherds Hey	<i>[Hand-clapping]</i>
	Sweet Jenny Jones	<i>[Stick]</i>

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Chris Barber	Forest of Dean MM	
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	Foreman
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician & Squire
Bob Collier	Sherborne MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

9-30am	Village Green, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire
10-15	Leafield, Oxfordshire
11-00am	Kings Head, Bledington, Gloucestershire
12-30pm	Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire
2-45pm	Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire
4-00pm	Icomb, Gloucestershire
5-30pm	Village Green, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire
9-00pm	The Red Horse, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire

9 Stands, 55 Dances

12th May 1991 Red Horse Inn

AGM

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

The stand in Bourton-in-the-Water included the presence of A Japanese film crew. They were making a programme on "Fools", and had got in touch with Chris Barber who was fool with Forest of Dean MM., and he had arranged for the meeting (without warning the Squire in advance). Chris switched to a motley fool outfit for the benefit of the film crew, who proved intrepid in their work, coming into the set during the Processional up figure. The film's producer paid a fee of £100. The programme was broadcast on Japanese TV eventually.

On the way to Icomb the team went past the Fosse Manor Hotel, where a wedding was in progress. Tony had stayed there with friends, so it seemed a likely refreshment spot with a possible donation from the wedding party. The team hung about for some considerable time waiting for the wedding to emerge, and finally had to abandon the attempt as the schedule was then behind and the Squire was not happy. There was only a single spectator in Icomb, but it was not clear whether the rest had given up or never appeared.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. Sunday 12th, May 1991

Venue: The Red Horse, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire,

Present: Dave Brown, (Squire) Pete Barker (Foreman)

Tony Ashley, Joe Oldaker, Chris Barber, Martyn Thomas, Bob Collier, Dave Wintle

Minutes of previous A.G.M.,.

These had been shown to all members prior to this A.G.M. and were accepted without comment.

Thanks:

The customary thanks were proposed and given to the Squire and Foreman, being Dave Brown and Pete Barker, and the consensus of opinion was that the 4th Annual Tour had been the best yet.

Squire's Report

Dave Brown, as outgoing Squire, said that he had been very happy with the weekend and felt that it had been very successful; however he had not been happy with certain aspects of its organisation, in particular, the arrangement Chris had made with a Japanese TV crew to film the side at Bourton-on-the-Water. Dave also said that he had been uncomfortable with the demands of leading the Tour during the course of the day as well as having organised it, and, in retrospect, would have preferred a clearer definition of the Squire's duties before the event.

The side assured Dave that he had done an excellent job, and that, nonetheless, they did appreciate his point of view.

Appointment of Squire and Foreman

Chris Barber volunteered himself as Foreman for the 1992 Tour and was elected unopposed. Tony proposed Dave Wintle as Squire, and, Dave having accepted the proposal, he was duly elected.

Any Other Business

Chris proposed that a set of mugs be made for the side, each with the One Day Wonders logo and the individual member's name.

Tony expressed the opinion that the posters that had been made for us for the 4th Tour were "brilliant", and it was decided that they would be adopted as the side's "official" poster for future Tours.

Tony, also, asked for clarification of the side's policy with regard to the replacement of any member who may drop out of the side. It was agreed that, although, in theory, it was the responsibility of the member dropping out to find his own replacement, it would probably eventuate that the remaining members would be better motivated to assume that responsibility

Pete told the side that his wife was interested in making handkerchiefs for the dancers, each one to have the One Day Wonders logo in one corner.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



There was some discussion as to whether or not the dancers' shoes should be standardised, and it was agreed that, as long as the shoes were black, individual preference with regard to style ought to be allowed.

Pete reminded the side that he had sufficient material to make another striped jacket, should any member wish to do so.

Tony expressed the view that the side ought to have its own sticks, now that the Tours were including stick dances. Dave Brown volunteered to be Stickman and said he would have a set of sticks ready for next year's Tour.

The question was asked as to whether or not the One Day Wonders would consider dancing Border Morris on any future Tour. It was accepted that, for the primary - although not exclusive - reasons that the GDW kit was unmistakably Cotswold and the members of the side were drawn from clubs performing the Cotswold Morris, it would be unlikely that the side would dance anything other than the Cotswold traditions.

The date for the 5th. One Day Wonders Annual Tour was set as being Saturday 9th. May 1992

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



5th Annual Tour - 9th May 1992

The Severn Valley

[Home Base: Bull's Head Inn, Chelmarsh] *

The Tradition: Stanton Harcourt

<u>The Dances:</u>	Bean Planting	Stick
	Greensleeves	Stick
	The Nightingale	Stick
	Constant Billy	Hand-clapping
	Princess Royal	Hand-clapping
	Nutting Girl	Handkerchief

In this tradition Two Handkerchiefs are used throughout, in all dances, including Stick dances.

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Chris Barber	Forest of Dean MM	Foreman
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Pete de Courcy	Kennet MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	Squire

The Itinerary:

The Bull's Head, Chelmarsh
The Museum, Bewdley
The Mug House, Bewdley
The Harbour Inn, Arley
Stanmore Hall Motor Museum
The Castle, Bridgnorth
The Bull's Head Inn, Chelmarsh

9 Stands, 40 Dances ?? The Official Record is Incomplete.

*Accommodation was in an empty new-build house next door to the pub – connected with the Landlord.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log: For some reason there is no copy of a Log in the team records, though the mention of 40 dances performed indicates it must have existed in some form originally. The following is a reconstruction from memory and what information there is.

The tour had been organised by the Squire to use the Severn Valley Railway, but the Railway company lost the Squire's letter, and had re-jigged the timetable for a Diesel weekend, so the Tour followed the line up-river, but by road.

The Bull's Head, Chelmarsh

First spot here. During the dancing it began to rain.

The Museum, Bewdley

Heavy rain continued, so eventually the team danced in the Museum entrance. In the circumstances an audience was not really to be expected.

The Mug House, Bewdley

The team proceeded to the next venue on foot. The Mug House is an old pub on the riverside at Bewdley - the bar is raised up several steps above the wharf, which regularly floods when the Severn rises, sometimes even inundating the pub bar. It was still raining hard, so the performance went forward inside. A local folk musician who turned up to watch, joined in a brief music session in the bar. On leaving, the team were distracted briefly by a ladies' rowing eight passing on the river, and thoroughly wet.

The Harbour Inn, Arley

The rain had temporarily ceased here, so the team was able to dance in the road in front of the Inn, though the surface was wet and coated in a layer of grit. The result was terminal damage to handkerchiefs, as these had to be used together with sticks in the tradition, and were repeatedly trapped by the end of the stick on the road, producing small holes. Lunch was taken here. In the course of lunchtime it began to rain again, this time in apocalyptic style, so walkers rushing in were drenched to the skin in spite of protective clothing. Once it eased, the team moved on.

Stanmore Hall Motor Museum

The weather seemed to have finally cleared, and the team danced on the terrace, with a minimal audience.

The Castle, Bridgnorth

A spot in the Castle grounds, high above the town on one side and with the Railway Station on the other. Again no audience to speak of. The team then returned to Chelmarsh to rest before Dinner.

The Bull's Head, Chelmarsh, Après Morris

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



After Dinner and dancing the team settled in the bar for the usual singing and music. A number of visitors joined them, including an old friend, Garth Reynolds, an ex-Anker man, who lives nearby at Highley. The entertainment included music played by the man who had joined us at the Mug House in the morning, on a melodeon bought in America and fettled to play Cajun style – it was LOUD.

10th May 1992 Home Base Chelmarsh **AGM**

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 10th May 1992

Venue: The Bull's Head Inn, Chelmarsh.

Present: David Wintle ,(Squire) Tony Ashley

Chris Barber (Foreman), Foreman ,Pete Barker , Martyn Thomas, Pete de Courcy, Joe Oldaker Dave Brown

The meeting convened at 9.45 a.m.

Minutes of the previous A.G.M. These were read and accepted.

Matters Arising: The provision of an "official" set of sticks , and of team hankies, was still pending. For the latter, Pete said the new "sun" logo would be used. A supply of posters to the design done for the previous year was also pending, and Dave Brown said these could be organised if there was appropriate liaison in good time.

Dave Wintle then went on to thank Dave Brown for his work as musician again , and also thanked Chris for doing the Foreman's job with dedication. The organisation of the day had as usual depended on mutual administrative effort.
The 1993 Tour

Tony agreed to act as Foreman, and Martyn accepted the Squireship. The date was fixed for May 15th 1993.

The Squire extended a welcome officially to Pete de Courcy, as a new member of the side.

Any Other Business

Chris again raised the suggestion of a set of mugs for the side, and it was agreed this would be a good idea.

Pete Barker suggested the possibility of a team' sweat shirt, but this met with general disfavour.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



6th Annual Tour - 15th May 1993

North Oxfordshire/ South Warwickshire

[Home Base: The Sun Inn, & The Bell Inn, Hook Norton]

The Tradition: Wheatley

<u>The Dances:</u>	Room for the Cuckoo	RC
	Rigs of Mallow	RM
	Shepherd's Hey	SH
	Trunkles	TR
	Bobbing a Joe	BJ
	O Dear What can the Matter be	OD
	Wheatley Processional	

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Foreman
Chris Barber	Forest of Dean MM	
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Pete de Courcy	Kennet MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Squire
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

9-30am	The Sun Inn, Hook Norton
10-15am	Chipping Norton
11-20am	The Green, Deddington
12-10pm	Adderbury
2-15pm	Banbury (The Shelter)
3-15pm	Wroxton
4-10pm	Upton House
8-45pm	The Bell Inn, Hook Norton

9 Stands, 47 Dances.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

9-30	The Sun Inn, Hook Norton	
Dances:	RC; BJ; TR; RM	4
10-15	Chipping Norton	
Dances:	RC; RM; SH; TR; BJ; OD	6
Refreshment was taken at "The Bunch of Grapes"		
11-20	Deddington: The Forecourt of the "Unicorn"	
Dances:	OD; BJ; TR; SH; RM; RC	7
The team then danced the Processional into the "Unicorn", where there was free beer on the house.		
12-10	Adderbury	
Dances:	TR; RM; SH; OD; BJ; RC	6
Lunch was taken at "The Bell", as recommended by Adderbury Morris.		
2-15	Banbury Shelter in the Pedestrian Area	
Dances:	RC; RM; SH; TR; BJ; OD	6
3-15	Wroxton "The North Arms"	
Refreshment was taken before dancing on the lawn. A brief spot.		
Dances:	TR; OD	2
	Wroxton The Village Duckpond	
Dances:	SH; RM; RC	3
4-10	Upton House	
National Trust – entrance fee £2/head (Garden only)		
Danced on the terrace overlooking the lawn, followed by tea and biscuits in the Tea Room.		
Dances:	RC; RM; SH; TR; BJ; OD	6
6-00	Return to The Sun Inn, Hook Norton	
7-15	Dinner at the "Bell Inn", Hook Norton	
The Sun Inn was fully booked with a Rugby Club dinner, so the Squire had booked the "Bell", a short distance up the road.		
8-45	The Bell Inn, Hook Norton	
'Dancing after Dinner' On the pavement in front of the pub.		
Dances:	RC; RM; SH; TR; BJ; OD; Processional into the pub	7

Music and singing in the bar until 00-30hrs.

17th May 1993 Bar of the Sun Inn

AGM

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 16th May 1993

Venue: The Sun Inn, Hook Norton.

Present: Martyn Thomas (Squire), Tony Ashley (Foreman), Chris Barber, Dave Brown, Pete Barker, Peter de Courcy, Joe Oldaker, Dave Wintle.

Minutes of previous AGM. It was proposed by Tony, seconded by Chris, that these be taken as read. Passed nem. con.

Matters arising: Nothing had been done about a set of team mugs, and it was agreed that the proposition should be carried forward again.

Business: Martyn as Squire addressed the meeting. He thanked Tony for his work as Foreman, not least for his choice of a "restful" tradition. The rest of the team interposed their comments at this point, agreeing that the rests in the tradition, and time for pause in the dances, had made the day less strenuous. Martyn went on to thank Dave Brown for his music, and Joe and Chris for driving during the day. He also thanked Joe for keeping the scrapbook up to date. Though the run up to the day had been fraught, with all the arrangements having to be totally revised at the last minute through no fault of the Squire, it had been a successful tour, and the weather had fortunately been good. Thanks were due to the whole team for the days exertions. A special vote of thanks was proposed to Mrs Jackie Barker and Mrs James for producing the set of team hankies, embellished with the team logo of a smiling sun. It was agreed that thank-you cards signed by the team should be dispatched.

Finance: The collection for the day totalled £42-28, of which £16-00 covered entrance to Upton House. As there was a surplus in the kitty it was agreed to combine this with the remaining amount in the collection and subsidise the costs of the weekend to a total of £40-00.

Arrangements for the 7th Annual Tour in 1994.

Joe volunteered to act as Foreman. Pete de Courcy volunteered to act as Squire.

The dates were fixed as 13th - 15th May 1994.

Kit: It was thought that the rosettes were beginning to look a little "tired", and should be considered for renewal. Pete de Courcy said he would look into this while the kit was in his keeping.

There being no further business Martyn declared the meeting closed.

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7th Annual Tour - 14th May 1994

Oxfordshire

[Home Base: The Red Horse, Shipton-under-Wychwood]

The Tradition: Ilmington

<u>The Dances:</u>	Bumpus o Stretton	Handkerchief	BOS
	Shepherd's Hey	Stick	SH
	Cuckoo's Nest	Handclapping	CN
	Constant Billy	Stick (corners)	CB
	Black Joke	Stick	BJ
	Maid of the Mill	Linked Handkerchiefs	MM
Nelson's Praise	Foreman's Jig		JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	Squire **
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Foreman
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	

**The Squire—designate, Pete de Courcy was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. [*The Tour was arranged at short notice (see Log note), and went ahead with 7 men only.*]

The Itinerary:

10-15am	The Green, Shipton-under-Wychwood
11-15am	The Green, Ascott under Wychwood
12-10pm	The Duke of Marlborough A34 near Woodstock
1-25pm	The Star Inn, Woodstock
2-50pm	The Museum, Woodstock
3-30pm	Blenheim Palace, The Great Courtyard

Witney

The Green, Shipton under Wychwood

7 Stands Owing to heavy rain there was no performance in Witney, nor in Shipton under Wychwood before Dinner.

37 Dances; Foreman's Jig 6 times. The Foreman danced the Jig at all but the first spot so as to give the rest of the team a break as it was a man short.

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Owing to torrential rain, the day's final performance was presented indoors, the tables in the lounge bar being moved.

Dances: SH;BOS; CN; JIG; BJ; MM; CB

6 + 1

Total: 7 Stands 37 Dances 6 Jigs

Après Morris: Music and Singing followed, the company being augmented by friends from Forest of Dean, Lassington Oak and Northampton. During the evening the Foreman, deputising for the Squire for obvious reasons, made a presentation to Mrs Jackie Barker on behalf of the team, expressing their thanks for the considerable amount of organization she had done in arranging the weekend. This had been necessary owing to the circumstances of the Squire-designate's last-minute withdrawal, this year's tour having been fixed only 7 days in advance. [*This was the main reason the Tour had visited the Red Horse for a second time, as it was a known quantity*] The Squire was also publicly thanked for his share of the work involved, undertaken not as a substitute Squire, but as a member of the team. The entertainment wound down finally after midnight.

15th May 1994 The Lounge bar, The Red Horse

AGM

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Minutes of A.G.M. 15th May 1994

Venue: The Red Horse, Shipton under Wychwood.

The meeting opened at 10-15a.m.

Present: Pete Barker, (Squire), Joe Oldaker(Foreman), Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Dave Brown, Martyn Thomas, Dave Wintle.

Apologies: Peter de Courcy

Minutes of previous AGM: These had been circulated and were taken as read.

Matters arising: The subject of rosettes was deferred to A.O.B.

Business: Pete Barker thanked the members of the team for making the effort to turn up and fulfil the weekend's commitment, which had been more strenuous with a man short. However, he felt the day had been a success on the whole, notwithstanding the circumstances. He went on to thank Dave Brown for the music, triplets notwithstanding (as these had been the subject of comment from Dave during practice and while out). Joe was also thanked for his work as Foreman, though Pete was not quite sure how a relaxed-looking tradition like Ilmington could be so exhausting. Steve was officially welcomed to the side, with the hope that he had enjoyed his first weekend; he assured the meeting that he had.

Going on to comment on the commitment to attend a weekend, Pete urged all men to notify the Squire of the day, well in advance if possible, should there be a problem, and arrange a substitute - the ground rules of the side required this. On the specific question of the current weekend, several problems had come together. Pete de Courcy's organisation of the tour and accommodation had broken down, largely because it had been a late-in-the-day attempt on accommodation, with no scope for solving the problems of costing which arose in the event. Pete's personal problem of serious illness in the family would have made it difficult, if not actually impossible for him to attend. The third issue was more controversial, in that Pete was determined to go to the Cup Final if his team got through, rather than turn out with the side, which put a serious question mark over his commitment to the One Day Wonders idea.

There followed a lively discussion. Dave Wintle re-emphasized the basic principle that if a man drops out, he is out. The question of mitigating circumstances was raised, especially as to whether any excuse for non-attendance was acceptable, or a substitute not proposed due to a last-minute defection. It was pointed out that the original AGM agreed that a lapsed member could be invited to re-join, which allowed some flexibility. On that basis Tony proposed that Peter de Courcy be given the option of returning for the following year, with the proviso that he should not take on an organizing role. Dave Brown dissented, feeling that Peter had let the team down badly. Martyn re-emphasized the point that 8 committed men was the whole idea, the extra dancer not being an optional extra. It was agreed that Peter should be asked if he wished to continue in 1995, provided that he could offer the required commitment

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Tony then proposed a vote of thanks to Pete Barker and to Mrs Jackie Barker for their sterling work in rescuing the year's tour from disaster, by organizing venues and accommodation at two weeks' notice. Special mention was made of the "Squire's" hours of work on the telephone, though Pete's contribution had also been considerable. Tony's proposal was generally acclaimed. Pete thanked the team, saying that he and Jackie both felt that the One Day Wonders should "not be allowed to die". It was officially noted that Pete had fulfilled his turn as Squire with this year's tour.

Officers for 1995: The rotation system having come round to the beginning, Tony agreed to be Squire for 1995, and Dave Wintle took on the job of Foreman.

Dates for 1995 : May 12th – 14th was fixed.

Finance; The collection for the day had come to £60-43 and 1 Dollar.

Any other business; The matter of new Rosettes was raised, the previous year's plan not having borne fruit, as the absent Squire-designate had promised to look into it. Dave Wintle thought something more durable would be a good idea, and Steve suggested a better quality ribbon would look better and last longer.

The Kitty: As beer intakes vary, the matter of the beer kitty was discussed. It was generally agreed that the system worked and should be left as it was.

Dance spots: Though the weekend log included a detailed record of the day's achievements, it was decided to record the totals in the minutes: 7 spots danced, 37 dances performed, 6 performances of the Foreman's jig.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

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8th Annual Tour - 13th May 1995

Warwickshire:

[Home Base: The Cottage of Content, Barton]*

The Tradition: Withington

<u>The Dances:</u>	Cuckoo's Nest	CN
	Gallant Hussar	GH
	London Pride	LP
	Saturday Night	SN
	Trunkles	T
	Young Colin	YC

No Stick dances in the repertoire.

Foreman's Jig	Lumps of Plum Pudding	JIG
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The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Squire
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Dave Brown	Forest of Dean MM	Musician
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Packington MM & Handsworth Sword	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	Foreman

Itinerary:

9-30am	The Cottage of Content, Barton
10-00am	The Bull's Head, Bidford
11-00am	Bancroft Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon
12-00 noon	Bancroft Gardens
1-00pm	The Navigation Inn, Wootton Wawen
2-25pm	The Case is Altered, nr Hatton
3-15	Doll's Museum, Warwick
4-00pm	The Orangery, Charlecote Park
8-30pm	The Cottage of Content, Barton

9 Stands 47 Dances Foreman's Jig : 3 times

*Accommodation was at Mrs Jones' cottage at the end of the village by the river.

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Log

9-30 The Cottage of Content, Barton

Dances: LP; CN; T 3

10-00 The Bull's Head, Bidford on Avon

Dances: SN; YC; CN; T; LP 5

The landlord opened early to serve refreshment to the dancers after performance.

11-00 Bancroft Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon

The dance spot was the usual area opposite the junction of Waterside and Sheep Street.

Dances: SN; CN; YC; T; LP; JIG 5 + 1

The team then repaired to the Dirty Duck [Black Swan] for a rest and refreshment on the front terrace before a second display.

12-00 Bancroft Gardens

Dances: SN; GH; CN; T; YC; JIG; LP 6 + 1

1-00 The Navigation Inn, Wootton Wawen

Here the team performed on the car park, before lunch

Dances: GH; CN; T; LP 4

An excellent lunch and good beer were then consumed. Time then being a little short, the team moved on to the next venue.

2-25 The Case is Altered, near Hatton

Very good beer from the barrels in the bar fuelled the team for a performance. An interesting old pub.

Dances: CN; YC; T; LP 4

3-15 The Doll's Museum, Warwick

Hereburgh Morris and Coventry Mummers were also performing in Warwick in or near the Market Square, where the Mayor was making a presentation. Previous consultation with Coventry Mummers had not given any indication of a possible clash, but the Doll's Museum had already been pin-pointed by the Squire as a likely venue.

The first dance was halted during the first figure in order to allow the undisturbed passage of the Black Knight on his horse, returning from the Market Square to the Castle.

Dances: SN; CN; YC; JIG; T 4 + 1

A projected rendezvous for drinks and conversation with Coventry Mummers in the Tilted Wig unfortunately had to be forgone as time was again pressing.

4-00 Charlecote Park, The Orangery Lawn

The team was given free entrance to the house and grounds as part of the arrangements. Owing to the nature of the surface of the gravel sweep, the Squire had negotiated a dance spot in front of the Orangery, on the lawn. Just at the start of the

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performance the sky clouded over and a few small spots of rain were felt. This however quickly cleared as the performance proceeded.

Dances: CN; T; YC; LP 4

After dancing the team had Tea and Cakes on the terrace in front of the Orangery – these refreshments were ‘on the house’. After tea there was an opportunity for a brief tour of the house and the interesting outbuildings, including the Brewhouse. The deer, Jacob’s sheep and swans in the park were also viewed. The party then returned to Barton for a rest and clean-up before dinner.

7-00 The Cottage of Content, Barton

The men assembled in the restaurant for dinner, and tackled a very substantial meal – so substantial in fact as to over-face some. There was also some incentive not to over-eat, as it had been agreed that the after-dinner performance of the repertoire should be given to a 21st Birthday party group, who were waiting to follow the team into the restaurant, there being insufficient room for both parties at once. While the staff were clearing and re-setting the tables the team would perform, which meant dancing more or less immediately after eating. The performance went forward without disaster, being in fact one of the most successful of the day in terms of dance and audience appreciation. The team then retired to the bar to recuperate and enjoy some entertainment.

8-30 ‘Dancing after Dinner’ The Cottage of Content

Dances: SN; CN; YC; GH; T; LP 6

The Foreman’s Jig was not performed by mutual agreement of Foreman and Musician.

Après Morris Entertainment

The usual music and singing did not go forward on the traditional pattern, as every Saturday evening the pub is given over to Hilda on the electric organ, abetted by local, amplified, singers. It was clear that many of the patrons came expecting their usual entertainment, and a couple of songs from the team, before Hilda was ready to begin her session, did give rise to slight unease in some quarters. Hilda herself suggested turn and turn about, which worked for some time, until it seemed best to go with the flow of the evening as a somewhat exotic addition to the company, with an occasional song or tune when called upon. The team’s presence seemed to act as a catalyst for some performers, and an extremely entertaining time was had by all. The previous week’s V.E. Day celebrations had been a high spot for the Saturday crowd, hard to follow, but the consensus was that this evening had matched it.

The party wound down about 11-30, though a number of patrons stayed later to talk to the team and among themselves. At about midnight the team began to draw on the rest of their repertoire of songs and tunes, several dances from other traditions were performed in the bar, until at the landlady’s expressed wish to retire to bed the last note was played and the team retired to their lodgings at 2-05am.

14th May 1995 The Garden of Mrs Jones’ Cottage **AGM**

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Minutes of AGM 14th MAY 1995

Venue: On the back lawn of Mrs Jones' Cottage at Barton

Present: Tony Ashley (Squire), Pete Barker, Steve Bignell, Dave Broun, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle (Foreman).

Tony in the chair. There was no formal agenda.

Tony opened the meeting by welcoming Geoff to the team, with the hope that he had enjoyed the experience. Geoff was enthusiastic. Tony went on to thank Dave Wintle as Foreman for teaching an intriguing tradition, which had been enjoyable, even after 10-30 p.m. on Friday had arrived with a hint of panic. It had obviously taken a lot of hard work to sort it out. Tony also thanked Dave Brown, saying considerable recognition was due to him for the work he had put into the music.

Dave Brown commented that he thought it made it easier if there was detailed input from the Foreman in advance of the weekend, preferably a session where Foreman and Musician could go over the repertoire to iron out any hiccups. Dave Wintle expressed his thanks to the team for their efforts during the weekend- it was good to see the research fleshed out into a danced tradition. Pete said that in view of the intricacies of the tradition, and Dave's current theological studies, a little divine inspiration may have been forthcoming to work it all out. Dave Brown commented that for the spectator, it was an attractive tradition to watch, the movement of steps and figures being a little different. Tony asked if men could use the notes of the tradition for their own teaching, and Dave said they were very welcome. A complete set was deposited in the team's papers.

On the tour, Tony said he felt it had been a pleasant day, and the arrangements had run smoothly. Pete thanked Tony for organising it, with enthusiastic endorsement from the rest of the team. Tony also thanked the men for their work at making the displays a success (on the whole), and Pete commented that he thought the dancing came together more quickly than on some previous occasions. Tony judged the best spots to have been in Warwick, and the after-dinner spot at the Cottage of Content. Dave Wintle pointed out that there was a tendency for dancers to push it too hard at the first spot. Dave Brown pointed out that the quality of the audience tended to influence the performance. Tony took the point, but said the Tour needs to be in pretty places, for our own enjoyment, not for money-raising purposes particularly. The whole idea of the team for him was to be a battery-recharging exercise. Geoff agreed strongly; this had been a major attraction to him in joining the team.

Tony then raised the matter of renewal of items of kit, as some of the original stuff was showing its age. This year new rosettes had been obtained, and these had received general acceptance from the team. Braces: Red braces had been the original idea, but the ones in use had been given to the team at the beginning at no cost and so were welcomed at the time. Replacements now seemed to be in order. Geoff

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appealed for longer ones. Tony proposed that red braces be sought out, and Geoff agreed to duly seek, having a special interest in the fit.

Bell Pads: These also needed re-vamping, and Tony proposed a complete new set, for which he was prepared to do a sample pattern. It was agreed that a batch of materials would be required to ensure a uniform result. On the making up, it was tentatively suggested that Pete's mother-in-law might be prepared to help, as she had with the team's handkerchiefs. Dave Brown was against too heavy a style of bell-pad, but Steve said he felt they did need to be heavier and more "bell-y" than the current set. It was decided that Tony would produce a prototype.

Geoff promised to appear in white socks next year, though no comment had been made on the colour of this year's pair. [Black]

Tony then brought up the subject of the team's taking out Associate Membership of the Morris Ring, the first year's subscription being paid out of funds, though in the future it might be necessary for team members to pay when required, pending reimbursement. The membership was proposed largely for insurance purposes, though it had not been arranged for earlier in the life of the One Day Wonders as initially there had been a sense of the team being against involvement with the formalities of Morris. Joe pointed out that local authorities are increasingly requiring performers to have Public Liability Insurance, so it was really a necessity. It was agreed that Tony should arrange a subscription accordingly.

Dave Brown asked that it should be clear in the team record that he had not researched the music, but Dave Wintle had done the work; a chance remark of Dave Blick's (Forest of Dean MM) had perhaps given rise to a false impression. Dave Wintle pointed out that as no specific tunes were recorded for Withington, he had selected likely tunes from elsewhere. The music was on floppy disk and Dave Brown would supply copies if requested.

Elections: After a brief resume of the past incumbents, Steve said he felt ready to cope with the job of Squire, and was duly declared elected. In rotation Martyn was due to step in as Foreman again, and agreed to do so. On next year's weekend, Steve asked if travelling farther afield was a problem as he tentatively thought York would be a pleasant walking tour. It was felt that with sufficient notice men could plan to be there in time.

Martin proposed a tradition more sedate than his previous offering, Longborough. The general consensus was that there should be no repeats of tradition until the options ran out: it was also felt that traditions which were those danced principally by team members' own sides should be avoided where possible. Joe, Tony and David Wintle all pointed out that they had made use of material from sources other than the Black

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Book when working on a tradition for the team; the Ring Archive had been a very useful source.

Apropos of next year's weekend, Tony pointed- out that the accommodation costs were an important consideration for Steve to bear in mind - the debacle of the previous year had been partly due to the late discovery that charges were prohibitive in the places proposed.

The dates for next year's weekend were agreed as 10th-12th MAY 1996.

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9th Annual Tour - 11th May 1996

North Norfolk: "A Day at the Seaside" Tour
[Home Base: The Lord Nelson, Burnham Thorpe]

The Tradition: Sherborne

<u>Dances:</u>	Young Collins	YC
	Constant Billy	CB
	Trunkles	TR
	Cuckoo's Nest	CN
	Orange in Bloom	OB
	Monk's March	MM
	Jockey to the Fair	JIG

Note on the dances: The foreman's choice of dances for the weekend originally did not include 'Orange in Bloom', the intention being to use the 'Sherborne Jig' as the sixth dance. During the Friday evening's practice session it became clear that the complexity of the 'Sherborne Jig' made it impossible to achieve an acceptable version in the time available. It was then agreed to substitute 'Orange in Bloom'.

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Rob Ashton	Grimsby MM	Musician
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	Squire
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Foreman
Geoff Thompson	Packington MM & Handsworth Sword	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

9-40	The Lord Nelson, Burnham Thorpe
10-35	The Sea Wall, Hunstanton
11-30	The Golden Lion, Hunstanton
12-10	The Gin Trap, Ringstead
1-00	The Lifeboat, Thornham
2-40	The Hoste Arms Inn, Burnham Market
3-40	The Quay, Blakeney
4-30	Common Place, Little Walsingham
8-30	The Lord Nelson, Burnham Thorpe

*Accommodation was in 'Belhaven', offering B&B.

9 Stands 48 Dances Foreman's Jig 7 times

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Log:

9-40 The Lord Nelson, Burnham Thorpe

The spot was preceded by a run-through for music and dancer of the foreman's Jig, not intended as part of the official display.

Dances: CN; TR; YC; OB; CB 5

As the performance took place in the lane in front of the inn, a handful of passing motorists paused to watch.

10-35 Hunstanton: The Sea Wall, near the Bandstand

Dances: TR; CN; MM; CB; OB; JIG; YC 6 + 1

Though fine, a chilly wind discouraged the admittedly sparse crowd from standing for long. The musician also suffered. After dancing the team retired to the Golden Lion for refreshment.

11-20 The Golden Lion, Hunstanton - on the forecourt

The Squire had intended a short spot of 3 dances to fulfil the advertised commitment, as things were still quiet, but after the dancing started a small audience assembled, so the programme was extended.

Dances: TR; CN; CB; MM; YC 5

12-10 The Gin Trap, Ringstead

On arrival the team were able to spend a little time inspecting the pub's 'sporting hardware', as well as the remarkable choice of ales on tap. A walking party arrived just afterwards, so when they had all settled in the garden the team performed for an enthusiastic audience. Only the pub's pig was unmoved (being a model pig). The team reluctantly had to abandon a very pleasant and sociable spot and move on.

1-00 The Lifeboat Inn, Thornham

Lunch was taken here. As the Inn frontage was not really ideal for dancing, permission was obtained to move the picnic tables in the inside yard, and the dances presented there. After the display, it turned out that an elderly gentleman at the table had been a parishioner of Fr. Ken Loveless, [Former Morris Ring Squire], in Hackney, and had known him and his interest in the Morris well. The gentleman kindly commented favourably on the dancing.

Dances: YC; JIG; CN; TR; CB; MM 5 + 1

2-40 The Hoste Arms Inn, Burnham Market

A relaxed spot on the Inn's forecourt, with a little audience participation encouraged by Tony during the Foreman's Jig. Was he trying to wind him up?

Dances: OB; YC; TR; JIG; CB 4 + 1

3-40 Blakeney - on the Quay

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A truly "seaside" location, on the edge of the Quay, where shuffles back were risky, and the galley occasionally poised over the abyss. The audience enjoyed the performance, the seabirds (all real) remained unmoved, on the mudflat.

Dances: YC; TR; OB; JIG; MM; CN; CB 6 + 1

4-30 Little Walsingham - Common Place

The approach to Little Walsingham was complicated by roads being closed and police directing traffic where they wanted it to go. Eventually the party got parked and walked to the dance spot. The fuss was due to the arrival of a pilgrimage at the Abbey – the procession was entering the gate as the team arrived. The result was a very considerable crowd to watch the performance – the crowd included a heavy presence in clerical dress. On repairing to the Bull Inn for a pint before dancing, the men found a similar presence inside. At least one priestly figure looked sharply at his large gin and then said "Thank God" when he realised the bells were those worn by the One Day Wonders. On Common Place the dancing went well, as is usual when the team is keyed-up by a good-sized and appreciative audience. Many seemed to feel the dancing was in some way an appropriate addition to the occasion.

Dances: CB; TR; OB; JIG; YC; CN 5 + 1

The Squire's original plan included tea in Little Walsingham, so the team went in search of this. Unfortunately the plan had not reckoned on the pilgrimage, and it transpired that those pilgrims not in the Bull Inn were patronising the cafés and tea-rooms, all of which were packed to the doors. It was decided to abandon the attempt and make a run for Wells-next-the-Sea in hope of better luck. Unfortunately the relatively late hour (after 5 o'clock) meant the available tea-shops were closing, so a short foray down the main street drew a blank. The only answer was to return to 'Belhaven' and have a cup there, so this was duly done.

7-00 The Lord Nelson, Burnham Thorpe

The men assembled in the new restaurant for dinner, and enjoyed an excellent meal, accompanied by equally excellent ale. The Lord Nelson does not have a bar, and all ale is brought to order to the table. A major virtue of the system is that it is possible to order gallon jugs, ideally suited to the needs of the team. After dinner which we had had a little time to digest, the traditional after dinner performance took place on the lawn behind the Inn, in failing light. A small but enthusiastic group looked on.

Dances: YC; TR; MM; CN; OB; JIG; CB 6 + 1

The team then retired to one of the snugs (of which the pubs public spaces consist) for singing and music. A number of members of the public joined in, and one gentleman, having consumed considerable quantities of wine, sang solo. A good time was had by all, and the night wound up before midnight as the staff wanted to go home, and the team retired across the back lawn and through the wicket gate to 'Belhaven' and bed.

12th May 1996

Dining Room at 'Belhaven' **AGM**

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 13th May 1996

Venue: The dining room at Belhaven, Burnham Thorpe

Present: Steve Bignell (Squire), Martyn Thomas (Foreman), Tony Ashley, Pete Barker, Joe Oldaker, Geoff Thompson, Dave Wintle. Rob Ashton gave his apologies as he had to return early to his family.

Minutes of Previous AGM : These were accepted as a true record.

Steve opened the business of the meeting proper with thanks to the team for turning out once again. He realised that it was a long way to travel, but felt getting out of the Cotswolds occasionally was a good idea. There was general agreement, the consensus being that the location was not important, especially as the tour had been well worth the effort of travelling. Pete proposed a vote of thanks to Steve for his work in organising the weekend, which was duly carried with acclaim by all. Steve commented that the purpose of the team's existence was for the men to enjoy what they were doing- it was impossible to guarantee crowds, but the team did not need them to have a successful day. Tony pointed out a record collection had been taken anyway, the expenses for ribbon and braces having been covered with a bit left in the kitty. Steve then asked to record official thanks to Martyn for his work as Foreman, and to Rob for helping out as emergency stand-in for music.

The dances performed during the day totalled 48, with 7 performances of the Foreman's Jig.

The question of Rob's status in the team was then discussed. The ground rules for the team technically required that he should be regarded as a member, but as Tony pointed out, Rob had agreed to fill in as an emergency measure when it became clear Dave Brown would not be able to participate. The question as to whether Dave Brown's membership should be deemed to have lapsed was then considered. Giving due weight to the fact that Dave's current job made preparation of the music a problem for him, Tony proposed that he should be asked if he wished to continue with the team. If he wished to stand down, then Rob should be asked as first choice of replacement. Dave Wintle pointed out that the team could cope without a fixed musician, with Tony and Dave himself both able to cope with playing if required, so possibly recruiting a dancer/musician would be a viable alternative. Joe pointed out that Rob is also a keen dancer, and would fit that particular bill. Tony's proposal was agreed upon, and Joe delegated to write to Dave Brown.

Tony felt that Steve should be complimented on the choice of beers on the tour, especially the Gintrap.

Martyn thanked Tony for sorting the bell-pads, which now produced a much better sound. There were minor problems with working loose (Geoff suggested belt-loops on the trousers leg) and also the numbers came off the back during wear. It was pointed out that waterproof ink would solve this last problem. Tony agreed to sort the bell-

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pads as required, it being agreed the extra bells were needed. Thanks were also expressed to Geoff for the new braces, which proved a good length for the taller men.

On the quality of performance of the tradition, Martyn said he was pleased with the lines and general discipline in particular, though as Foreman he found "all those technicians" asking questions during the practice occasionally difficult. Tony proposed an official vote of thanks to Martyn, duly carried. It was felt that proposing a jig for team performance had been a good idea, but technically not feasible in the practice time available, and it had been wise to abandon it.

DATE for next year: This was agreed as 9th - 11th MAY 1997
Geoff accepted Squireship for the 1997 tour.

Tony accepted the job of Foreman for the 1997 tour

Finances: The team funds at the end of the day totalled £120-82 This was made up of the residue of last year's kitty, plus the collection for the day, which was £97-32.

Expenses to be met from the funds:	Hire of Hall	11-00
	Braces	36-00
	Ribbon	40-00
	Subs, to the Morris Ring	25-00
	Total	£112-00

This left £8-82, to which was added the small surplus from the beer kitty of £3-52, leaving £12-34 to be carried forward to the next year.

Photographs: Joe asked that men should send him any worthwhile shots of the team for inclusion in the photo-record of the year.

The question was raised as to whether a tour in Ireland would be a runner - the generally regretful feeling was that the time factor for travel, length of weekend and need to arrange special holiday time were against the idea.

Geoff said that he was considering the Yorkshire Dales as a venue for 1997. He also asked what the feeling of the team was about number of dance spots - again the consensus was that it is a dancing tour, so a reasonable number of spots was to be expected.

The question of the cost of touring in areas where accommodation could be expensive was raised. Steve pointed out that self-catering bunkhouse accommodation could fit the bill cheaply, or possibly even a village hall which would allow indoor camping, and said he was prepared to cook breakfasts if required. The general feeling was that if accommodation could be found at reasonable cost, this would be preferable, as it leaves team members free of thinking about "housekeeping".

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10-55.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



10th Annual Tour - 10th May 1997

“The Yorkshire Dales Tour”

[Home base: The King’s Head, Kettlewell]

The Tradition: Bucknell

<u>Dances:</u>	Saturday Night	SN	
	Bonny Green Garters	BG	
	Old Black Joe	OBJ	
	Constant Billy	CB	
	Room for the Cuckold	RC	
	Old Woman Tossed Up	OW	
	Trunkles	TR	
	Johnny Long Gone to the Fair		JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Foreman	
Rob Ashton	Grimsby MM	Musician	
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM		
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM		
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM		
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM		
Geoff Thompson	Packington MM & Handsworth Sword		Squire
Dave Wintle	Coventry MM		

The Itinerary:

9-30	The King’s Head, Kettlewell	
10-30	The Square, Grassington	
11-15	The Clarendon Hotel, Hebden	
12 noon	The Red Lion, Burnsall	
12-45	The Fountaine Inn, Linton	LUNCH
2-30	The Square, Grassington	
3-30	The Buck Inn, Malham	
4-15	Malham Tarn	
	OR	
4-30	Arncliffe	
8-30	The King’s Head, Kettlewell	

9 Stands (nominal) 37 Dances Foreman’s Jig 4 times.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

9-45am The King's Head, Kettlewell

The spot was performed in the road in front of the inn, traffic being very sparse. As is frequently the case at the first spot, the audience was also very sparse, giving the team an opportunity to settle into the dancing a little.

Dances: BG; BS; RC; JIG; SN 4 + 1

10-30 The Square, Grassington

Following a slightly un-nerving encounter with a coach full of tourists on the lane to Conistone (marked "Closed to Coaches"!) the team performed 'round the lamp', the paved area being convenient if not extensive. A fair crowd of tourists and local people formed an appreciative audience. The team then repaired to the Foresters Arms for refreshment.

Dances: CB; TR; RC; JIG; OBJ; SN 5 + 1

11-30 The Clarendon Hotel, Hebden

A quiet spot, the pub being very pleasant but less grand than its name suggested. Here an audience (mother and young daughter) was waiting especially to watch, so the dancers were on their mettle.

Dances: SN; BS; RC; TR; OW 5

Trunkles was an addition to the planned programme, inserted at the musician's request, as he wished to refine his treatment of the tune.

12-30 The Red Lion, Burnsall

A pleasant open spot on the road by the bridge. A couple of walking parties, plus various other visitors and local people formed a changing crowd for the performance. One local man commented favourably on the dancing – he turned out to be a member of a local Morris team (Wayzgoose) who would have been interested to see ODW if they had known of the visit. Geoff was surprised, as even with a cousin living locally he didn't know of this team, it being normal practice to notify local Morris teams of an impending visit.

Rob Ashton was put somewhat out of countenance when one of the staff at the Red Lion seemed to take exception to the musician's top-hat and tail-coat, describing him as "looking like a bloody undertaker". An enjoyable spot nevertheless.

Dances: OBJ; TR; RC; OW 4

1-45 The Fountaine Inn, Linton

Lunch was taken here. The decision was to order and then dance while it was prepared. At this point the weather, which had been at least dry so far, deteriorated and a light rain began to fall soon after the dancing began. It proved sufficiently wet as to be uncomfortable, and to confine the audience to the doorway of the Inn, so it was decided to break for lunch and continue afterwards. This was done, and the

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



weather improved a little at the end. It was unfortunate that a particularly attractive village spot was somewhat spoilt. Lunch, on the other hand, was very good.

Dances; CB; OW; RC LUNCH OBJ

4

[It may be noted that from this point the scheduled timing of the Tour went adrift]

3-00 The Square, Grassington

The team returned to the pavement round the lamp for a second bite at the tourist cherry, Grassington obviously offering the largest crowds. This excellent plan had to be cut short, for as the dancing progressed it became clear that a considerable rain storm was building up. The planned final dance was abandoned, and men gathered belongings and decamped in some haste to the Foresters Arms, and were obliged (with little reluctance) to take an extended refreshment break until the downpour eased off outside. After consultation it was decided to continue to the next stop in spite of the threat of more rain.

Dances: BG; BS; OW; JIG; RC

4 + 1

4-30 The Buck Inn, Malham

Over in the next valley the weather improved dramatically, and the sun actually shone on the dance here. Being a busy village and a busy pub, a reasonable audience watched the performance. The team's growing feeling of well-being was further enhanced by a generous landlord who drew free pints all round.

Dances SN; OBJ; OW; RC

4

The Squire's original plan offered a choice of spot at this stage of the day - it was decided to make the detour to the cross-roads by Malham Tarn and possibly dance there, with Arncliffe as a follow-up.

There being no audience and a rather bleak outlook at the cross-roads, the earlier sun having become distinctly patchy, it was decided to go on to the Falcon Inn at Arncliffe. The drive over the top and down into Littondale was a high spot [no pun intended] of the day, the scenery of the Dales made more breath-taking by an amazing display of storm-clouds and sunshine. This was however paid for by the onset of torrential rain as the party drew up outside the Falcon. Scouts from the leading car made a reconnaissance through the rain, but had to report a disappointment. The door was open, the landlord's wife at the counter, but from the comfort of his armchair in the kitchen the landlord declared that no drinks would be served until "half past six", it being just 6-00. The prospect of a dozen customers (4 other visitors had also arrived looking hopeful) left the landlord totally unmoved, and not even slightly apologetic. As it was still raining hard the team decided to return to Kettlewell and the hospitality of the Kings Head, arriving back at 6-20 for refreshment before dinner.

Indignant reports of the experience at the Falcon to the landlady at the Kings Head elicited no surprise. Apparently the landlord of the Falcon is notorious throughout the Dales for his curmudgeonly attitude to everyone, paying customers or otherwise. It is even said that people visit the Falcon to see if his reputation is justified. The landlady even hinted that several local inn-keepers, including her own man, were in covert competition for surliness.

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8-30 The King's Head, Kettlewell

Following an enjoyable meal in the inn, the team moved outside for the traditional final display. A light shower proved intermittent and failed to interrupt the programme.

Dances BG; BS; TR; RC; JIG; OBJ; OW 6 + 1

Following the performance, a lively session of song and music developed, continuing until after normal hours. The participating public included several young ladies who were staying at the nearby camp site, and who were extremely enthusiastic, trying on bell-pads, singing and so forth. In the clearing-up it was discovered that a bell-pad appeared to be missing – the suspicion being that the young lady last seen wearing it, but who had not been wearing it when she left, had secreted it about her person. However, there could be no certainty that this was the case, and no grounds for making a sortie to the camp site in search of the missing item. It was perhaps to be taken as a warning of the possible problems arising from lending kit to members of the public in the friendly atmosphere of such a session.

11th May 1997

Bar of the King's Head

AGM

The weekend finished on a brighter note, as the young ladies from the camp site appeared after breakfast and returned the missing bell-pad, which one of them had indeed carried off.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 11TH MAY 1997

Venue: The King's Head, Kettlewell. Present: Geoff Thompson (Squire), Tony Ashley (Foreman), Pete Barker, Steve Bignell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Dave Wintle, Rob Ashton.

Minutes of previous AGM : These were accepted as a true record.

Geoff opened the meeting by formally welcoming the team to Kettlewell. He apologised that the weather had not been fine all the time, but felt the criteria of good beer and good accommodation had been met at The King's Head . He had been conscious that it had been a fair way to travel for most of the team, but in fact Martyn and Pete, from furthest away, had arrived first. Martyn also felt that the "choice" of lady spectators had also been excellent! Joe thought the list of pubs had been superb, with good beer at all of them, making a really good tour. Tony commented on the interesting choice of landlords, especially at Arncliffe.

Geoff thanked Rob for his work as musician, as the dancing 'gelled' with a good dancer/musician. Rob thanked the team for making him welcome over the two years, but regretted he would have to drop out, partly due to the prospect of an Ofsted inspection in May 1998, and partly due to the simple logistics problem of having time to escape from Lincolnshire and get to the chosen location after school on the Friday. All expressed their regret at his decision. As his contacts in the Morris were limited at the moment, Rob suggested that it would be best if the team looked for a replacement, as he was unlikely to be able to find one. It was agreed that the men would consider this.

Tony as Foreman then commented on the dance. He said he had intended to do Kirtlington, but his own knee problems had prevented this, so he had chosen Bucknell, and attempted to work out a fresh look to the style, to differentiate it from that used by Anker and Packington. Martyn said he found the style hard on the arms, rather as Wheatley had been. Tony pointed out that the nominal six dances had actually been eight, two of the side-step dances being the same, and Bonny Green an extra; he hoped everyone had enjoyed it. Rob suggested that the tricky corner dances should be tackled earlier in the practice session, as pressure of time at the end made things more difficult to consolidate a "club style". Geoff said he felt the "club style" emerged during the day as the men danced the tradition, even it did not emerge precisely as the Foreman might have intended. Geoff congratulated Tony on the excellent work he had put in, and again thanked Rob for his contribution.

Tony also added his thanks to Rob.

1998 TOUR A Squire and Foreman were required for 1998. Joe volunteered as Squire, it being about time he did it again. Geoff volunteered to be Foreman. The dates were fixed for MAY 8,9,10th, 1998.

KIT: Tony said he felt the Rosettes needed replacement with something more

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



substantial in wear. Steve suggested that fabric rosettes more like those worn by Northampton could perhaps be made, and he was aware of a possible contact who could help with this. It was agreed he would enquire about fabric and making. It was agreed that the red should be a match for the braces. A target cost of £5-00 / rosette was suggested.

Pete suggested that the logo on the handkerchiefs was also due for refreshing. Tony thanked Joe for keeping the records and scrapbook. Joe placed on record that the total of dances performed was 37 set dances and 4 Jigs.

FUNDS: The bag for the day had been £50-78. With the surplus from the kitty the total came to £59-40. Expenditure had been £25-00 for Associate membership of the Morris Ring and £17-00 for hall hire. This left a total carried forward to 1998 of £8-78.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.00a.m.

ACTION POINTS: ROSETTES

HANDKERCHIEFS

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



11th Annual Tour - 9th May 1998

The "Ancient Monuments" Tour - Wiltshire

[Home Base: The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton]

The Tradition: Bledington

The Dances:

Hey Diddle Diss	Handkerchief
Morning Star	Handkerchief
Cuckoo's Nest	Handkerchief
William and Nancy	Handkerchief
Young Collins	Stick
Trunkles	Handkerchief
Glorisher	Handkerchief
Ladies' Pleasure	Foreman's Jig

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Musician
Pete Barker	Lassington Oak MM	
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Squire
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Handsworth Sword & Packington MM	Foreman
David Wintle	Coventry MM	

Itinerary:

9-30	The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton	
10-30	Marlborough, 'The Bulge'	
11-30	The Red Lion, Axford	
12-30	The Wheatsheaf, Chilton Foliat	
1-15	The Swan, Great Shefford	LUNCH
2-45	The White Horse, Woolstone	
3-45	The Black Horse, Wanborough	
5-00	The Red Lion, Avebury	

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7-30 Dinner
 9-15 The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton
 9 Stands 47 Dances Foreman's Jig 5 times

Practice venue: Community Hall, Avebury)

Uniquely, the Foreman kept a complete record of his dance programme for the day, so this information is not included in the Log as is usual, but reproduced below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Winterbourne Monkton - The New Inn
 William & Nancy
 Morning Star
 Cuckoo's Nest
 Jig - Ladies' Pleasure
 Young Collins
 Trunkles
 Glorisher</p> | <p>2. Marlborough - The Bulge
 Cuckoo's Nest
 Trunkles
 Young Collins .
 Morning Star</p> |
| <p>3. Axford - The Red Lion
 Trunkles
 William & Nancy
 Young Collins*
 Glorisher
 Cuckoo's Nest
 Morning Star</p> | <p>4. Chilton Foliat - The Wheatsheaf
 Processional – Hey Diddle Diss
 Morning Star
 William & Nancy
 Young Collins
 Jig – Ladies' Pleasure
 Cuckoo's Nest</p> |
| <p>5. Great Shefford – The Swan
 Trunkles
 Cuckoo's Nest
 Glorisher
 Young Collins</p> | <p>6. Woolstone – The White Horse
 Glorisher
 William & Nancy
 Young Collins
 Trunkles
 Cuckoo's Nest</p> |
| <p>7. Wanborough – The Black Horse
 Morning Star
 William & Nancy
 Young Collins*
 Jig – Ladies' Pleasure
 Cuckoo's Nest</p> | <p>8. Avebury – The Red Lion
 Glorisher
 William & Nancy
 Jig – Ladies' Pleasure
 Young Collins
 Cuckoo's Nest
 Trunkles</p> |
| <p>9. Winterbourne Monkton – The New Inn
 Processional – Hey Diddle Diss
 William & Nancy
 Morning Star
 Cuckoo's Nest
 Jig – Ladies' Pleasure
 Young Collins
 Trunkles
 Glorisher</p> | <p>Bampton - Bonny Green Garters</p> |

* denotes dances not danced by the Foreman
9 Stands 47 set dances 5 performances of the Foreman's Jig

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

9-30

The New Inn, Winterbourne Monckton

The team began the day on the road in front of the New Inn, fuelled by a 'stirrup-cup' in the shape of a jug of ale, kindly provided by our host, Eric. There were a small contingent of spectators, and not too much interruption of traffic. The team then departed for Marlborough, passing through Avebury and down the avenue of stones on the way.

10-30

Marlborough 'The Bulge'

Being the only free space large enough to dance on in Marlborough on a market day in the high street. A slightly sloping surface and the proximity of the kerb added interest to the performance for the dancers, who were well-received by the passing public. As it was not yet opening time, the men repaired to Green's Coffee Shop for refreshment, taking an outside table as the day was fine. Coffee was possible, but not espresso as the machine had stopped working! Martyn engaged the young waitress in detailed discussions on the available beverages, emerging after considerable delay to enjoy a banana milk-shake. The Tour then moved on, an attractive lanes route along the Kennet valley to Axford.

11-30

The Red Lion, Axford

As promised the pub was open, with an excellent selection of ales on offer. Tankards filled, the team moved to the lawn to dance. Unfortunately the pre-publicity seemed to have fallen on stony ground, but several dances were performed.

12-30

The Wheatsheaf, Chilton Foliat

Again a dance spot on the lawn, behind the pub. A party of cyclists were installed at the picnic tables, and formed an appreciative if someone scattered audience. It was noted by several men that dancing on turf is hard work!

1-20

The Swan, Great Shefford

Having perused the menu, ordered lunch and filled tankards, the team prepared to dance on the car park at the front of the pub, as this seemed an appropriate spot to attract passing interest. However, eager cries from people on the pub terrace "over the fence" encouraged a change of plan and the team retraced their steps through the bar to the terrace. It proved a pleasant spot with the river running past along one side, and after a little preliminary moving of tables the show was on. Again a small but keen audience. Lunch, with excellent ales including an outstanding local bitter, followed, and the Squire was obliged to lean quite heavily on the men to get them moving on the next stage of the Tour.

The route through Lambourn emerged on the crest of Lambourn downs, with spectacular views across the Gallops, and ran down to cut through the embankment of the Ridgeway above Sparsholt. A lovely wooded and very winding road ran along

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



below the Ridgeway, and just below the Uffington White Horse dropped down into Woolstone.

2-55 The White Horse, Woolstone

This proved to be a spot where a small group were waiting to see the team dance. The men performed in the lane in front of the pub, there being very little traffic. Again an appreciative audience and a very attractive setting, slightly marred by a certain "something" in the air, which could only be ascribed to the recently installed septic tank in the pub car park. At the end of the display a young woman in walking boots was urged forward by her male companion. She was a member of a step-clog team from Bristol, the "City Clickers", and he suggested she show a few steps if one of our musicians would play. Peter Barnard duly obliged.

The daughter of the couple who kept the White Horse enquired about the team dancing at her wedding later in the year; the Squire explained the nature of the team, but was able to give contact names for the regular local Morris sides. Duty done, the road below the Ridgeway was regained – unfortunately the schedule did not permit a closer look at the chalk figure from which the pub takes its name.

4-10 The Black Horse, Wanborough

Again a small group of locals awaited the team's arrival. The pub is perched on the lip of the downs below the Ridgeway, with a view North for miles across the plain into Oxfordshire, and slightly more westerly (and less picturesquely) towards Swindon. Here there was time and inclination for a relaxed spot in the pub garden, chatting to the audience and enjoying the surroundings. The garden furniture included an aviary with a flock of cockatiels, who added a whistling counter-point to the Morris music. After a ritual installing of the Foreman in the stocks (and threatening to leave him there) the team continued on their way via Chiseldon and Wroughton (where the kites were being flown), to Avebury.

5-15 The Red Lion, Avebury

Here there quite a crowd sitting about outside the pub, and at first glance it appeared to be a bikers' convention, not always an ideal audience for the Morris. In the event it proved to be a group of serious and more mature motor-cyclists with a lot of very expensive machinery, including one couple with matching red leathers and Ducatis. One or two of the team had to be dragged away to dance from ogling the bikes. As always a small tourist crowd gathered and proved a very enthusiastic audience together with the motor-cyclists. The spot at Avebury being the last of the day's Tour, the Squire had allowed time in the schedule to look around the stone circle, and most of the team took the opportunity to do so before returning to nearby Winterbourne Monckton for showers and rest before dinner.

9-30 The New Inn, Winterbourne Monckton

Following an excellent dinner the team girded themselves for the final show of the full repertoire. The performance took place in the lane in front of the pub, and

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



was attended by a reasonable crowd of people from the village, and the family of Eric and Rachel, who kept the pub. Everyone seemed to enjoy it a great deal. All then retired to the bar for refreshment.

Though a single room, one end of the bar formed a convenient niche for après Morris, where music and singing could be enjoyed by those who chose to sit nearby, or passed by the sociable crowd at the other end of the room – a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Jugs of ale circulated at regular intervals, until the ‘public’ went home about midnight. One or two of the team took a traditional snooze in the course of the evening, and Pete Barker, in an unprecedented move, retired to bed early. Martyn spent much of the evening playing uncle to Eric and Rachel’s granddaughters, Stephanie (age 4) and Victoria (age 6) The family stayed on to listen until the session wound up at about 1a.m., bringing another Tour to a pleasing conclusion. It should be noted that during dinner Geoff presented the team with a most excellent drinking vessel, for use at future gatherings of the One Day Wonders. This was greeted with acclamation. Tony took custody of it, and undertook to arrange appropriate engraving.

10th May 1998 Bar of the New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton **AGM**

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 10th MAY 1998.

Venue: The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton

Present: Joe Oldaker (Squire), Geoff Thompson (Foreman), Tony Ashley, Pete Barnard, Pete Barker, Steve Bignell, Martyn Thomas, Dave Wintle.

Joe reported that the bag stood at £78-68, from which it was possible to reimburse Steve for the Rosettes, and set aside the subscription for Associate Membership of the Morris Ring for insurance cover. He officially welcomed Pete Barnard to the team, and thanked him for his contribution to music and dance. Thanks were given to Steve for obtaining the new improved rosettes, and to the whole team for working as usual to make the weekend a success. Geoff, as Foreman, thanked everyone for working hard on the Friday evening - in spite of a later start than intended, it had been less frantic, with his preferred teaching technique working well. The day's tally of dances was 47, including 5 performances of the Foreman's jig and the final Bonny Green Garters. Thanks were also proposed to Jackie Barker for refurbishing the motifs on the hankies.

Tony proposed thanks to Joe for organising an excellent tour, and to Geoff for his work as Foreman. He also wanted to put on record that the Saturday evening session had been very good for singing and music, with some appreciative locals as audience.

It was decided that the date of the next Tour should be 8th MAY 1999.

The informal rota for officers indicated that Dave Wintle was due for Squire, and Pete Barker for Foreman. However, with due consideration of the difficulties and logistics of organisation involved, it was agreed that Dave should be Foreman, and Pete Squire for 1999.

Under any other business Pete Barker commented that the possible inclusion of a second rosette on the kit did not seem necessary, especially with the new rosettes in use. Martyn proposed that the team consider a team sweatshirt, though there had been some resistance to team extras other than kit in the past. It was agreed nem. con., that a sweatshirt would be acceptable; red with a white motif was agreed on. Geoff offered to look into competitive costs for a Jacquard, which could be expensive. It was also agreed that if and when sweatshirts were bought, 4 Large and 4 Extra-large would be appropriate.

Tony then raised the question of the music; he had got involved in playing because of the fitness problem with his knee, and wished to be sure that the split duty with himself and Peter Barnard sharing had been acceptable to the team. It was agreed that the system had worked perfectly well, and would be used again in 1999.

On the question of choosing dance traditions, David Wintle said he had some notes on Eynsham which he was willing to donate to anyone interested.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Record-keeping note: Though not raised during the AGM, Geoff's presentation of a fine drinking-vessel to the team, acclaimed on Saturday evening, should also go on record here. Tony took said vessel into safe-keeping, to bring out at the next gathering of the team.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



12th Annual Tour - 8th May 1999

The "Round Rutland Water" Tour : Rutland

[Home Base: Noel Arms, Whitwell]

The Tradition: Bessels Leigh

The Dances:

Maid of the Mill	MM
Sally Lucre	SL
Curly Headed Ploughboy	CHP
Old Marlborough	OM
Constant Billy	CB
Princess Royal	PR

Month of May Foreman's JIG

Handkerchiefs used throughout – no stick dances are mentioned in the references to the tradition.

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Squire & Joint Music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Joint Musician
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Adam Garland	East Suffolk MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Handsworth Sword & Pinewoods (USA)	
David Wintle	Anker MM & Forest of Dean MM	Foreman

The Itinerary:

9-30	The Noel Arms, Whitwell
10-10	The White Horse, Empingham
10-55	Butter Cross, Oakham (2 spots)
11-30	The Wheatsheaf, Oakham (Refreshment only)
12-00	Grainstore Brewery, Oakham
13-00	The Cuckoo, Wing LUNCH
15-30	Finch's Arms, Upper Hambleton
16-30	Fox & Hounds, Exton TEA
19-15	Noel Arms, Dinner
20-45	'Dancing after Dinner' Noel Arms
8 Stands, 9 Spots	41 Dances Foreman's Jig 5 times
Practice Venue: Parish Hall , Preston	

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Triple B 'on the house'. As time was pressing, this was decanted into tankards and consumed en route.

Dances: CB; SL ;OM; JIG; PR 4 + 1

13-45 The Cuckoo Inn, Wing

Having ordered lunch on arrival, the team then assembled in the village street in front of the inn to dance, the car park having a pronounced slope. A particular pleasure was the surprise appearance of the team's founder, Chris Barber, who had not been present on a Tour since his retirement in 1994. He expressed his pleasure that the team continued in observation of the original objects of its foundation but was definite that he had no wish to return to the Morris himself. He joined the party for lunch and accompanied the Tour during the afternoon. Following the performance all retired to the inn for an excellent lunch, followed by a song session, much appreciated by the whole assembly.

Dances: CB; OM; MM; PR; JIG; SL 5 + 1

Before departing the men visited the historic medieval Turf Maze in Wing – a construction of obscure purpose and relatively low-key interest, but worth the visit.

The route taken from Wing was designed to take the team "Round Rutland Water", so an anti-clockwise circuit passed through Empingham and Whitwell, before striking out on to the peninsula to Upper Hambleton. During the journey it began to rain quite steadily, and continued for the rest of the afternoon.

15-30 The Finch's Arms, Upper Hambleton

Unfortunately owing to the rain it was not possible to dance outside or enjoy the (usually) excellent views across Rutland Water from the Terrace. However, the rain also encouraged a reasonable crowd to remain indoors, so the carpets in the bar were rolled back, furniture moved and the dancing went forward inside. The ceiling was notably low, creating some problems in capers especially for Messrs Garland and Thompson, being the tallest – the lack of stick dances also proved an advantage as the plaster would certainly have been at risk. A much better spot than the weather seemed to suggest was possible.

Dances: CHP; CB; SL; JIG 3 + 1

16-50 The Fox & Hounds, Exton

The rain continued on the journey to Exton, and any idea of a spot in the village, with its beautiful green surrounded by trees, had to be abandoned. Some compensation was to be had from the cream tea which had been arranged – the scones were notable for size and quality. The men did actually dance, as it transpired that one of two ladies also taking tea was celebrating her 70th Birthday with the outing, and she was thrilled at the idea of her own personal performance of Morris. The team duly obliged with a Birthday Bouquet of dances, performed in the spacious carpeted lounge.

Dances: CB; SL; CHP; PR; OM 5

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 9th May 1999.

Venue: On the terrace, the Noel Arms, Whitwell, Rutland.

The meeting opened at 9.50a.m. with Tony in the chair.

Present: Tony Ashley (Squire), Pete Barnard, Steve Bignell, Adam Garland, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, Dave Wintle (Foreman).

Tony opened by welcoming Adam to the team as the latest recruit, hoping that he had enjoyed the weekend and would stay with it. Adam indicated that he had and he would.

Tony went on to outline the basic principles on which the team was set up; i.e. the total was fixed at 8 men, with the "rule" that a team member leaving should find a replacement.

It was however generally the case that team members leaving had lost interest or were no longer about, so in practice replacements had come from active members suggestions.

Tony also described the process of election of Squire and Foreman for each year, the Squire fixing the tour, the Foreman the dances; traditionally the team did not know the dance tradition chosen in advance, apart from Foreman and Music of course.

On the day, Tony was happy with the level of commitment, apart from a couple of occasions when talking to the audience had got in the way of putting six men up quickly.

On the location, Tony pointed out that the idea of visiting Rutland had come from Joe and his friend Betty. Joe filled in this point, saying that he had thought after arranging last year's tour that it would be a good idea to think of a possible location for his next Squireship (though some years ahead). Betty, having visited Rutland with the Nuneaton Rambling Club, had more or less at the same time suggested it. With help from Rutland Morris Men it had worked out in spite of relatively short notice, when Pete Barker had felt he had to drop out and had not been able to finalise his original plans for the 1999 Tour. Tony and Joe had done the original spadework on the tour and accommodation, and Tony had taken on the fine tuning and final confirmations and postering.

Bag for the day was reported by Martyn as £53-86, which was quite a bit down on the previous year, partly due to the bad weather during the afternoon, and partly to audiences generally being thin. The turn-out at the Noel Arms evening spot had been disappointing, probably as most customers were in the restaurant. This highlighted the major planning problem, of finding a good pub with the right accommodation, happy to have a session in the bar and providing an audience.

Tony continued with thanks to team members: first to, Dave Wintle as Foreman, both for his work and the choice of tradition -this year Tony could still walk after the day's

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exertions! Thanks were also given to Geoff for having come back from the U.S.A. so as not to miss the weekend, to Pete Barnard for sharing the music, and to Martyn for sorting the kit having collected it from Pete Barker. It was noted that the hankies would need washing, and the armbands in particular needed ironing. The tally of dances for the day was 41 set dances, with 5 performances of the Foreman's jig. Tony thought it was good to have a planned programme as Dave had had, to ensure smooth running and equal exposure of the dances, though obviously flexibility was needed if circumstances required.

Tony then proposed that the team write officially to Pete Barker, regretting his leaving the team, and showing appreciation of his contributions over the years. Finally Tony commented that it had been nice to see Chris Barber again when he joined the tour for lunch and the afternoon, as well as dinner, especially as Chris had been the instigator of the whole idea right at the beginning, and dropped out of sight rather suddenly after several years.

The appointment of next year's officers was then discussed. Calculations indicated that Martyn was due for Squireship this time, and after two years with the team Pete felt prepared to take on the Foreman's job. Joe promised to provide a list of traditions already performed by the team for his guidance. The matter of the Foreman leading the dancing was discussed, as if Pete was always dancing then he could not play. It was felt that a modicum of flexibility was possible, though it would be possible for Pete to dance and Tony and Dave to share the music.

Dave as Foreman commented on the weekend. He thanked the team for "an honest attempt at some dishonest dances", the tradition, Bessels Leigh, being a development of his own from a Roy Dommett reconstruction. As a tradition he felt the variations in speed and style were both a challenge and a delight, and generally the team had made a fair fist of it.

He also thanked Joe and Tony for taking on the "Squireship", as when Pete Barker had dropped out he himself was afraid he was going to have to arrange the tour, as officially he should have been Squire and Pete Foreman, but sense and logistics had prompted the swap. The meeting then went on to discuss kit. It was generally agreed the single rosette was sufficient, and Adam as a newcomer said the kit did look smart and distinctive from outside. Tony suggested that the armbands might need renewing as he felt they looked tatty- Joe said he thought a session with the iron should sort that.

The question of sweatshirts, mooted the previous year, was raised. Geoff said he had not been able to go ahead with the idea, owing to circumstances like moving to America for the time being. It was again agreed that plain red with a white logo and lettering was preferred, and that the latter should be embroidered, not printed. Discussion of likely costs and the type of artwork followed. Jacquards could be

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expensive, but apparently some firms will accept finished artwork in computer ready format, which cuts the initial layout costs considerably. Martyn and Adam showed their own team's latest samples, embroidered and printed respectively. It was agreed that the motif should be the simple smiling sun as used on the paperwork in previous years, with "One Day Wonders" around it. Tony felt that including "Travelling Morris" would overcrowd the effect, and the shorter title be nicely enigmatic to the curious.

It was agreed that Martyn should make enquiries with the firm which had done Lassington Oak's latest, but also that all the men in the team should scout for possibilities, especially in terms of reduced costs. A simple style of lettering with the logo was to be preferred.

Tony then suggested that some discussion be given over to the costs of the weekend, as these obviously tended to rise, and some idea of limits should be borne in mind. He raised again the idea of bunkhouse type sleeping accommodation, which had been mentioned in previous years, Steve having expressed his willingness to cater for breakfasts, if this sort of arrangement could make a weekend viable. The problem here was having a suitable pub nearby for dinner, session and so forth, and the fact that "residents" could keep a session going after hours-more easily - witness the experience at the Lord Nelson at Burnham Thorpe, where we couldn't rely on extra time, however good the pub. An alternative was also the split up in bed & Breakfast, suggested by the landlord of the Fox & Hounds at Exton when he had not enough rooms to put the team up as a group. This was not generally favoured. Whatever the arrangement, it was agreed that a maximum cost of £50/man for 2 nights B & B should be the guide. Camping was also mentioned, and Joe pointed back to the early years of the side, where one of the criteria was held to be a "Civilized" weekend.

On money, the distribution of the bag was discussed. From the total, Martyn had paid for the (excellent) Tea & cream scones at the Fox & Hounds at Exton, the subs for Assoc. membership of the Morris Ring, viz. £25 needed to be set aside (Joe took charge of this), and £10 had to be paid out for the practice hall. This left a small sum of £6-19. It was agreed that this should be left in the tin for the following year. Under any other business, Geoff announced that he did not know for certain where he would be in 2000, but he would be back for the One Day Wonders. There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In all the excitement, the one detail not decided at the meeting was THE DATE OF THE WEEKEND IN 2000. Having realised this en route for home, the retiring Squire, Foreman and the Keeper of the Records unilaterally invoked the "Second Weekend in May" guideline, which refers to FULL weekends. This places next year's tour, the 13th Annual Tour, on 13th MAY 2000

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13th Annual Tour - 13th May 2000

Somerset and Cheddar Gorge

[Home Base, Cox's Mill, Cheddar]

The Tradition: Fieldtown

The Dances:

The Rose	R
Old Woman Tossed Up	OW
Carrion Crow	CC
Signposts	S
Banks of the Dee	BD
Glorisher	G

Handkerchiefs throughout

None so Pretty Foreman's Jig*

*Owing to the Foreman being injured, the Jig was danced by Adam in his place.

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Foreman & Musician
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Adam Garland	East Suffolk MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Squire
Geoff Thompson	Handsworth Sword & Pinewoods (USA)	
David Wintle	Anker MM & Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

9-45	Cox's Mill, Cheddar
10-45	Market Cross, Glastonbury
11-45	Market Square, Wells
2-00	King's Arms, Litton
3-00	Burrington Inn, Burrington Combe
3-45	The Square, Axbridge
4-30	The White Hart, Cheddar

7-00	Cox's Mill, Dinner
8-00	'Dancing after Dinner' Cox's Mill

9 Spots 38 Dances Foreman's Jig 5 times

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Log:

9-45 Cox's Mill, Cheddar

The Squire planned for the team to dance on the public car park in front of Cox's Mill, which was almost empty. The Foreman, who played sitting down on a folding stool during the day, owing to his cracked ribs, installed himself. As the team girded itself to start a problem arose. As cheddar Gorge is privately owned, the car park is supervised, and the supervisor, a woman of somewhat abrupt manner, emerged from the gift/ticket shop to demand an explanation of the team's presence. It was explained that a short spot was intended before we left on Tour, but she was not happy about the car park being partially 'obstructed' for even a brief period. Her attempts to discuss this with the Foreman while he was concentrating on running through the music were swiftly terminated when he requested her to 'go away'. She telephoned her 'head office' and returned to say the company could not allow us to perform on the car park. The Squire had naturally not foreseen any problem as the car park was on the doorstep of Cox's Mill, but the team withdrew to the patio at the back of the Mill, and the performance went forward there, with a small but enthusiastic audience of staff and public.

Dances: R; CC; G; JIG; S 4 + 1

10-45 The Market Square, Glastonbury

A good spot at the foot of the market Cross, and a fair number of public about. The ambience of the town distinctly New Age, one shop window devoted to the benefits of cannabis apparently, others of a more 'fey' persuasion as in "The Pixie Tailor". A pleasant atmosphere with friendly stall-holders. After dancing the team retired to the King William for refreshment.

Dances: R; BD; OW; S; G 5

11-45 The Market Square, Wells

The spot chosen was at the top end of the Market at the gate into the Cathedral Close, so there was substantial traffic of people, local and tourists, making for a good spot. Extra interest was provided by the Foreman's Jig, as Adam found himself dancing to 'Old Woman Tossed Up', Peter having suffered a lapse of concentration. Both men carried it off with aplomb.

The team then repaired to the Crown on one side of the Square for a beer; the locals included a rather strange youth who seemed hell-bent on fixing a game of pool. Time, perhaps fortunately, precluded this, and the team moved on.

Dances: R; G; S; CC; BD; JIG 5 + 1

12-45 The Sun, Union Street, Wells

The Squire had included this spot largely because of the team's association with the 'Sun', both in its initial Tours and in the team logo. There was unfortunately no time to visit the pub, but only to dance outside it. The audience included a very

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intense man who was very interested in early symbolism, including what he thought the Morris signified.

Dances: R; OW 2

2-30 The King's Arms, Litton

As the schedule was looking rather tight by this time, the Squire decided the team should lunch first and dance afterwards. The King's Arms proved an extremely pleasant hostelry, with a rabbit-warren of rooms, excellent ale, and excellent food. In fact the excellence of both perhaps contributed to a slightly subdued style of dance when the team finally performed. The best available space was the top lawn by the car park, the pub being down a substantial flight of steps. Having failed to make up time, and lacking much of an audience, a short programme sufficed.

Dances: R; S; BD 3

3-30 The Burrington Inn, Burrington Combe

A popular spot which incorporated a small garden-centre and rock-climbing pitches on the side of the Combe. The team danced, and decided on mid-afternoon refreshments, with tea or coffee to choice, apart from Steve who stuck to beer. After the dancing a lady with elderly parents accosted us, extremely disappointed at having missed the performance. A further spot was not possible as the schedule was already well behind, but she was given the itinerary and subsequently appeared at the White Hart in Cheddar. During the visit to the Combe the team were able to inspect the rocky cleft made famous when the clerical author of "Rock of Ages", having found providential shelter in it from a terrific thunderstorm, was inspired to write the famous hymn [*according to legend*].

Dances: R; BD; G; JIG; S 4 + 1

4-30 The Square, Axbridge

An extremely picturesque setting, the square surrounded by varied old buildings from medieval through to the 18th Century, all on an appropriate scale. The team danced in front of the Lamb, where a table full of distinctly well-lubricated but good-natured young people formed an appreciative audience. Some friendly repartee was exchanged before beer was taken.

Dances: R; CC; OW; BD 4

5-15 The White Hart, Cheddar

Rather a case of "better late than never", but a small group, mainly of visitors, proved one of the most enthusiastic audiences of the day as the team danced in the lane in front of the pub.

Dances: R; S; JIG; CC; G; BD 5 + 1

The team then returned to nearby Cox's Mill, walking up the path by the descending water features fed by the Mill Pool and ultimately by the underground streams from the Gorge. A rest and bath prepared everyone for dinner, and the final spot of the day.

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8-00 Cox's Mill, Cheddar, after Dinner

As the car park attendant had gone home, and there was plenty of space on the car park, the team danced out in front of the Mill. A small audience of passing public, and the proprietor of the Mill, watched.

Dances: R; CC; OW; S; JIG; BD; G 6 + 1

As is the custom, the spot was closed with Bonny Green Garters, (Bampton) The team then retired to a corner of the bar for the usual après-Morris music and song, well fuelled by pints of Butcombe, including a pint of Butcombe Gold on the landlord.

Though not busy, the clientele seemed appreciative, which always adds an extra pleasure to the evening. The party finally retired to bed at 12-10am.

14th May 2000 The Patio at Cox's Mill, Cheddar **AGM**

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Minutes of A.G.M. 14th May 2000

Venue: on the terrace of Cox's Mill, Cheddar.

The meeting opened at 10.30 a.m. with Martyn in the Chair.

Present: Martyn Thomas (Squire), Tony Ashley, Pete Barnard (Foreman), Steve Bignell, Adam Garland, Joe Oldaker, Geoff Thompson, Dave Wintle.

Martyn opened by thanking Joe for the team "paperwork", and then expressing thanks to all for their efforts on the Day. As always the Squire was haunted by the thought "is it going to work?", but clearly it did. Martyn thanked Pete for his work on the dancing as Foreman - the Friday night session having involved getting heads round a version of a familiar tradition, usually harder than something completely strange. Adam was thanked for taking on driving, though he pointed out himself that he prefers to drive rather than to be car-sick as a passenger. Martyn also wondered if beer consumption was down on this occasion as there did not seem to have been so many beers, with £5 left in the kitty.

On finance, the Bag had been £70-88; expenses to be met were £10 for the Practice Hall in Cheddar, £25 for Morris Ring Subscription, leaving £40 in the tin. Martyn suggested this could be used to finance the making of a proper collecting box, and offered to enquire about this as one of his team-mates in Lassington Oak could probably oblige.

Pete then reported on the dance. There had been 38 set dances and 5 Jigs in the course of the day. Instruction had gone better than he had anticipated, as owing to his cracked ribs he had had to tell rather than show what he wanted. Adam had stood in as Jig dancer in lieu of the Foreman. However everything did tend to come together eventually on One Day Wonders Tours, and in this instance the last show had been the best. On a personal note, he reported that his fingers were aching from playing.

On kit, it was generally agreed that no changes seemed to be needed. Martyn asked for comment on the new Sweatshirt,- and these met with general enthusiasm; it was almost a pity that the day had been warm enough for them not to be needed!

Formal thanks from the team were then offered to Martyn, the feeling being that it had been an excellent and varied Tour, and the Tea break a pleasant interlude at Barrington Coombe. Adam felt that the distances between spots had not been too long, especially as the scenery was well worth seeing. The route back over the top and down through the Gorge had been a particularly good idea.

The next year's Tour was then discussed. The date was fixed as the 12th May 2001.

Adam took on the job of Squire, and Steve volunteered to do the Foreman's job. It was agreed that Tony and Pete should share the music again.

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Under any other business, several men asked for a fairly early notice of location if possible, as this made Friday planning easier. Joe asked for photographs of this year's Tour to be sent to him as soon as possible. Geoff commented on the special circumstances of this year, in that Pete's injury might have prevented his attending at all, and a second injury/accident could leave the weekend in jeopardy, and with that in view asked should a ninth man be recruited. Joe felt that the original conception of an absolute minimum was best, and would prefer to stick with it. There was always the risk of the "Old Boys Club" overtaking the original idea. He pointed out that when Dave Brown had been forced to retire, he had been very emphatic that as a retired member he should not be given special treatment, when he was asked if he would be interested in re-joining. A fresh face each time was the best policy. Pete pointed out that he had felt he might not make it on this occasion, which would have left a man short. It was generally agreed not to tamper with the original idea at the moment.

Finally, Steve again raised the question of accommodation costs, it being always a bit of a lottery to find somewhere reasonable, and pointed out the Bunkhouse was still an option, and his offer to cater for breakfasts still stood.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10-58a.m.

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14th Annual Tour 12th May 2001

East Suffolk

[Home Base: Sibton White Horse]

The Tradition: Brackley

The Dances:

Haste to the Wedding	Handkerchief	HW
Bonnets so Blue	Handkerchief	BB
Maid of the Mill	Handkerchief	MM
Shepherds Hey	Linked Handkerchief	SH
Captain with his Whiskers	Stick	CW
Balance the Straw	Stick	BS
Bacca Pipes (Hinton)	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Musician
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	Foreman
Adam Garland	East Suffolk MM	Squire
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Handsworth Sword & Pinewoods (USA)	
David Wintle	Anker MM & Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

9-20	The Sibton White Horse	
9-55	Weavers Tearooms, Peasenhall	
10-50	Bruisyard Vinery	
11-50	Market Square, Framlingham	
12-45	The Victoria, Earl Soham	LUNCH
14-25	The Chequers, Kettleburgh	
15-05	Easton Farm Park	
16-50	The Griffin, Yoxford	
19-00	Dinner at the Sibton White Horse	
20-15	'Dancing after Dinner'	
9 Spots	49 Dances Foreman's Jig 5 times	

Practice venue: Peasenhall Village Hall

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Log:

9-25 Sibton White Horse

The opening spot was set in front of the White Horse on the open forecourt, blessed by sunshine. As usual there were few spectators, but the dancing went quite well for a first spot.

Dances: HW; BS; MM; CW; BB; SH 6

10-00 The Green, Peasehall

The dance spot was in front of Weavers Tearooms at the side of the Green. A beautiful setting, with the mature trees on the Green and the historic buildings around it, including the 15th Century Wool Hall, and sunshine over all. The dancing occasionally encroached upon the road, though at little risk from passing traffic. During the display a small group of spectators, adults and children, gathered. The repertoire had been run through when the team was asked if they would continue for a very elderly lady who had been helped out from the Wool Hall to watch. It transpired that she was the 95 year old matriarch of the family which made up the audience; it was a weekend celebrating her birthday, with succeeding generations down to a new baby great-grandchild. They had rented the Wool Hall for the weekend and were about to set off for a picnic 'on the beach'. The team naturally obliged with a further couple of dances. Following the dancing the men were able to inspect the main space of the Wool Hall, as it is open to the public even during a private let! Tea and coffee were then taken at the Weavers Tearooms, paid for by the family party. A very pleasant and relaxed spot all round.

Dances: MM; CW; BB; BS; SH; HW; + MM; JIG 7 + 1

11-00 Bruisyard Vinery

Following an intricate route across country the team arrived at one of East Suffolk's wine-making establishments. A small party of visitors arriving almost simultaneously formed a ready-made audience for a spot on the lawn by the well. The dancing was enthusiastically received. The spot was followed by an opportunity to taste the vinery's produce free of charge; bottles were on sale for those that wished.

Dances: HW; BS; BB; CW 4

12-00 Framlingham, Market Square

The chosen venue was in front of the Crown Hotel, the roadway being closed to normal traffic as it was Market Day. This being the first ale-stop of the Tour, men filled their tankards before beginning. This, or residual fumes from the Vinery, affected the music, which struck up 'Bonnetts so Blue' as the dancers launched into 'Maid of the Mill'. Cries of protest from the still dancing team resulted in a modulation into 'Haste to the Wedding', until finally the correct tune emerged. Stall holders and passing shoppers enjoyed the display, in the course of which Pete Barnard obtained a chair from the Crown Hotel bar, and played from a seated position in greater comfort.

Dances: MM; CW; HW; JIG; BS; BB; SH 6 + 1

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13-00 The Victoria Brewery, Earl Soham

An attractive old pub with own brewery, chosen as the Lunch spot. Pints in and lunches ordered, the team danced while the food was being prepared. The dance spot was on the greensward in front of the pub, flanked by a flowering cherry tree – this had been planted to replace a famous previous sample blown down a short while before. The sun continued to shine on the dancing. The team then settled to eat at tables in the garden, and rounded off lunchtime in the approved fashion with some singing. Some very long-standing friends of Joe's family were among the small audience, having turned up specially.

Dances: MM; HW; CW; BB

4

14-40 The Chequers, Kettleburgh

This had to be a swift visit as the next venue, at Easton Farm Park, had a newspaper advertisement for the timed performance published. However, a spot was not so swift as to preclude sampling the remarkable Tolly Cobbold 'Tractor Boys', before dancing in the riverside garden. The grass plot proved distinctly soggy underfoot, but no major problems ensued. A brief inspection of the river from the small bridge at the end of the garden revealed it was practically hidden in undergrowth. An enthusiastic couple watched the performance from slightly higher ground.

Dances: SH; BS; HW

3

15-10 Easton Farm Park

This had been planned as one of the 'larger crowd' venues, as the Farm Park normally attracts a lot of visitors, but unfortunately the crowds had failed to materialise, probably due to a combination of the foot and mouth epidemic and football, it being Cup Final day. However, most of Adam's family had come along to swell the numbers, which did help. After dancing in the open centre, the team were at leisure to inspect a litter of black piglets on exhibition before retiring to the riverside terrace for tea 'on the house'. A pleasantly relaxed occasion, with an interesting variety of water fowl on the river, including geese, Aylesbury duck and black Swan.

Dances: MM; CW; SH; JIG; HW; BS; BB

6 + 1

17-00 The Griffin, Yoxford

Reluctantly tearing themselves away from the tea-break, the team then hot-footed to Yoxford, where the landlord of the Griffin had stayed open specially, and advertised the performance on his events chalk-board outside. He also provided a free pint all round, and the team responded with a performance of the entire repertoire.

Dances: HW; BS; SH; MM; CW; JIG; BB

6 + 1

Sibton White Horse

The team returned to Sibton for rest and refreshment before the evening's doings. The evening sunshine was very pleasant on the extensive lawns behind the Inn, and those enjoying a cup of tea were further regaled, at some distance it is true,

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by Pete warming up his performance on the Bagpipes. Dinner was eaten in the bar, and the final spot performed in front of the Inn with an audience of the clientele.

Dances: BB; CW; MM; JIG; SH; BC; HW; 6 + 1

Bonny Green Garters was danced to finish the day. 1

Après Morris:

All then repaired to the bar for music and singing. The Inn became quite busy as the evening wore on, with a number of interested parties keen to listen and a bar crowd who paused to take notice on occasion. The spectators included a ferocious looking German Shepherd dog, who was of a nervous disposition and hid under chairs, and an enthusiastically sociable lady who eventually fell off her bar stool at about midnight. The party continued until after 12-30. A pint 'on the landlord' for the team helped lubricate the singing. Pete's Bagpipes were met with some amazement, but appreciated for the unusual nature of the entertainment.

13th May 2001 Forecourt of Sibton White Horse **AGM**

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Minutes of A.G.M. 13th May 2001

Venue: on the Forecourt of The White Horse, Sibton, Suffolk, in the sunshine.

Present: Tony Ashley, Pete Barnard, Steve Bignell (Foreman), Adam Garland (Squire), Geoff Thompson, Martyn Thomas, Joe Oldaker, Dave Wintle.

The meeting convened at 9-30hrs., with Adam in the Chair.

Adam began by saying that he personally had thoroughly enjoyed the day, the weather having been excellent. The spot at Easton Farm Park had been short of an audience where normally there would have been a lot of people - no doubt due to the foot & mouth epidemic. However, there had been a "family" presence to make up numbers. The other planning which could have been a problem was the pub itself, which had a new landlord who had not been given the relevant booking information by the previous one; fortunately the accommodation was available and the new man Morris-friendly. Special mention seemed due of the Weaver's Tea Room at Peasenhall, and the Tea Room at Easton, both very welcoming, and especially the Griffin Inn at Yoxford which had stayed open late for the team's arrival. An official vote of thanks to Adam for his work as Squire was passed by the whole team.

Martyn said he felt the weekend had been so good in all aspects that there was rather a feeling of "follow that" when looking ahead to future weekends, but Geoff countered with the point that changing the venue every year made it possible to have a different good weekend each time - no one was "competing" on the same ground as it were.

Steve as Foreman was asked to comment on the dancing. He thanked all the men for coping with a tradition which is difficult, even if it looks easy. The hanky dances were looking good by the end of the day, but the stick dances rather messy, but they always tended to anyway. However, he felt strongly that stick dances helped to break up a programme and were worth including. He said he hoped his teaching method, being strictly practical, had been acceptable. All agreed that he had done a good job. He proposed to write to Brackley to thank them for their help, as his attendance at their practices had allowed him to tackle the job. An official vote of thanks to Steve was then passed.

The total number of dances performed during the day had been 49 + 5 performances of the Foreman's Jig, the total including a final Bonny Green Garters, Bampton.

On money, Martyn reported that the bag had been £44-00, + £10-00 from the lady whose family had been entertained outside the teashop in Peasenhall. The float had been £4-60. Expenses for the hall were £10-00. A sum of £25-00 was set aside from the bag for Associate Membership of the Morris Ring, an essential for Public Liability Insurance Cover; Joe agreed to deal with this when it came due.

Next year's Date: This was agreed as **11th May 2002.**

Squire for 2002: Pete Barnard offered to organise the Tour.

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Foreman for 2002: Adam offered, but Joe said he felt it was again his turn to take on the job, and this was accepted.

Joe agreed to produce an emended address list, with e-mail addresses and mobile numbers where applicable.

Joe also asked that any photographs be sent to him so that the photo album could be brought up to date before the next meeting of the team.

Martyn suggested that a new collecting box be considered, as the current tin had been in use since the inception of the team, and was looking a bit worn. He suggested that a tankard style with hinged lid might be appropriate, with possibly the "Sun" logo on the top. He knew of a contact who might be able to produce such an item and said he would make enquiries.

Tony commented that although the team had the excellent Sweatshirts organised by Martyn the previous year, it had actually been too warm to wear them this year. The meeting closed at 9-58hrs.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



15th Annual Tour - 11th May 2002

The Lincolnshire Wolds

[Home Base: The Masons Arms, Louth]

The Tradition: Bidford

The Dances:

Abraham Brown	Handkerchief	AB
Old Woman Tossed Up	Handkerchief	OW
Young Collins	Stick	YC
Shepherds Aye	Stick	SA
Constant Billy	Handclapping	CB
We won't go Home till Morning/Cuckoo's Nest	Handkerchief	WW
Devil among the Tailors	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Squire Musician
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Adam Garland	East Suffolk MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Foreman
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Handsworth Sword & Pinewoods (USA)	
David Wintle	Anker MM & Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary

9-20	The Masons Arms, Louth	
10-15	The Green Man, Scamblesby	
11-15	Horncastle (2 venues)	
12-15	The White Hart, Tetford	LUNCH
2-05	Bluestone Heath Road Car park	
2-45	The Vine, South Thoresby	
3-30	The Five-Sailed Windmill, Alford	
5-00	The Royal Oak, Little Cawthorpe	
6-00	The Wheatsheaf, Westgate, Louth	
9-00	Market Place outside the Masons Arms	

11 spots 57 Dances Foreman's Jig 8 times

Practice venue: Holy Trinity Church Hall, Louth

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

9-20

Approach to New Market Hall, Louth

The opening spot was staged in the relatively narrow paved space in front of the doors into the Market Hall, next to the Masons Arms. Not particularly busy but an appreciative audience in the adjacent shops. During the performance the "shaking-down" of the various dance definitive figures gave rise to some exchanges among the dancers, which tended to re-appear as a leit-motif with certain dances during the day. Unfortunately the weather started overcast, and deteriorated to a light drizzle by the time the spot ended.

Dances: YC; AB; WW; CB; SA; JIG; OW

6 + 1

10-20

The Green Man, Scamblesby

The pub was open for us, but with no audience whatsoever, and just on the team's arrival the light rain became a steady downpour. In the event it was agreed the team would dance in the bar, so tables and chairs were moved, and an enjoyable set performed for the entertainment of the landlord and landlady, and the intense puzzlement of the pub's black Labrador, who definitely did not know what to make of it at all.

Dances: OW; SA; WW; CB; YC; AB; JIG

6 + 1

11-15

Horncastle

During the journey to Horncastle the weather cleared up, leaving it grey-skied but dry. Serious traffic led to a change in parking plans, which in turn led to a happy variation in the planned programme. Walking from the car park along by the river, the team came upon a crowd of the public who had been spectators of the "Rubber Duck Race", which had just finished. The spectators also included two surprised geese on the river bank, who were scrutinizing the residual rubber ducks. A snap decision was made to perform for this ready-made audience on the nearby paved space by the shelter, and this proved an excellent idea. Following this the team moved on to the planned location at Heather's Fruit Shop, accompanied by a small group of enthusiastic children (with parents in tow), who had watched the first show. The second spot was of necessity brief, as the schedule had to be kept. After dancing the team retired to the nearby Bull Hotel for refreshments, the Squire's original first choice, the King's Head, not being open. On returning to the car park it was realized that the sticks had been left in the bar at the Bull, so a detour and a minute of illegal parking was required to rescue them, en route for the next venue.

Dances: 1st Spot: SA; AB; WW; YC 2nd Spot: OW; JIG; CB 6 + 1

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12-15 The White Hart, Tetford

Entering the bar to obtain a pint before dancing, the team was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by two past members, Rob Ashton (living in nearby Little Cawthorpe) and Pete Barker, who was accompanied by his wife Jackie, a stalwart help and supporter of the team in the past. As the tradition danced this year was not a mainstream one, the two previous members were challenged to identify it from the performance. Rob managed to spot it because of the unique spiral figure, but said he had never seen the tradition danced in that particular style. The audience also included a number of patrons of the pub, and some friends of the Squire. After dancing, lunch was taken, a meal which was remarkable for the quality of the local sausages. Time and the landlord permitting, the meal was followed by a short song session.

Dances: AB; YC; CB; WW; JIG; SA; OW 6 + 1

2-15 Bluestone Heath Road Car Park

This odd-sounding spot turned out to be a lay-by on what had been a Drovers' Road, with the most spectacular views across the Wolds. Apart from the team, augmented by the Squire's friends, a sole elderly couple had parked here. By this time the sun had finally broken through so a couple of dances were performed in honour of the view and the weather. A lady on a bay horse came along so care was taken not to alarm her mount, which actually seemed largely unconcerned. She declared herself greatly surprised, as she had seen just about everything on the Drovers' Road except Morris Dancing! After a team photo-call it was necessary to move on.

Dances: SH; OW 2

2-45 The Vine, South Thoresby

The fine weather continued, and as at Tetford the road in front of the pub was relatively quiet for dancing. Here there was a surprisingly good crowd of local people who had anticipated our arrival quite keenly, and made an enthusiastic audience. Just as we finished the spot we were asked to do another dance for an elderly gentleman who had arrived too late to see the rest, so the team duly obliged, before having to leave.

Dances: AB; YC; CB; WW; JIG; OW; SA; + YC 7 + 1

3-30 The Five-Sailed Windmill, Alford

The Squire was anxious we should be in time here as the local press were going to be there and the Mill is quite a popular tourist spot. After some consideration it was decided to dance on the grass in front of the Mill, rather than on the harder (and less-exhausting) surface of the car park. It certainly made a more picturesque setting for the press photographer to get a picture of the dancing. Coverage of the event and a photograph appeared in the "Lincolnshire Citizen" the following Friday. After the performance the team were taken on a tour of the Windmill, which grinds

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organic flour, sold in the Mill shop. Viewing the machinery was interesting, and there were excellent views of the surrounding countryside from the external gallery below the cap. Following the tour a cup of tea was offered. With memories of tea-time occasions on previous Tours, it was decided to dip into the kitty for a full-blown cream tea all round. This proved an excellent idea, the scones being made with organic wholemeal flour from the Mill, and the jam and cream generously supplied. Tea was taken at tables on the lawn behind the Mill in the sunshine.

Dances: AB; YC; WW; CB; JIG; OW; SA 6 + 1

5-00 The Royal Oak, Little Cawthorpe

Following an intricate route across country brought the team to Little Cawthorpe and "The Splash Inn" – as the Royal Oak is set down by a ford in the river, it has acquired its second name. Here a local crowd of ten or so gathered to watch on the lawn. Rob Ashton reappeared with his two lads, as he lives close by in the village.

Dances: YC; AB; CB; WW; JIG; OW; SA 6 + 1

6-00 The Wheatsheaf Inn, Westgate, Louth

An interesting old inn with a long yard at the back where it was possible to dance. A low-key spot with an audience of two, swelling to four.

Dances: SA; OW; CB; WW; AB; YC 6

From the Wheatsheaf the team returned to the Masons Arms to clean up and rest before having dinner in the upstairs dining room. As on some previous occasions the pressure of a timed dance spot scheduled for after dinner led to a less relaxed ending to the meal.

9-00pm Market Place, outside the Masons Arms

The performance took place on the roadway as the Square is a one way street at that point and not very busy with traffic. Again a very sparse audience, supplemented by Rob and the two lads once more, though unfortunately they could not stay for the Après-Morris in the bar. A most enjoyable song and music session had to be wound up at 11-30 at the request of the pleasant young lady behind the bar. This was sensationally early by the usual standards, and did leave a number of favourites from the repertoire un-aided.

Dances: YC; AB; CB; WW; JIG; OW; SA 6 + 1

12th May 2002 Bar of the Masons Arms

AGM

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 12th May 2002.

Venue: Held in the Bar of the Mason's Arms, Louth, Lincolnshire.

The meeting opened at 10-10 a.m..

Present: Tony Ashley, Peter Barnard (Squire), Steve Bignell, Adam Garland, Joe Oldaker (Foreman), Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, Dave Wintle.

Peter began with a summary of the Tour: there had been 11 Dance spots, which allowed lots of dancing. The venues had been places he himself wanted to visit, and he hoped the rest of the team had enjoyed the tour. The total number of dances performed had been 57, with 8 performances of the Foreman's Jig, both of which were a record total in the team's history. Tony commented that the dancing commitment might have been a problem with a more physically taxing tradition.

Steve brought up the serious suggestion that the dancing finish earlier, as the final spot after dinner tended to be a rush to achieve and occasionally uncomfortable after eating. He suggested that this spot should be optional, playing it by ear on the occasion. Tony was a little reluctant to change the original pattern used from the beginning, and suggested that finishing the day earlier would allow the team to eat earlier. There was general feeling that the after-dinner spot should suit the individual venue, as occasionally there was no audience; this could be assessed by the Squire of the day. Dave was concerned that pruning the usual programme could be the thin end of the wedge. It was agreed that the "home base" spot should be kept, but the timing should be fine-tuned. Peter commented that he personally preferred to get all the dancing over in one fell swoop, rather than having the major break of dinner and starting up again.

The team agreed that it had been a great day, and an official vote of thanks to Peter was passed. The "cup of tea break" was felt to be an excellent idea, with the cream tea an extra gloss on it.

Joe then reported as Foreman. He felt that the tradition had gone remarkably smoothly, with the practice being relatively stress-free, the dancers picking up the details quickly, as it was not technically very complicated. However, the day's dancing speed had been notably slowed in comparison with the original practice speed - this was partly due to the rigours of performance, and partly because what worked with a dancing team modified the original intention. Martyn said he thought the slower speed was definitely better. Geoff commented that the tradition looked good from outside the set, with a feeling of coherence, and that there was a notable "Morris moment" in the fractional pause on the foot together jump in the figures, when the whole set was frozen, but obviously leaning into the next movement. Adam said that he thought the Jig had also looked good. Both Geoff and Adam asked for copies of the notations as danced, with the intention of taking the weekend's version of Bidford back to their respective teams. A vote of thanks was passed to Joe for his work as Foreman.

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Martyn reported on the finances of the day. The bag had come to £70-12 which was quite a reasonable take considering there had been no large crowds or tourist venues. The coincidence with the end of the Duck Race in Horncastle had provided the biggest audience of the day, who also proved very appreciative. The question of running costs was discussed. There was a fee of £15-00 due for the practice hall, and the Associate Membership of the Morris Ring would fall due in the Autumn. As the Ring Membership was to ensure public liability cover for the team, often a requirement for public performance with some Councils, Peter suggested that it would be possible to include the One Day Wonders in a Group Insurance which he held for his own appearances under several musical banners, solo and as one of a group. As this already existed it would cost the team nothing to be added to the cover, which would obviously run as long as Peter himself was appearing with the team. It was agreed to accept this generous offer. Martyn asked if it would be an idea to reimburse the drivers for the day for some of the costs of petrol. The general feeling was that as the driving did circulate, though Adam did choose to drive regularly, it was not really an issue, though a nominal £5 could be in order. The question then arose as to what to do with the surplus funds. The general view was to keep them in hand, so that a small subsidy on costs might be possible in 2003 if appropriate.

Planning for 2003. Dates proposed were **9th, 10th & 11th May**. Tony asked if it was possible to consider an alternative, as the dates coincided with a grandchild's birthday (as it had this year). Alternative dates however proved a problem for other members of the team for various reasons, so the initial choice was accepted. Steve offered to act as Squire as the cycle seemed to have come round to him again, but Dave Wintle volunteered, not having done the job for a considerable time as the logistics of organising a Tour would have been impossible before because of his study and work commitments. His offer was accepted. Adam volunteered to do the Foreman's job. However, Adam then went on to announce that he felt 2003 would have to be his last outing with the team, as work, family and other pressures were likely to make it difficult for him to sustain a commitment, though he had greatly enjoyed his time with the One Day Wonders. This was met with general regret, especially as Adam as the youngest member might have seemed a candidate for carrying the team rather longer into the future than the older men might manage. The matter of a replacement for him in 2004 needed to be given some thought - the club "rule" that a departing man should find his replacement had never actually worked in the past, but Adam was making a long term decision, and could look at the possibilities in good time, though clearly it was wise for other men to think along the same lines. Some half-serious comment was made on the question of which tradition Adam might choose, more or less strenuous, given that the Bidford had been relatively easy to pick up and perform. As Joe pointed out, the form of the Bidford dances as taught was slightly shorter than the most common patterns, which helped; Tony commented that the form may have been shorter, but the double length ending offset that.

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As a retrospective “matter arising”, Tony pointed out that the promised new collecting box had appeared, and had proved excellent for the job. Martyn apologised for it not matching the original design criteria, but there had been a hitch with the craftsman he had asked. Everyone professed themselves happy with the result, with appropriate thanks to Martyn. The original collecting tin was then ceremonially flattened (using the Mason’s Arms’ heavy weight doorstop) and consigned to the team’s collection of memorabilia.

Tony proposed that a new set of arm ribbons should be acquired, made up from the heavy ribbon used for the bell pads. This was agreed, Geoff urging that they should be elasticated for ease of use and added security, and Tony said he would look into it.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.47.

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16th Annual Tour - 10th May 2003

The Wye Knot Tour – Forest of Dean and S. Herefordshire

[Home Base; The Malt Shovel Inn, Ruardean]

The Tradition: Headington

The Dances:

Blue Eyed Stranger	Handkerchief	BS
29 th of May	Handkerchief	29 th
Laudnum Bunches	Handkerchief	LB
Rigs o' Marlow	Stick	RM
Hunt the Squirrel	Stick	HS
Constant Billy	Stick	CB
Jockey to the Fair	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Also music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Also music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Adam Garland	East Suffolk MM	Foreman
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Handsworth Sword/Pinwoods (USA)	
David Wintle	Forest of Dean MM/Anker MM	Squire

The Itinerary:

9-30am	The Malt Shovel Inn, Ruardean	
10-15	Goodrich Castle : Car park	
11-00	Wilton Court Hotel, Wilton	
12-00	The Moody Cow, Crow Hill	
1 pm	The Green Man, Fownhope	Lunch
3-00	The Walwyn Arms, Much Marcle	
4-00	Hellens Manor, Much Marcle	
5-00	The Market House, Ross-on-Wye	
8 Spots	48 dances	8 Jig Performances

Practice Venue: Holy Trinity Schoolroom, Drybrook

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

9-35 Car park at the Malt Shovel Inn, Ruardean
A low-key first spot with the dancers settling in to the feel of the tradition. A small audience of cyclists who were meeting at the pub for a club ride.
Dances: BS; RM; 29TH; HS; LB; JIG; CB 6 + 1

10-10 Goodrich Castle: Car Park
Though technically an early start, this was for the benefit of a rambling group which was gathering on the car park to start a walk – a case of “seize the audience”! The local press in the form of the internet newspaper “wyenot.com” were also present. They actually followed for several spots during the day, and subsequently published pictures and notes on the day on their website. After 3 dances the ramblers departed, so a tea/coffee break was called, after which the programme was resumed.
Dances : BS;; RM; LB; (Break) HS; 29TH; JIG; CB 6 + 1

11-10 Wilton Court Hotel, Wilton
After a minor navigational hiccup (the venue being listed as Wilton House Hotel in the itinerary) the party re-assembled for a pint (on the house) before dancing. The dance spot was the patio surfaced by very crazy paving, making quick low stepping tricky. There was a very light shower during the first two dances, but this cleared, leaving the sky overcast. A small audience of residents and passers-by.
Dances: BS; RM; LB; HS; JIG; 29TH; CB 6 + !

12-00 The Moody Cow, Crow Hill
Arriving at 12-00 the team got a beer in before dancing in the courtyard in front of the pub at 12-15. The weather seemed to be setting a pattern, with a slight shower for 5 minutes, driving the musicians into the cover of the pub doorway. This then cleared. As the audience, almost exclusively the pub staff, were watching from inside the bar, the Foreman decided to dance his Jig in the bar under the garland of hops. This was much appreciated.
Dances: BS; RM; LB; HS; JIG; 29TH; CB 6 + 1

1-00pm The Green Man, Fownhope
After initial refreshment, the performance got under way at 1-30, to an interested few, on the car park near the entrance. The expected touch of rain duly obliged but stopped more or less immediately. The team then retired for an excellent lunch, which was followed by a pleasant music session around the table. Two older ladies in the corner were most appreciative.
Dances: BS; RM; LB; HS; JIG; 29TH; CB 6 + 1

3-20 The Walwyn Arms, Much Marcle

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This was a quiet spot with minimal audience from the pub – “dancing for our own enjoyment” – performed in front of the pub.

Dances: BS; RM; LB; HS; JIG; 29TH; CB 6 + 1

4-00 'Hellens' Manor, Much Marcle

This was a striking spot, in the grounds of the house, a 17th century manor built round a medieval core. A notable water-feature on the drive faced the stable block, and provided a raised area behind it for the performance. There was a good little crowd consisting of people emerging from a tour of the house, plus those about to embark on a tour. After dancing the team adjourned to the stable block tea-room in anticipation of the cream tea the Squire had booked. Unfortunately the booking had gone astray, but tea and cake 'on the house' were provided. The team were able to spend a little time looking round the exterior of the house, and the formal gardens.

Dances: BS; RM; LB; HS; JIG; 29TH; CB 6 + 1

5-25 The Market House, Ross-on Wye

It was decided to go straight to the dance spot on arrival, and though it was raining, this stopped as the team walked up to the Market House. In spite of a slightly delayed start, there was a small but keen audience assembled, and the performance went down well, somehow fitting into the arched spaces appropriately. As the day was rather behind schedule, it was decided to forgo the visit to the nearby Crown & Sceptre and return to Ruardean for a shower and change before dinner.

Dances: BS; RM; LB; HS; JIG; 29TH; CB 6 + 1

The route back passed the Walwyn Arms, where a gathering of old sports cars was now in session, with some excellent examples of 60's and 70's Triumphs, Austin-Healeys and Daimler SP250.

Also notable during the return journey, as throughout the day, were superb views of the Forest's valleys and woodlands.

The Malt Shovel Inn, Ruardean : Après Morris

Duly showered and changed, the team gathered for dinner. As those cyclists who had stopped after their ride had ordered first, dinner was a long time coming, and though the team was of course in kit, there was no definite dance spot in view. Finally while dinner was being brought, the local Folk crowd arrived and started a session going while the team was still eating. It was decided to break with the usual pattern, forgo any dancing and change into “civvies” if wished.

The music and singing proved a lively session, with the local crowd effectively running the evening until about halfway through. The proceedings were punctuated by a couple of “drunken maidens”, not from the Folk scene, who insisted on asking “Who Killed the Bear?” (a reference to an old Forest of Dean story, and usually regarded as an invitation to a fight in some quarters). One noisily demanded a Forest of Dean song, so the woman from 'wyenot.com' obliged with a 'Forest of Dean is my Home' number which more or less helped to calm things down.

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About halfway through the evening the cyclists group asked to change sides- the bar is open plan but divided distinctly by a large chimney-piece and residual walls. The cyclists wanted access to the pool table which was in the 'Folk music' half. As their section was actually bigger and more comfortable for the session (and had been originally marked down by ODW for the après Morris, only to be pre-empted by the cyclists), a mutually agreeable swop was effected, and the music continued, finally winding up about 1 am, when most of the Folk crowd had drifted away.

As usual Martyn put some effort into his PR work during the evening, explaining the mysteries to two (as usual) attractive young women. Another young woman with the Folk crowd got together with Adam towards the end of the evening (rather to the consternation of an older lady who had brought her along, and who made several pointed references to staying late and what her mother might be concerned about.) As the young woman lived on her own in Ruardean, Adam gallantly offered to walk her home, and departed with the farewell "see you at breakfast". Which he did.

In retrospect the team felt the joint evening had gone well, though in the early stages it was very much the Folk crowd making the running and calling the shots. A combination of the team's talents and the halfway break allowed the ODW to 'take it back' in the second half.

11th May 2003 The Bar, The Malt Shovel, Ruardean **A.G.M.**

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Minutes of A.G.M. 11th May 2003

Venue: In the Bar of The Malt Shovel, Ruardean.

Present: Tony Ashley, Peter Barnard, Steve Bignell, Adam Garland (Foreman), Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle(Squire).

The meeting opened with the pub's resident dog also in attendance.

David Wintle as Squire for the weekend opened the proceedings with some comments about the Tour. It was the Forest of Dean, but not the usual locations for those who had been to the Forest before. "Hellens" had been included as a historic venue, though no actual history was to hand, and the Curator appears highly eccentric. On the weather, it had been less than perfect with spasms of light rain, but it had not prevented the team dancing. The promised Cream Teas at "Hellens" had not materialised in spite of being 'booked', but there was tea and cake on the house which was OK.

The late arrival of the evening meal had kiboshed the dancing spot which might have happened, but it seemed justified to be in kit as the team might have been asked to perform during the evening. In fact pre-dinner might have been preferable. The general consensus at this point was that before rather than after was preferable, even if it meant sitting to eat in sweaty kit. It was always possible to change into mufti after the meal for the session.

On the session, Dave felt it had proved interesting, as it was a joint evening with the local folk club crowd, and he did wonder if this was a good idea, as control was an issue. In the event the switch between rooms partway had allowed the ODW session men to take charge. Dave went on to thank Adam for doing the business with the dances. The choice of Headington meant a set of fast dances, which meant a lot of ground was covered during the day. Thanks were also offered to Joe and Martyn for their respective work on record keeping and keeping tabs on the funds and collecting. Everyone was thanked for turning up for the weekend again.

Tony proposed the thanks to Dave for organizing the weekend - it had been a great Tour even if there were no venues which attracted large crowds; but the team did it for their own pleasure anyway, and there was never any need to worry about past records.

Adam commented on the dance: he had chosen Headington because it was a brisk and snappy tradition, and even at practice on Friday evening it had looked crisp. During the day on Saturday it had got very tight, leading up to a good spot in Ross, to a "compact and bijou audience". The speed had been excellent, due to very good music - thanks to the musicians. Altogether Adam felt it had not been physically excessive, though the team had performed 48 dances, and he had danced the jig 8 times. Adam then went on to confirm that he would have to drop out of the team, and thanked the assembled

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men for the enjoyment he had had over the five years. He had particularly enjoyed the session this time, in spite of the usual pattern of organization not being possible, with the team building it and drawing any local interest in, but it got sorted in the end.

There was a general expression of thanks to Adam for his full contribution to the team's weekends during his five years. Adam said he had a man in mind as his replacement and would pass on contact details etc., when he was sure.

Martyn then summarized the finances. The collection from the public had been £44-23, with an additional donation from Wilton Court Hotel and the Moody Cow of £10 each, making £64-23 in total. There was a general amazement at the size of the take, given that there had been no large audiences. The hire of the practice hall would take £20, and it was agreed that the kitty should hold a float of £15, with the remaining £40 of the collection going to subsidize the weekend costs.

The matter of new arm ribbons, mentioned in last year's Minutes, was brought up. Tony said he would sort these out, but a quest for appropriate ribbon would be needed. Pete asked what method of fixing would be best, as elastic could be constricting, and he wondered if Velcro would be better.

The officers for 2004 were then appointed, with Steve as Squire, and Martyn as Foreman.

The date was set at **8th May 2004**.

Steve requested that the details of the new man be sent to him as early as possible, so he could ensure the communications were in hand.

Under any other business, Dave showed round e-mails from two past members of the team, Bob Collier and Chris Barber, sending good wishes.

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17th Annual Tour - 8th May 2004

The A1 Tour - Mainly Northamptonshire

[Home Base: The Ship Inn, Oundle]

The Tradition: Bampton

<u>The Dances:</u>	Banbury Bill	Handkerchief	BB
	Bobbing Around	Handkerchief	BOB
	Highland Mary	Handkerchief	HM
	Glorishers	Handkerchief	GL
	Trunkles	Handkerchief	TR
	Step & Fetch Her	Handkerchief	SFH
	Flowers of Edinburgh	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Also Music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Also Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	Squire
Jo Mitchell	Northampton MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Foreman
Geoff Thompson	Pinewoods (USA) & Handsworth Sword	
David Wintle	Anker MM & late forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary

10.00 - 10.15	Oundle - The Ship Inn
10.30 - 11.15	Oundle - Market Place
11.45 - 12.30	Woodnewton - The White Swan
1.00 - 2.15	Helpston - The Bluebell [lunch]
2.45 - 3.30	Stamford - Town Centre
4.00 - 5.15	Stibbington - Nene Valley Railway - Wansford Station [tea]
5.45 - 6.45	Ashton - The Chequered Skipper
7.00 - 7.30	Oundle - The Ship Inn
8.00	Dinner - The Ship Inn

8 Spots 46 Dances 7 Jig performances

Practice venue: Meeting Room , Oundle

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

10-00 The Ship Inn, Oundle

The day started with light rain; the first dance was performed in the pub yard, but as the rain got heavier, the team moved to the Archway onto the main street, and danced under cover. A small number of passing citizens paused briefly to watch.

Dances: BB; BOB; HM; JIG; GL; SFH; TR 6 + 1

11.05 The Market Square, Oundle

The team assembled outside the Butcher's, in the midst of the Farmers' Market, the music sharing the Butcher's awning [with permission] as it was still raining lightly. The performance attracted a good, appreciative crowd, and the rain dried up as the spot progressed. Being dry within, the team repaired to the Rose & Crown for refreshment.

Dances: TR; BOB; HM; JIG; GL; SFH; BB; 6 + 1

11.45 The White Swan, Woodnewton

The word was that a Beer Festival was on at the White Swan, and so it proved, though it was still setting up when the team arrived. The dances were performed on the flagstone patio, to an enthusiastic audience of 10 or 12, mainly involved in setting up the beer and tent. A warm welcome from the Landlady and her husband, and the selection of beers, almost tempted the team to spend the rest of the Tour here, but the Squire insisted they move on. The weather improved further at this stage.

Dances: BB;SFH; GL; JIG; TR; HM; BOB 6 + 1

1-00 The Bluebell, Helpston

This being the lunch spot, meals were ordered, and the team danced while they were being prepared. A few spectators, including Graham from Peterborough M.M. who had come specially to watch. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by all.

Dances: HM; BOB; GL; JIG; BB; SFH; TR 6 + 1

3-00 The Precinct, Stamford, at the end of Ironmonger Street

On arrival there was a serious parking problem, the two chauffeurs having to search the surrounding streets for available space independently. The hurdle surmounted, the team assembled at the pedestrian "cross-roads" at the end of Ironmonger Street [recommended by Rutland M.M. as the best spot]. Being a busy area, the dancing attracted a good audience, including a group of youngsters in "Goth" fashions who seemed incredulous and fascinated at the same time by the performance, the girls squealing as the set moved towards them during the figures of the dance. The team retired from this adulation to the Crown; there they were intercepted on the steps and asked to pose with some Dutch visitors, who were delighted to have encountered such a traditionally English thing as Morris. On emerging, the "Goth groupies" were still in evidence, and followed the team along the street, still squealing, for some little way.

Dances: HM; BOB; TR; JIG; GL; SFH; BB 6 + 1

4.20 Wansford Station, Nene Valley Railway

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



On arrival a couple of dances were performed, largely for the station staff, and then a pause was made to await the arrival of a train, hopefully bearing some audience. This proved to be the case, though not a large crowd disembarked. However, the audience did include Thomas the Tank Engine at one point. It had been the intention to take tea in the Station Tea Room, but this is a separate business, and it had closed after the train's departure. It was proposed by the Squire that tea be looked for at the next spot.

Dances: BOB; TR; [pause to await train]; GL; HM; JIG; BB 5 + 1

5.45 The Chequered Skipper, Ashton

The start of the spot was delayed as Peter's party had detoured to the church at nearby Warmington to inspect the famous Green Man roof bosses. A request was made to the landlord for tea, and 2 large pots were provided, making up for the shortfall at Wansford Station. The pub is as much restaurant as pub, and people arrived to eat as the dancing was finishing. The dances were performed on the gravel sweep in front of the pub, alongside the beautiful [privately owned] village green, shaded with chestnut trees, and surrounded by thatched "cottages". An audience of small girls looked on under grey skies. After dancing the team returned to the bar for beer.

Dances: HM; SFH; TR; GL 4

7-15 The Ship Inn, Oundle

After a wash and brush-up, the team gathered in the Inn yard for the final spot of the Tour. There was an enthusiastic group at the picnic tables in the yard, so the day finished well. The performance was concluded with Bonny Green Garters [Bampton] as is customary.

Dances: BOB; TR; HM; JIG; GL; SFH; BB; Bonny Green Garters 7 + 1

The team then took Dinner, though reduced to 7 as Peter had to return home for a family party. The Lounge was packed to the doors all evening, and the conversation and the crowds proved unproductive to a music session, which was somewhat disappointing, though of course the team were without Peter's multi-instrumental talents. It was some compensation that on the previous evening there had been a very lively session in a corner of the bar area, which had gone on late at the instigation of some enthusiastic locals.

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Minutes of AGM 9th MAY 2004

Venue: In the side bar of The Ship Inn. Oundle. 9.45 a.m.

Present: Steve Bignell (Squire), Tony Ashley, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas (Foreman), Geoff Thompson, Dave Wintle.

Jo Mitchell and Peter Barnard were unable to attend due to prior family commitments.

Steve opened by thanking all the team for once more turning up, with special thanks to Tony and Peter for music, and Martyn for sorting and teaching the dances. He apologised if any spot seemed a bit short - Wansford Station had been a bit thin (unlike when he had researched the Tour), and had failed to produce tea, though that had been remedied at the Chequered Skipper at Ashton. Also he regretted the weather had not been as fine as it might have been.

Tony said he had not found any spot disappointing, except it was sometimes disappointing not being able to stay all day in some cases! He considered it excellent all round. The home venue had been excellent, even though the Saturday night clientele had not made it conducive to a song session after dinner, and no apologies were necessary.

Steve then went on to say that he would not want Peter's early departure on the Saturday (enforced by a major family event) to be regarded as a precedent, though Peter himself obviously did not regard it as such. The team agreed it was an exceptional one-off occurrence. All joined in thanking Steve for locating Jo as the elusive Eighth man for the Tour, after Adam's suggested replacement had been unable to commit owing to his new job as a policeman. Steve then asked if the team were prepared to accept Jo as a permanent replacement, as he had originally been brought in at the eleventh hour to fill the gap. The general view was that Jo was an excellent acquisition, and should he wish to continue would be happily accepted. Joe agreed to write to Jo and present the proposition, making it clear that his presence in the team this year was definitely not some sort of probationary screening exercise. A general vote of thanks to Steve for a good do was recorded.

Martyn then dealt with the finances of the day: the bag had taken £81-00, which was very good; there had been a lot of £1 and £2 coins. The spots in Oundle and Stamford had had good crowds.

On the dancing, the team had performed 46 dances, with the Foreman's Jig 7 times. Martyn said he felt the style had looked good by the time it settled in. He had come to the practice with more of an idea than a fully worked out scheme for the tradition, for which he apologised, as some Foremen did more detailed preparations, but any problems had been sorted during the practice session. He thanked the men for their suggestions in that respect. He had chosen the repertoire so as not to be too killing, in view of the fact the team were getting older. Fewer spots also helped, but it was

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necessary to strike a balance between spots further apart and the chore of travelling. Dave said he felt the final spot before Dinner had proved a good idea.

On the question of ageing and exhaustion, Dave pointed out that it was not necessary to do all the dances at each spot - it was possible to strike a balance between "doing a Show" and pacing the day. The decision was down to the Squire of the day, who would obviously give this due consideration. Dave emphasised the team existed to dance, and didn't want to lose that - there was no need to go for records, though the team needed to feel it had done a worthwhile day's dancing. Perhaps it was possible to spread the afternoon spots; in the earlier days of the side the tour had finished earlier. Tony commented that in those days the pubs had closed mid-afternoon, which restricted choices. It was generally agreed that the team had not felt rushed by the Tour format.

Martyn then went on to raise the issue of fitness - he had had a problem with his leg, and knew others had also had various problems, so he wondered if a 9th man would be a good idea. Obviously the ethos of the team precluded any member being asked to stand down; individuals would know when they should call it a day. Dave strongly felt the team format should be left as originally drawn up. Geoff said it could be a serious issue - if close to the event it was down to 6 men and musician, a single further injury could kill the weekend, and that situation had come close this time. The consensus was that the status quo should continue, as more men meant more slack and a risk of the "one more man" syndrome which the conception of the team was specifically designed to avoid.

Martyn asked if the team should consider eventually winding up. It was felt that the time was not yet, and Dave made the point that if new men were recruited by those retiring, as originally intended, the Team could continue and the torch be handed on.

The finances for the weekend were then discussed. The hall hire had been £27-50, and with any other costs taken into account, it was possible to subsidise each man by £6.00 towards costs.

The Date for 2005: Martyn pointed out that the second weekend in May could be difficult for him due to his job, as he was involved in Final Accounts to be completed at that date, and simply might have to drop out because of this. It was agreed that the earlier date was acceptable, so this was fixed as **7th May**.

Officers for 2005: Joe agreed to act as Squire, and Tony offered himself as Foreman, both in view of the sequence of the "rota".

As any other business, Tony was thanked for sorting out new armbands. There had been some problems over fit, so men were given responsibility for tailoring their own adjustments for the following year. It was agreed funds should be made available for

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Tony's wife Sheila to be presented with flowers as a thank-you for stitching the armbands.

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18th Annual Tour - 7th May 2005

"A Small Bit of Wensleydale" Tour – Yorkshire

[Home Base: The Marton Arms, Thornton-in-Lonsdale]

The Tradition: Ducklington

<u>The Dances:</u>	Green Garters	Handkerchief	GG
	Nutting Girl	Handkerchief	NG
	Boys of the Bunch	Handkerchief	BB
	Cuckoo's Nest	Handkerchief	CN
	Old Tyler	Handkerchief	OT
	Jockey to the Fair	Handkerchief	JF

Princess Royal	Foreman's Jig	JIG
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The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Foreman & Music
Peter Barnard	Unattached	Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Jo Mitchell	recently Northampton MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Squire
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Geoff Thompson	Pinewoods USA & Handsworth Sword	
Dave Wintle	Anker MM & lately Forest of Dean MM	

The Itinerary:

9.30a.m.	Thornton in Lonsdale - The Marton Arms
10.00a.m.	Depart for Kirkby Lonsdale
10.15a.m.	Kirkby Lonsdale - Market Square
11.05a.m.	Scenic Drive up the Lune Valley
11.30a.m.	Sedbergh - Main Street [in front of United Reform Church]
	[Refreshments: The Bull Hotel]
12.25p.m.	Scenic Drive along Garsdale
1.00p.m.	Garsdale Head - The Moorcock Inn [Lunch]
2.10p.m.	Scenic Drive into head of Wensleydale
2.30p.m.	Bainbridge - The Rose & Crown
3.10p.m.	Depart for Hawes
3.30p.m.	Hawes - Dales Countryside Museum

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[Tea & Cake at Beckindale's Continental Cafe]

4.30p.m. Scenic Drive up Widdale
4.45p.m. Ribbleshead - The Station Inn
Time at choice: Scenic Drive via Ingleton
7.00p.m. Thornton in Lonsdale - The Marton Arms
8.00p.m. Dinner - The Marton Arms
8 Spots 44 Dances 6 Jig Performances
Practice Venue: Village Hall, Burton in Lonsdale

Friday Practice. The local lady who was key holder to the hall asked to come and watch part of the practice, which she did. After practice the team retired (at a run through torrential rain) to the "Punch Bowl" for a pint, at the Squire's request, as the pub staff had helped him in finding the practice venue. The team then returned to sample some more of the 14 or so real ales at the Marton Arms before bed.

Log:

9.30 The Marton Arms, Thornton in Lonsdale
Fine, blue skies and white clouds, but a very chilly wind blowing. The dances were performed on the block-paved area of the car park in front of the pub entrance. No audience, so the team was able to concentrate on getting the technical details clear in their minds ready for the day.

Dances: GG; NG; BB; CN; OT; JF; JIG 6 + 1

10.20 Market Square, Kirkby Lonsdale
The team danced in front of the Market Cross where there is a clear space between the car parking spaces and the limit of the street. A small crowd accumulated "around the edges" as the dancing went on. The audience included Miss Alice Dale, key holder of the Village Hall in Burton in Lonsdale, a keen dancer of English traditional dances. She had watched some of the practice the evening before. Also present was a friend of hers whose daughter dances with Crook Morris (based over the border in Cumbria) who regularly dance in Kirkby Lonsdale in July. Two thirds of the way through the spot it threatened to rain, but this passed quickly without interrupting the dancing, though the musician retired to the shelter of the Market Cross briefly. At the conclusion of the dancing, the Squire had planned for coffee at the nearby Bay Tree cafe, though he offered the team the opportunity to shop for high quality chocolates and exotic cheeses at two local shops instead, there not being time to do both. En route for the cafe, the team was passing the "Snooty Fox" when they noticed it was open; the Squire's enquiries when planning the Tour had established that it did not open until 11.00, but this was 10.45! Amid accusations [not wholly serious] that the Squire was attempting to limit the drinking, the team turned in to the pub, where they were warmly welcomed. Beer was taken, and free coffee provided for those who wished.

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Peter managed to shop for cheese and get back in time to get a pint in, though he took it with him.

Dances: GG; NG; BB; JIG; CN; OT; JF 6 + 1

11.35 Main Street, Sedbergh

Following a pleasant drive up the Lune Valley, with the sun shining on 'the spring green of the fells, the team danced in front of the shelter outside the United Reform Church. Again an audience gathered on the fringes, and obviously enjoyed the display, and two ladies selling Raffle Tickets from a table on the pavement nearby did a little extra business from the dancers. The team then retired up the street to the Bull Hotel for refreshment and while the men were getting the beer in, the Squire paid a quick visit to the nearby local Library, to thank them for publicizing the event. The librarian said that the local correspondent for the Westmoreland Gazette, who had interviewed the Squire during the planning trip, had put a mention in the previous week's paper, and very kindly gave the Squire the reading room copy for the team records. He returned to The Bull where the team were still discussing the beers selection! Peter played a little music for the benefit of the assembled company while beer was drunk.

Dances: GG; BB; JF; JIG; CN; OT; NG 6 + 1

13-05 The Moorcock Inn, Garsdale Head

Once again the drive took in the beauty of the fells, and also an excellent view of the Garsdale Head Viaduct. On arrival at the Moorcock the team got a beer in and ordered their lunches, before dancing while lunch was prepared. Opening the door to go out and dance revealed horizontal rain, so it was decided to postpone the spot. After about 5 minutes the squall passed, and the team went out to do 3 dances under a spectacularly black sky, and buffeted by a sharp wind. A couple of hardy spectators came out to watch. Lunch was much appreciated, the menu offering local cheeses, including three out of the four on Geoff's "Ploughman's". As Tony commented: "how many Ploughmen is it for?" - Geoff took a roll and cheese with him when the team left.

Dances: GG; BB; JF 3

14-40 The Rose & Crown, Bainbridge

As the team were ordering drinks a gentleman entered the bar and asked when the team was going to dance. It transpired that a small group of vintage car enthusiasts had stopped for lunch, and had seen the team arrive just as they themselves were about to leave; they were keen to see some dancing. The team duly obliged, on a rather windswept car-park, and were "appropriately" photographed with a vintage Morris car. A slight shower failed to spoil the performance.

Dances: GG; NG; OT; BB 4

15-40 Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

In spite of the team's appearance being featured among the posters for the day's events, the audience was rather sparse, and tended to change, probably due to the cold wind. The dancing took place in the forecourt in front of the Museum entrance. At

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the conclusion of the display, a heavy shower arrived, hastening the team's departure to nearby Beckindale's Continental Cafe. Here excellent tea and cakes were available, and the team enjoyed a relaxing break.

Dances: JF; BB; CN; GG; NG; JIG; OT 6 + 1

17-05 The Station Inn, Ribbleshead

Following a spectacular drive from Hawes along Widdale, during which the second car "got lost" (having stopped to bird-watch), the team arrived on a nearly empty car-park. However, on entering the Inn it proved to be unexpectedly full; the 30th Anniversary of the DaleRail organisation was in full swing, with buffet, on one side, and there were 15 or so walkers and the like in the bar. Unfortunately the DaleRail speeches coincided with the team's dance spot, and not many braved the wind blowing across from the Ribbleshead Viaduct to watch. A young man working behind the bar came out with his camera, and asked if he could photograph the team in front of the Inn when the dancing had finished. He was plied with everyone else's camera as well to get a group shot, and spent some time running up and down getting the right angles. The Squire had planned to have time in hand at this point in the Tour, so opinion was canvassed as to whether to linger at the Station Inn, or return to home base at the Marton Arms and have a break there before the final 19.00hrs show. The team voted to stay at the Station Inn and return to Thornton in Lonsdale just in time for the last spot. A pleasant session ensued, with Peter, and occasionally Tony, playing music to entertain the bar, the remainder of the team enjoying the selection of ales. After much discussion with the barman with the camera about e-mailing photographs (both Geoff's camera and his being digital), the young man produced a laptop computer and proceeded to download the relevant shots from Geoff's memory card directly, so the team was able to have a sneak preview of some of the pictures. A good time was had by all.

Dances: GG; NG; BB; JIG; CN; OT; JF 6 + 1

19.00 The Marton Arms, Thornton in Lonsdale

The team arrived back from Ribbleshead in time to catch their breath and a beer before the scheduled spot. At five minutes to the appointed hour a group of about 10 ladies walked along the lane - the Squire, with an eye to an audience, mentioned that the team was about to dance. The ladies replied that they had actually come along to watch! With some others from the bar there was a satisfactory audience for the dancing, which went well, finishing as is traditional with 'Bonny Green Garters' (Bampton). The team then had a wash and brush up and went in to dinner, in kit.

Dances: GG; NG; BB; JIG; CN; OT; JF; Bonny Green Garters

7 + 1

Après Morris

Following a very substantial meal, the musical instruments were brought out. The team were ensconced in the non-smoking area of the bar, and enjoyed a session until about 11-25, when the management called a halt because of possibly disturbing residents in the rooms above the bars.

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At about 11 a group of three locals at the bar had drawn the curtain across the archway into the non-smoking area, obviously wishing to disassociate themselves from the entertainment, which one or two men felt was not a friendly gesture; though it is sometimes realistic to accept that not everyone is an enthusiast for the style of music.

8th May 2005 9.30 The Main Bar, The Marton Arms **A.G.M.**

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Minutes of AGM 8th May 2005

Venue: The Bar of "The Marton Arms", Thornton in Lonsdale.

Present: Tony Ashley (Foreman), Peter Barnard, Steve Bignell, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker (Squire), Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, Dave Wintle.

The meeting opened at 9.30 a.m. Joe as Squire gave his impression of the Tour - he felt it had gone pretty much as planned, with reasonable audiences at Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh in particular, though rather fewer than hoped at the Hawes Museum. The mixed weather with the cold wind had probably thinned the visitors. The social spot at the Railway Hotel at Ribbleshead had been a pleasant bonus, preparing for the final spot at the home venue, where again the audience numbers had been good. The Yorkshire scenery had of course contributed to the pleasure of the day, as intended.

On the matter of après-Morris, the time-limitations imposed on the session by residents above the bar reflected the problems of finding an appropriate home base. Somewhere big enough and comfortable enough for the party, but small enough to allow an atmosphere to establish for the session, together with the other criteria, did make the search more difficult. Also Joe was aware that the costs of the weekend, though no higher than the previous year, might be off-putting to potential younger recruits with limited financial resources. The bunk-house option had been mentioned regularly, and it might be worth a serious look once more. A general vote of thanks to the Squire for the Tour was passed by the men, with special mention of the Beer choices on Tour and at the Marton Arms. As a footnote, Joe pointed out that finding dance spots had proved more difficult than anticipated, as many of the likely venues, such as Hawes and Dent for example, had no public space free for dancing, squares [like Kirkby Lonsdale] being given over largely to car-parking instead of being used as public open space.

Tony as Foreman then commented on the dancing. He admitted that the Ducklington "slows" had proved very tricky, really needing a lot more practice with dancers and musicians working together; Steve had pointed out on Friday evening that his own team spent whole practice sessions on this aspect of the tradition. Tony said his version had been something of a "pick and mix", and he thought the side by side and back to back figures had looked effective when they worked out. He went on to comment that the choice of traditions was getting smaller, though the initial "rule" of "no repeats" was not hard and fast, and Dave also had a portfolio of reconstructed traditions which Foremen might draw on. The view of the team was that the Ducklington had been enjoyable to do, some never having done it, others counting it in their team's current repertoire. Tony wound up with thanks to Peter for playing for the Foreman's Jig.

Both Peter and Geoff had signalled their intention to "retire" after this Tour, so thanks were offered for their contributions to the life of the team over the years. Peter's other

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commitments were becoming more pressing, and Geoff could not be sure he would make next year's Tour if plans to travel around in the USA came to fruition. Both said that they had got a great deal out of the ODW, and definitely "wouldn't have wanted to miss it". Dave commented that it was interesting that no-one had suggested that the ODW should stop, in spite of two men retiring at the same time. As a follow-up to the question of repertoire, Geoff pointed out that many traditions had a large repertoire within them, which helped reduce the element of repetition.

On finance, Martyn said the collection had come to £48-28, which was respectable given there had been no very large crowds.

On Public Liability Insurance, as Peter would no longer be a member of the Team, the cover available from his Musicians' policy would lapse, and it was clear from information from the Morris Ring that the *team* had to be insured as a separate entity, even if all the members belonged to other teams with PLI. Joe said he would make enquiries of Peter's Insurers in the first instance.

Date for 2006: After some discussion, relating to ambient temperatures and individual preferences, it was decided that a slightly later and (possibly) warmer date would be suitable, and the **20th May 2006** was settled on.

Officers for 2006: Tony checked the list and identified himself as next Squire. Dave Wintle was corresponding Foreman.

Replacement members: Tony suggested that the desire for younger men to hand things on to might be met from the attendees at the Morris Ring Jigs Instructional. Names mentioned included Andy Fawcett and Graham Hubbard, both' dancers and musicians. It was also suggested that enquiries be made of Ben Crabb, whose possible membership had foundered the previous year owing to his training schedule.
[Action - Tony, Joe]

Under Any Other Business, Martyn agreed to sort out a ODW Sweatshirt for Jo. Steve put forward his offer, made in previous years, to act as catering officer if the bunk-house option for accommodation should require it. [Action - Martyn]

There being no other business the meeting then closed.

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19th Annual Tour - 20th May 2006

“Much Wenlock Tour”

[Home bases: Stokes Barn & Cottage/ George & Dragon Much Wenlock]

The Tradition: Lower Swell

<u>The Dances:</u>	Gallant Hussar	Handkerchief	GH
	Swaggering Boney	Handkerchief	SB
	Young Collins	Handclapping	YC
	London Pride/Old Woman	Handkerchief	LP/OW
	The Marriage Vow	Handkerchief	MV
	Nutting Girl [Set Jig]	Handkerchief	NG
	Princess Royal	[Foreman's Jig]	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Squire & Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-upon-Dearne MM	
Graham Hubbard	Icknield Way MM	
Jo Mitchell	Helier MM & late Northampton MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Dave Wintle	Anker MM & lately Forest of Dean MM	Foreman

Itinerary:

10.0am Market Square, Much Wenlock (Park behind the Post Office)
 11.00am The China Museum, Coalport. (Park at museum)
 11.30am drink at Ye Olde Robin Hood.
 Noon - Tontine Hotel, Ironbridge (Park on other side of river adjacent to the
 Tourist Information office)? order food on arrival at pub for lunch at 1.00pm.
 12.15pm dance on/adjacent to the Iron Bridge.
 1.00pm Lunch.
 2.0pm Kynnersley Arms, Leighton
 3.00pm. Riverside Inn, Cressage
 4.15pm. Wroxeter Winery, Wroxeter.
 5.30pm The Square, Much Weniock. (Park behind Post Office)
 6.0pm Return to Stokes Cottage for wash and brush up and short rest.
 7.00pm. Taxi to George and Dragon for meal at 7.30pm. - session after meal.
 ? time - Taxi back to Stokes Cottage

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Log:

9.45 Stokes Barn & Cottage

A rather grey and damp start. An unscheduled performance of just one dance for the visitors staying on the camp-site and in the Barn.

Dance SB 1

10-10 The Square, Much Wenlock

A light rain delayed the start, until it was decided to start anyway! A small group watched, including one with a professional-size video camera, who did not appear to film anything. Time prevented a sortie to the "George & Dragon" (much to Martyn's chagrin), as the landlord had promised a pint "at the back door" if the team called.

Dances: MV; SB; YC; NG; LP 5

11-10 The Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge

It was still raining lightly. In spite of the venue offering an excellent "arena" to dance in, there was no audience, but the team of course performed. At this point it was realised that the collecting box had been left back at base, so a china piggy bank was bought to serve the turn.

Dances: MV; GH; YC; OW; JIG 4 + 1 4+1

The team stopped en route for a beer break at the "Robin Hood". The Irish landlord was welcoming, but surprised that the "Iron Men" had not told him we were coming. (The Squire having sent the usual courtesy messages to local teams)

12.25 Ironbridge - on the bridge approach

Still raining lightly - a small crowd watched from under umbrellas.

Dances: MV; SB; YC; NG; GH 5

After dancing the team repaired to the Tontine Inn for lunch. Good food, but a rather dispiriting ambience somehow - high ceilings, empty space and a feeling of gloom, lightened by the perambulations of a small girl in pink.

2.15 Kynnersley Arms, Leighton

Here at last the rain had stopped and there was a glimpse of sun. A small but appreciative audience, some there on purpose, watched the spot at the front of the pub. Though the building fronts on the road, the ground drops sharply away behind, and the remains of the machinery of the old water-mill on the site are still visible through a glass panel in the pub floor. The original mill has an entry in the Domesday Book.

Dances: MV; GH; LP; JIG; SB 4 + 1

3-05 Riverside Inn, Cressage

Still dry, but cool and overcast. Quite a good crowd, some watching in the garden, others from the shelter of the conservatory. The dance site was on a gravel terrace overlooking a bend of the Severn. After dancing the team were approached to pose for

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a photograph with a young lady who was celebrating her birthday; Steve acted as Morris consort (it also being his birthday) and the rest of the team made a flanking group,

Dances: MV; GH; NG; YC; SB 5 5

4.20 Wroxeter "Roman" Winery

Still dry but not sunny. The display was held back until a party on a Vineyard Tour arrived from the vineyard for their refreshments. They provided a very appreciative crowd, sitting behind a plastic sheet screen to watch. The vineyard owners were very enthusiastic about the performance, especially as it added to the appeal of the visit. They provided tea and coffee for the team, and also offered a wine-tasting of the vineyard's produce, and gave a free bottle of wine to each member of the team.

Dances: MV; OW; GH; JIG; YC 4 + 1 4 + 1

5.40 The Square, Much Wenlock

Still dry. A display of the complete repertoire for a small crowd, which included a couple from Australia who were delighted to have encountered the Morris.

Dances: MV; GH; NG; YC; SB; LP; JIG; Bonny Green Garters, Bampton 7+1

Après Morris: "The George & Dragon", Much Wenlock

Following an excellent meal in the "back room" the team enjoyed a song and music session. [The previous evening Martyn had tried but it had been too noisy for singing, though the entertainment went on until 1 a.m.] The singles group dining in the main restaurant managed to ignore the music more or less completely, much to Milton the landlord's disgust - he thought we were great!

Total Dance numbers: 35 + 4 Jigs

21st May 2007 9.30 a.m. In the Sitting Room of Stokes Barn Cottage AGM

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Minutes of A.G.M. 21st May 2006.

Venue: at Stokes Cottage, Much Wenlock. 9-30 a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley (Squire), Steve Bignell, Andy Fawcett, Graham Hubbard, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Dave Wintle (Foreman)

Tony as Squire opened the proceedings, first expressing the hope that the alternative accommodation arrangements had worked. He thanked Steve for his brilliant work as breakfast chef. He also apologised for the weather, though the afternoon had been OK. Martyn commented that though damp, the locations had been attractive. Dave amplified that to "damp and lonely", but pointed out that it had happened before in the team's history.

Tony said that as before, the day was planned to finish the dancing earlier, with no "dinner-time" spot. Martyn said he had missed the team feeling of having dinner in kit; Steve agreed, though this of course was easier to manage when the dinner venue was also the accommodation. Dave pointed out the one disadvantage, that if the team appeared in kit, there might be an expectation that it would perform.

Steve and Martyn in particular emphasised the need to avoid the "dancing after eating" feeling (usually overfull and queasy), which had prompted the change of the original pattern. Tony pointed out that the team had been less "on show" than usual on Saturday, the main session having really worked out on Friday night, with the late opening until 1 a.m. Following these comments, Tony asked if it was necessary to decide between the bunkhouse type arrangements, which were cheaper, and the convenience of pub residence. It really needed to be played by ear, as the Squire could not be obliged to use a particular arrangement if it simply was not practical where his tour was planned. As Dave pointed out, it could be quite tricky to bring together pub + accommodation + tour + practice room. It was generally agreed that the taxi worked well in covering the disadvantages of being out of town.

Tony then asked the new men if they had enjoyed the experience in spite of the drawbacks - both said they had and were happy to continue. Graham said that he had found it interesting - Joe commented that the reason for recruiting new blood like Graham and Andy was that they could keep it interesting as the team continued into the future, as the old guard (eventually) fell away. On the subject of kit, Tony said the bell pads were beginning to show signs of wear and tear, but should be OK for at least another year. A couple of men were taking arm bands home to correct the fit - he reminded them to be sure to bring them back for the next tour.

Tony then called on Dave as Foreman to comment on the dancing - he himself felt it had looked OK. Dave said it had got tidy later on, though the particular figure of chorus + half-rounds had regularly gone wrong, and always when he had not called the half-rounds - at least one man had gone on to "auto-pilot" and into a half-hey each

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time, and not always the same man. Dave thanked the team for trying hard to get used to an unfamiliar tradition, trickier for being slightly familiar in some respects. He felt the new men had fitted well into the team straight away. Tony wondered how strenuous the dancing actually had been, and Joe commented that it was rather more so than it looked - the flow of the figures tended to mask the effort involved, especially in the chorus and half-rounds dances. At one or two spots the team had looked as if the effort had taken its toll by the end. Joe reported that the dance total for the day had been 35 dances and 4 performances of the Foreman' Jig.

A vote of thanks to Dave as Foreman was generally acclaimed, as was a similar vote of thanks to Tony.

Martyn then reported on the finances. The collection had raised £87-30, though with the necessity of purchasing the pottery pig as replacement collecting box, and car parking, the total fell to £78-35. Having taken out the taxi fares and the Ring Membership Subscription for 2007 in anticipation, this left a float of £34-70 for 2007. As Tony pointed out, this was useful as it should cover the cost of a practice room for 2007, as the 2005 float had for 2006.

At this point Joe brought before the meeting the matter of the cheque sent from the USA by recently retired member Geoff Thompson, intended to provide refreshment for the team this year.

As the team did not actually have a bank account, it had not been possible to use this. Martyn said it would probably be possible to cash it if a couple of team members signed it on the back - this was done and Martyn undertook to cash it and add the sum to the float. Joe also circulated a postcard with greetings from Geoff, and a couple of remarkable beer labels from Utah; these were to be added to the team archive.

The arrangements for 2007 were then discussed. The date fixed for the Tour was **19th May 2007**. It was mentioned that this was the 20th Tour, so something special would be nice. Jo, being in line for the job if practicable, offered to run the Tour on his home territory of Jersey. He said getting there should not be a problem if planned well in advance, as flights could be booked for as little as £10 or so if done far enough ahead; with airport taxes the cost would be about £45 at that rate. As Martyn pointed out, this compared with the cost of a tank of petrol to travel inland. Jo also reckoned accommodation, transport and tour could all be easily sorted using his local contacts. He agreed to look into travel arrangements on behalf of the team, with Tony acting as liaison. The team welcomed his offer, though there were one or two men who were slightly apprehensive of the reaction of their "other halves" to a Morris jolly in a special venue like Jersey.

Checking the list of past officers, it appeared that Steve was next in line for the Foreman's job, which he agreed to do.

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A.O.B. The costs of breakfasts worked out at £7 / man, due to be paid to Steve.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Action points: Armbands - adjust and bring next year

Travel arrangements - Jo & Tony to liaise

If the decision is made to dine in kit at the end of the Tour, can Jo please let us know so we can pack an extra clean shirt.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



20th Tour 'Island of Jersey' - 20th May 2007

Preliminary Note.

The 2007 tour was based in Jersey. On the Friday five of the team were scheduled to fly from Baginton (Coventry) with ThompsonFly. The flight was repeatedly delayed due to fog on Jersey, and then cancelled, even though the fog had by then cleared. After extensive telephone consultations, it was decided to postpone the Tour until the Sunday of the weekend, which the Squire thought possible, and the stranded team members would travel to Poole on Saturday morning and catch a ferry, returning on Monday.

This meant that John Weaver, newly recruited to the team, had to drop out as he had to be at the office on Monday morning.

This plan was followed and the Tour went ahead with some small alterations.

Saturday 19 May 2007

Breakfast	time to be decided
Tour	Spot
10.00am	1 Gorey Pier
10.50am	2 Liberation Square, St Helier
11.30am	Drink at the Lamplighter
12.20pm	3 Moulin de Lecq dance
12.30pm	lunch
2.15pm	4 Sorel Point
2.50pm	5 Les Fontaines Tavern
3.45pm	6 Hamptonne Country Life Museum (tea)
5.30pm	7 The Smugglers' Inn, Ouaisne
6.00pm	Swim (not optional)
7.00pm	Meal and session after the meal

The above is the Squire's original plan for the Tour on Saturday 19th. As it had to be moved to Sunday 20th, the spot at Sorel Point was omitted and the meal at the Smugglers Inn cancelled. See the Log for details.

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20th Annual Tour - 20th May 2007

"Island of Jersey" Tour

[Home Base: Youth Hostel, Haut de la Garenne.]

The Tradition: Kirtlington

<u>The Dances:</u>	Crow in the Willow	Handkerchief	CW
	Old Woman Tossed Up	Handkerchief	OW
	Forest Feathers	Stick	FF
	Portway	Handkerchief	P
	Mollie Minns	Stick	MM
	Buxton's Court	Handkerchief	BC
	Lumps of Plum Pudding	[Foreman's Jig]	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	Foreman
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-upon-Dearne MM	
Jo Mitchell	Helier MM & late Northampton MM	Squire
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM*	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Dave Wintle	Anker MM	

*Though John Weaver had had to drop out of the weekend, Jo managed to recruit Miles Spencer, Bagman of Helier MM, as a substitute.

7 Spots

41 Dances

6 Jig Performances

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Log:

9.15 YHA Haut de la Garenne

A fine morning, with bright sunshine, blue sky and dramatic clouds. This first session, with a small group of half-a-dozen people from the Hostel watching, was something of a "practice session". "Mollie Minns" had a couple of false starts, and there were several trials of the slowed stepping.

Dances: CW; OW; FF; MM; BC; P 6

10.00 Gorey Pier

On the coach park by the harbour wall, with Mont Orgeuil Castle looming impressively above. The dancing attracted a small tourist crowd who said they enjoyed the display. The team posed with one spectator for a photograph for his daughter - the picture included a poster with the words "Hi Shell!" for her. A couple from Northumberland also expressed their enthusiasm for the Morris.

Dances: P; FF; CW; MM; BC; OW 6

11.05 Liberation Square, St Helier

An excellent open space near the Sculpture Group celebrating the liberation from German Occupation - the public were able to watch "in the round". A good crowd assembled for the display. After dancing the team repaired to the "Lamplighter" in a nearby street for refreshments.

Dances: CW; MM; P; JIG; FF; BC; OW 6+1

12.15 Le Moulin de Lecq

The day had cooled a little, the sun having gone in. This old water-mill close to the sea on the North coast was the lunch venue, and the Squire decided to do a short spot while lunch was being prepared, followed by a second short spot afterwards. A reasonable number of pub-lunchers watched the dancing. Lunch included jugs of free beer, which was much appreciated; this may have contributed in part to a slight hiccup in the start of the second spot before renewed concentration kicked in.

Dances: P; FF; CW. [LUNCH] BC; MM; JIG; OW 6 + 1

Sorel Point

It had been planned to dance on the sea front at Sorel Point, but the change of day for the Tour created a problem. A Moto-Cross competition had been set up on the head land, there was a charge of £2 / head to go down to the Point, and it was apparently "very crowded", so parking would be a problem. The Squire decided to abandon the venue and go on to the planned pub stop, where the Tour therefore arrived early.

2.55 Les Fontaines Tavern

The weather continued dry, but rather overcast by this time. The dancing went forward on the pub yard. While the team were enjoying a beer afterwards, what seemed to be a chapter of the Jersey Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Owners Club arrived, so there was much interest in the chrome embellishments on view.

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Dances: OW; MM; P; JIG; FF; BC

5 + 1

4.20 The Hamptonne Country Life Museum

The weather remained fine, in spite of one or two spots of rain at one point. The venue had displays of historic farm equipment, as well as live animals, including ponies, and also chickens roaming the site. The dancing ground was a gravel courtyard, and a small group of enthusiastic spectators assembled. Following the dancing the team were offered a taste of the previous year's batch of cider from the museum - the man who offered it did not over-praise its qualities, with considerable justification it turned out, as it proved well-nigh undrinkable! Tea and delicious cakes were then served in the Museum Tea-Room, making a welcome variation in the day's refreshments.

Dances: OW; FF; CW; P; JIG; MM; BC

6 + 1

5.30 The Smugglers' Inn, Ouaisne

The pub is at the end of the road leading down to the beach, so the dancing had to be done on the road in front of the pub windows. There was a keen crowd watching from inside as well as a few outside. There had to be occasional pauses for traffic to get through.

Dances: CW; MM; JIG; FF; P; BC; OW

7 + 1

Bonny Green Garters, Bampton.

The Squire's Itinerary had included a (non-optional)!! bathe in the sea at this stage. Several men were less than keen, especially as it was not particularly warm or sunny, but Joe, Steve and Martyn decided to venture as far as having a paddle. The sea proved very refreshing to the feet. The paddling party returned to the pub to find the rest ensconced in the bar and a music session getting under way. This was very popular with the clientele, and one listener treated the team to beer, bringing the Tour to a pleasant close.

7 Spots

Dances performed:

41 + 6 Jigs

The Squire's original plan had been to have the End-of-Tour dinner at the Smugglers' Inn but unfortunately the change of day meant the pub could not take the team, as they had a prior booking for a party that evening. However as the Squire had planned a social gathering at home on the Sunday for the team and various Morris friends from the island, this became the Tour "Dinner", and was a first class barbeque, with music and good company.

The **AGM** was held in the course of the evening.

Helier MM and the Jersey Lilies were there in numbers, and held meetings at the same time.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of AGM, 20th May 2007

Venue: at "The Cottage, Sir Francis Cook Gallery", Jersey.

In view of logistics problems with holding the AGM on the morning following the Tour, as had become the practice, it was decided to interrupt the post-Tour Barbecue Party and hold it then. (Simultaneously, members of Helier Morris Men and Jersey Lilies there for the party, had separate meetings in other corners of the cottage).

The meeting opened at 10 p.m.

Present: Tony Ashley; Steve Bignell (Foreman); Andrew Fawcett; Jo Mitchell (Squire); Joe Oldaker; Martyn Thomas, Dave Wintle.

Miles Spencer, the 8th man for the Tour, was in attendance at this and the Helier MM meeting.

Jo opened the meeting by thanking the members for actually managing to make it, in spite of the difficulties with Friday's cancelled flight and the problems of transferring to the alternative Ferry on Saturday for 5 of the group. It was unfortunate that John Weaver had had to drop out from this year's Tour as he could not stay over from Sunday. Jo expressed the hope that the Tour, in spite of some last minute re-jigging, had been a good one. He also offered big thanks to Steve as Foreman for choosing a relatively easy, if physically rather taxing, tradition.

Tony proposed thanks to Jo for managing to revise the Tour at a moment's notice – it had been amazing it was possible to do it. Jo pointed out that some revision has been necessary, including the ad hoc decision at Sorel Point, where the moto-cross bikes had pre-empted the site, and the planned evening meal at the Old Smuggler's Inn at Ouisne, where the pub had not been able to transfer the booking from Saturday night to Sunday owing to a previous party booking.

There was a unanimous agreement that the Tour had been excellent.

Money: Martyn reported that the bag had come to about £40.

On the number of spots appropriate for a Tour, Steve wondered if 8 or 9 would be too many – the number had varied over the years. It was felt that too many spots led to less time at each one, and lesser value-for-money for an audience if fewer dances were performed.

Andrew and Martyn, having arrived on Friday as planned, thanked Jo for his hospitality during Saturday, while awaiting the arrival of the rest of the team.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



On the costs incurred for the mini-bus used over the weekend, Jo said that he would pay these, as the rest of the team had had to pay fares to get to Jersey. This generosity was much appreciated by the team.

Unanimous thanks were also offered to Jo and Sue for the Barbecue Party. Though originally planned as a social gathering on the Sunday for friends, and those ODW who stayed over, it had proved a brilliant substitute for the usual post-Tour dinner, and the nature of the guests had made a pleasant song and music session possible.

Steve as Foreman then commented on the dance. He said he was quite pleased with what the team had achieved, though on occasion it had looked a bit lazy especially with the Kirtlington "swing-back" steps – perhaps a sign of age creeping in. However, he felt the look of the tradition had not been bad at all, given the learning time. Kirtlington MM had thought it would take weeks to get anywhere near when he had consulted them on the tradition. Steve did comment that he thought consideration of technical difficulties was needed in choosing a tradition for ODW; given the practice times involved it was possible to select an "impossible" tradition. He thanked everyone for putting in the effort to make it work. He also thanked Miles for stepping into the gap caused by the debacle over the flight which had left John Weaver out of the team. Tony proposed thanks to Steve for his work on the tradition. He felt it had looked good and everyone seemed to enjoy dancing, and Steve had chosen a good set of dances.

Jo asked if it was intended to report back to Kirtlington on how things had gone. Steve said that he did intend to, as a courtesy. He also asked for any still pictures of the team (making a respectable fist of the dances!) to show to Kirtlington. Tony mentioned that it was possible to see Kirtlington dance on the internet – the posted video clips did show that even they did not get the hey in particular exactly right every time. Dave suggested that the whole Kirtlington repertoire could be seen on Tony Barrand's website. As a footnote, Steve said that Plum considered that ODW had looked more together than Kirtlington themselves did on occasion.

Martyn then proposed thanks to Tony for his music – Tony also recorded his thanks to Plum for providing a tape of the tunes for him.

Plans for 2008 were then discussed. On date, Steve asked if a week earlier would be a problem for anyone, as it would suit his other Morris commitments better. Originally an earlier date had created problems for Martyn. Martyn indicated that the timing of end of year accounting at his work would not be a problem. Andrew mentioned that things tended to be busy for him with weekends at Wath-on-Dearne and then the ODW weekend. It was decided to hold the Tour in 2008 on **17th May**.

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The officers for 2008 emerged naturally from the “rota” – Martyn as Squire, and Andrew as Foreman.

On the surplus money in the kitty, it was agreed to carry this forward as part of the beer fund.

The 8th man question was then discussed. It had been informally agreed when the travel arrangements were being sorted out, and it became clear that John Weaver would not be able to join the Tour because of the change, that John would hold his place as 8th man for 2008, even though Jo was fielding a replacement for the occasion. This was formally agreed by the meeting. However, it was also agreed that Miles should be considered first choice to be offered any vacancy which might occur in the future, should he wish to join. Steve raised the question of a possible 9th man, as an extra would cover the problems of accident, age or injury, as had been discussed in previous years. Jo asked if the team always had a non-dancing musician, and Tony explained how he and Peter Barnard had shared music and dancing, until Peter had retired from the team. Martyn pointed out that 8 men tended to fit neatly into two cars for transport purposes on the Tour, so a ninth might be a squash. Steve also commented that he thought a 9th man might undermine the original ethos, in that someone might just think he did not need to turn out one year, and the original premise of the team still stood. Martyn pointed out that all had battled on, in spite of injury problems for one or two men.

Jo then proposed thanks to Miles for stepping in and filling the gap, and Miles was distracted briefly from the Helier MM meeting to be thanked in person. He reiterated his conviction, expressed during the practice session the night before, that the team were all “totally bonkers” for choosing to do it, but he had enjoyed the experience. Jo asked him if he would consider taking up an offer to join should the occasion arise, and he said he would consider it, in spite of it being a serious dancing commitment.

Joe reported that the “official” dance tally for the day had been 35, with 4 performances of the Jig. The 6 “practice” dances performed outside the YHA had not been included in this.

On kit, it was proposed that the Rosettes be checked as there had been one old one on display during the day. It was noted that no-one had lost a bell-pad or a bell during the day, which was probably a record. A check indicated that the kit tally was complete.

The meeting then offered profound thanks to the Host and Hostess, Jo and Sue, for their hospitality during the weekend, and especially the Barbecue Party.

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As Any Other Business, Steve suggested that an early start to practice would be better, preferably followed by a meal, rather than the other way round. It was recognised that the usual travelling to the Tour venue could make this difficult if team members could not get away early enough. Also Steve commented that he thought having the post-Tour meal and session in kit was preferable, though this obviously followed if there was no particular break between the Tour and the evening doings. There was agreement on this.

It having been generally and enthusiastically agreed that the team had enjoyed another good Tour, the meeting closed at 10-45.

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21st Annual Tour - 17th May 2008

"The Brecon Beacons"

[Home Base: White Hart Inn/ Bunkhouse, Talybont-on-Usk]

The Tradition: Badby

<u>The Dances:</u>	First Morris	Handkerchief	FM
	Second Morris	Handkerchief	SM
	Shepherd's Hey	Handclapping	SH
	Old Black Joe	Handkerchief	OBJ
	Saturday Night	Handkerchief	SN
	Beaux of London City	Stick	B

Bonnets so Blue	Foreman's Jig	JIG
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The One Day Wonders: **

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-upon-Dearne MM	Foreman
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Squire
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	

** Owing to injury, the 8th man, Jo Mitchell of Helier MM was not able to join the Tour.

The Itinerary:

9-15 White Hart Inn, Talybont-on-Usk
 10-30 Abergavenny High Street **
 11-45 Bridgend Inn, Crickhowell (Rest & Recuperation)
 12-30 Tretower Court & Castle
 1-15 Coach & Horses, Llangynidr LUNCH
 3-00 Brecon Cathedral
 3-30 Tai'r Bull Inn (R & R) **
 4-00 Brecon Beacons Visitor Centre
 5-30 Red Cow Inn, Pontsticill (R & R) **
 6-15 White Hart Inn, Talybont-on-Usk

** See Tour Log for variations to the plan during the day.

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Log:

9- 45 The White Hart Inn, Talybont-on Usk .

A grey start with light rain. The traditional opening at "Base Camp" but zero audience.

Dances: SN; SH; SM 3

10-40 Abergavenny

The chosen venue was on the corner of Flannel Lane and the High Street. No rain; the team danced for a small stationary and larger passing audience. An organiser of a nearby Charity Event urged the team to stay on and dance during the day, as she had been hoping for a dance team which had not turned up. The offer was regretfully refused. The team then retired to the nearby "Hen & Chickens" for refreshment.

Dances: SN; SH; JIG; OBJ; FM 4 + 1

At this point it was necessary to consider correcting an inadvertent omission - the Foreman had not brought a set of sticks, so he sought out a hardware store and bought a batch of broom handles and a saw. During the refreshment break Tony and John, using a pub table outside as workbench, cut the broom handles down to make a set of sticks. Following this, and with urging from the barman and his clientele, the team did an unscheduled spot outside at 11-30, naturally employing the new sticks for the first dance.

Dances: B; SM; FM 3

12-00 The Bridgend Inn, Crickhowell

This had been planned as a refreshments only stop, and it was. Some entertainment was provided by a canoe negotiating the rough waters under the bridge.

12-30 Tretower Court and Castle

The team danced in the Courtyard, with a very small audience of tourists and staff. The dance programme was interrupted midway for a tour round the historic site with its interesting combination of Manor House built in various stages, and Castle ruins.

Dances: SM; SH; OBJ; B, 4 4

1-30 The Coach & Horses, Llangynidr

The sun began to break through [just] at this point, and the team danced in front of the inn, to a small audience, before retiring for lunch, which was excellent. [The pub is by the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, but some of the Usk valley stretch was undergoing repairs, and the water had been drained.]

Dances: SN; SH; JIG; OBJ 3 + 1

3-45 Brecon Cathedral Close

A very pleasant spot among the lawns and trees of the Close, outside the tearooms. The weather was brighter but still a little cloudy. A number of visitors stopped to watch the dancing, which was followed by Tea and Cakes in the tearooms. The atmosphere of the spot was enhanced by the distant sound of the choir rehearsing in the Cathedral.

Dances: SM; B; OBJ 3 3

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The Squire had decided to cut out the projected R & R spot at the Tai'r Bull Inn, as the Tour was running behind schedule, so the team went straight on to the next dancing venue.

4-30 Brecon Beacons Visitor Centre

On a hillside with [usually] magnificent views across to the Beacons, the Centre was not very busy, partly due to the cloudy weather. The mountains were hidden in the cloud layer, which was a disappointment, especially as the Squire had hoped to make the scenic drive along the valley a feature of the day. A small number of visitors watched the dancing from inside the centre, after the team slightly re-arranged the furniture on the upper terrace outside the windows to make space, [and take the dancing to the audience!]

Dances: SH; OBJ; B

3 3

5-15 The Red Cow, Pontsticill

From the Visitor Centre the team followed a scenic route down the Cwn Taf, with its string of reservoirs and forested mountainsides, before turning up to Pontsticill. The Red Cow turned out to be packed to the doors with locals who had been watching the Rugby on TV, and there was a party atmosphere. Though this had been planned as an R & R spot, the clientele were insistent that the team dance - the clamour was led by the landlady who was sitting with some women friends in the bar. She organised the men to move themselves and the furniture, and the team danced in front of a roaring fire.

This proved to be the largest and most enthusiastic audience of the whole day, and rounded off the Tour brilliantly. Chat with some of the people there managed to include a short tutorial in Welsh pronunciation.

Dances: SH; JIG; B

2 + 1 2 + 1

The team then returned to Talybont along the side of the reservoirs above Pontsticill, coming down past the Talybont Reservoir to the White Hart to complete the "scenic round".

6-15 The White Hart, Talybont-on-Usk

A small group of locals and the pub staff came out to watch, and the team danced the entire repertoire, as is the tradition. "Bonny Green Garters" Bampton was not danced to finish the day on this occasion.

Dances: SN; SH; SM; JIG; OBJ; B; FM

6 + 1 1

9 Spots Dances performed: 31 + 4 Jigs

Après Morris: The **AGM** was begun immediately before dinner, as several men were pressed to get away in the morning, and the meeting was concluded after the meal. This was then followed by music and singing as is the custom.

Note: The "White Hart" is worthy of comment. The Inn is built at road level into the bank below the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, and the Bunkhouse accommodation is on the upper floor of the Inn, the entrance opening effectively onto the canal towpath at the back of the building. A breach in the canal bank would obviously be catastrophic.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 17th May 2008

Venue: at "The White Hart", Talybont-on-Usk.

As several men needed to be away as early as possible in the morning, the AGM was held during the evening of the Tour day. The meeting opened at 7-20p.m.

Present: Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett (Foreman), Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas (Squire), John Weaver, Dave Wintle.

Martyn as Squire opened the meeting by regretting that the weather had been mostly grey and overcast for the day, as he had intended the scenery to be a feature of the Tour, and this was best seen in sunshine. He went on to thank Andrew for his choice of Badby for the tradition, especially as this had been kind to those men who were not 100% fit. Tony was thanked for the music. Martyn then officially welcomed John Weaver to the team, hoping he had enjoyed his first outing with the One Day Wonders. John responded that he had indeed enjoyed it. Thanks to Martyn were placed on record for the Tour, and especially the "base camp" at The "White Hart", and the last afternoon spot at the "Red Cow" at Pontsticill, which had proved unexpectedly lively and made a brilliant finish.

Tony commented that as there had only been 6 dancers it had proved wise to keep the number of dances down – the shorter spots had worked well, though Abergavenny could perhaps have been worked more, especially as the Adult Learning Charity with a stall nearby had intended to have a dance display. However, as Abergavenny had not been an official collecting spot, it had perhaps been a good idea not to over-do it. As Dave pointed out, the purpose of the Tour is to dance, but obviously the reaction of the audience is part of the spot, and that was very positive.

Andrew as Foreman then reported on his impressions. It had been a little ironic he felt that of the 6 dancers, only he himself and Martyn were not already fairly familiar with the Badby tradition, but he had personally enjoyed looking at a tradition he did not already know and which he would not have had a chance of doing with his own team, as Wath were generally wedded to Bledington. The choice of tradition had proved a good one, with the team being a dancer short. He recorded thanks to Bert Cleaver, who had suggested the tradition and pointed him in the right direction for notations.

In a general comment on the Foreman's job, Tony said that it was not essential to avoid a tradition already danced by the team; Joe pointed out that early on there had been an informally agreed decision that repeats should be avoided, but of course there had already been two (quite different) versions of Fieldtown done. The possibility of having to repeat, as the available number of recorded traditions with a usable repertoire was rapidly running out after 20 different ones had been danced by

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the team, was clearly an issue, though Dave Wintle's collection of restored or reconstructed notations might be a handy source. Andrew concluded with thanks to the team for realising the tradition as taught.

Martyn then reported on the finances. The Tour had started with £54-00 in the kitty. Expenses for the weekend had come to £20-00 for the hire of the practice hall, and £3-80 for parking fees. The day's collection had totalled £38-36. Andrew declined payment for the broom handles purchased to provide an emergency set of sticks. It was agreed that Tony would have the appropriate sum for the Morris Ring subscription (£45-00) to cover Public Liability Insurance, and the balance would become the kitty for the 2009 Tour. Rounding off details of the Tour, Joe reported that the team had danced 30 dances, with 4 performances of the Foreman's Jig.

At this point the meeting adjourned for Dinner.

On resumption, Kit was discussed, and no-one brought up any problems. On Sweatshirts, Andrew said he had mislaid his, though his wife had probably put it away for him, and John as a new man needed one. Martyn agreed to sort this out. ***

***Action: Martyn

2009. The Tour for 2009 was then discussed. It was decided that the date should be moved back to **9th May**. This fitted in with John's previous commitment to a foreign trip with Brackley MM, and suited Steve better. The original change of weekend had been largely to solve a work problem for Martyn, but this no longer applied.

Consultation of the list of Past Officers indicated that it was Dave Wintle's turn as Squire, and Joe's as Foreman, and this was agreed.

Tony then raised the question of the costs for the weekend. In the early days pub costs for B&B had been reasonable, but had been rising progressively, so that the more recent Bunkhouse/YHA option had proved less expensive. He wondered if the Squire needed guidelines on this. Martyn commented that finding 8 beds could sometimes prove to be a problem. John said that adequate rather than luxurious was the watchword. Tony pointed out that more recently the number of Bunkhouse and similar accommodation had burgeoned, and an internet search made finding them a great deal easier. The possibilities were discussed, with the virtues of B&Bs, Pubs and others mooted – clearly the Squire for the year would have to examine the available options and make a decision bearing in mind the concerns expressed.

Tony then proposed that in view of the problems experienced this year with injuries, and with Jo Mitchell having to drop out at more or less the last minute, the basic make-up of the team should be revised, raising the numbers to 9.

As incoming Squire, Dave Wintle pointed out that this could prove an awkward number for accommodation, as Bunkhouses and the like tended to have beds

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in groups of 4, 8 and so on. This could mean extra expense overall if the team had to pay for space not used.

Steve said 9 men would be eminently sensible, as the team sailed too near the wind with only 6 dancers. On the question of choice of new recruits, the original idea of bringing in younger men to keep the team going into the indefinite future was looking less plausible – integrating them into the side as currently constituted might prove a bit of a problem. Joe pointed out that often the younger men, like Graham Hubbard, already had a full Morris life, and while enjoying the different traditions, would not feel the team filled a serious niche in their Morris world. Tony pointed out that the team already had a recruit-in-waiting in Miles, and the last-minute quest for a replacement for Jo had turned up several possible recruits (via Andrew, Martyn and Tony) who could be borne in mind when a gap arose. These were men who professed themselves interested, but who when asked were already committed elsewhere for the weekend.

After further reservations expressed about accommodation problems with 9, and the possible dilution of the team's original *raison-d'être*, it was clear no unanimous view was forthcoming, so the matter was put to a vote, and it was agreed by 4 to 3 that a ninth man should be recruited. The actual recruitment was placed temporarily on hold, until the incoming Squire had a chance to investigate whether the possible accommodation problem should prove a serious obstacle. John Weaver suggested that the team might emulate Brackley MM on one of their weekends, and hire a Scout Hut. Martyn felt this was a bridge too far – he rather drew the line at indoor camping for the ODW weekend.

The question of Jo's place in team was then discussed. It had long been the impression among the men that a team member who resigned was irrevocably out, whatever the circumstances, and this had been regretfully accepted by Geoff and Adam when they had resigned. Joe reported that Jo had been very upset that his membership would be terminated because of his injury, as he greatly enjoyed the experience of the One Day Wonders. A consultation of the team records showed that the original rule as written was not in fact so rigid, but allowed a man to be invited to rejoin the team if a place became available. This allowed for Jo to be invited to turn out next year (subject to his feeling fit). The place of ninth man should be offered to Miles, as he was previously agreed to be next in line, subject to the proviso noted earlier. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8-45 p.m.

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22nd Annual Tour - 9th May 2009

“Stratford-upon-Avon and Points West”

[Home Base: YHA Stratford / Ferry Inn, Alveston]

<u>The Tradition:</u>	Derby		
<u>The Dances:</u>	The Royal Oak	Stick	RO
	Ashover Stick Dance	Stick	AS
	Ironsides	Stick	IR
	Chaddesden Lill	Handkerchief	CL
	Over the Water to Charlie	Handkerchief	OW
	Derby Ram	Handkerchief	DR
	“Owd Hoss”		
	Foreman’s Jig		JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-upon-Dearne MM	
Jo Mitchell	Helier MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Foreman
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	Squire

The Itinerary:

- 9-30 Dance at Hemingford House, Alveston, YHA Stratford-upon-Avon,
- 10-15 Dance & Coffee at Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon
- 11- 00 Dance & Drink at "The Pen & Parchment", Stratford-upon-Avon
- 12- 00 Dance at Mary Arden's House, Wilmcote; drink at the "Mary Arden"
- .13-00 Dance & LUNCH at the Holly Bush, Alcester
- 15-00 Dance & Drink at the "Moat House", King's Coughton
- 16-00 Dance & Tea at Coughton Court
- 17-00 Dance & Drink at the "Blue Boar" Temple Grafton
- 19-30 Dance at the "Ferry Inn", Alveston followed by Dinner & Après Morris.

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Log:

9-30 Hemingford House, Alveston, YHA Stratford-upon-Avon

A dry start, though rather cool and cloudy. An audience from the Hostel, including a group from the Far East described by their chaperone as "over-excited 15 year olds". They formed an enthusiastic crowd with the others for most of the performance. A reasonable start, until the music came round again. though one stick dance did get lost, coming to a halt

Dances: RO; CL; AS; DR; IR; JIG 5 + 1

10-15 Cox's Yard, Stratford-upon-Avon

The team danced at the top of the yard to capture any passing audience from the street - this strategy proved unsuccessful at first, then a few arrived, including one lady in a wheelchair. (This led to a facetious comment about the stick dance "Ironsides" being performed in wheelchairs, as the TV programme "Ironside" featured Raymond Burr in a wheelchair.) After dancing, the team retired to the Riverside Cafe for coffee on the terrace overlooking the River Avon.

Dances: OW; IR; CL; RO; AS; JIG; DR 6 + 1

11-00 The Pen & Parchment, Stratford-upon-Avon

Fortified by the first pint of the day, served by very welcoming staff, the team danced in front of the pub, and gathered a small crowd from the passing public. The sky brightened up during this spot.

Dances: AS; CL; RO; DR 4

12-00 Mary Arden's Farm, Wilmcote

The sun had broken through by this time, and the team danced in the courtyard on a stage which is presumably used for other events. There was some comment about the faintly "gallows - like" appearance of the beam above the back of the stage, seen as long enough for a number of victims! The audience included Chris Old, currently with Anker Morris Men, but an ex-Derby man, who had come along to see how the dancing of the Derby style went, and how it matched his 20-year old memory of it. His comments were generally in favour. There was also quite a reasonable number of visitors who stopped to watch, and though many dispersed after the Jig, the remainder watched the whole set. Following the dancing, the team had a brief look around the Farm, being amused by two fine Cockerels who seemed to have been competing in the crowing stakes, so that both were distinctly hoarse, and one almost croaking.

Dances: OW; AS; JIG; IR; DR 4 + 1

13-00 The Holly Bush, Alcester

As time was rather short, it was decided to go straight on to Alcester, rather than have to rush through a pint at the "Mary Arden" nearby, as originally intended.

Welcomed by an enthusiastic host and an excellent selection of ales, the team ordered lunch before dancing in front of the pub. The space between pub and Market Hill was

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



somewhat restricted, but adequate, and the fine weather was holding up. The audience from the pub included an officer of White Hart MM, the team which now bases itself in Alcester. The performance here was marked by the second dancing debacle of the day, when the "Danse" figure totally fell apart at one point, leaving the set out of position both in orientation and men's positions, with the Foreman having to move sharply into number 2 place to restore some order! Fortunately the rest of the programme went well. The team then retired to the room set aside for them, and enjoyed a first class lunch, (the sandwiches in particular being worthy of note). This was followed by a short music session, though there was at least one guitarist playing elsewhere in the pub. The room decor was enlivened by a print by Peter Kotka of wine bottles lined up on a table, which with a moment's thought was seen to be a parody of Leonardo's "Last Supper", with appropriate labels on some of the bottles.

Dances: RO; CL; IR; JIG; AS; DR

5 + 1

15-00 The Old Moat House, King's Coughton The journey to the next

spot proved somewhat erratic, as the Squire's car left ahead of the other, so the navigator had to guess directions, and got it wrong, involving as it did a circuit round the centre of Alcester. Exiting in the wrong direction, the Squire's car was then observed to be following on the road out. When the A46 between Stratford and Alcester was encountered, the convoy halted, consultations were held (the Squire thought the others knew a different way and had hence followed), and the party thus bypassed Alcester "on the other side" and reached King's Coughton without further problems. The pub proved to be very large and very empty, there being about 5 people in. Two of these emerged to watch the dancing - the sky clouded over and then cleared again during this spot.

Dances: RO; OW; IR; DR

4

16-00 Coughton Court

The sun was out again here, and the car park was quite full with visitors, as it a popular National Trust property. The team danced on the grass at the rear of the Courtyard, an attractive setting, and a large mixed crowd including families materialised from various directions once the dancing was under way, and the performance was well received. Tea, cake and scones were then taken in the Courtyard, though the lure of the second-hand bookshop and some interested members of the public with questions rather interrupted the smoothness of the arrangements, so the kitty-holder found himself with a trayful of tea and at first only half a team there to drink it! He was not amused.

Dances: AS; CL; RO; JIG; OW; IR; DR

6 + 1

17-00 The Blue Boar, Temple Grafton

The two cars again parted company on the way, being widely separated in traffic, the second taking a route through Temple Grafton to the pub, which is not actually in the village but at a nearby cross-roads. The Squire's wife and a friend arrived at this spot to watch the dancing, which took place on the patio after a certain amount of table-moving had been done. The sun had clouded over and it proved quite

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chilly sitting outside, where the pub produced sandwiches for the team, unexpectedly, and "on the house".

Dances: RO; CL; IR; OW; AS

5

As the wait for the promised sandwiches had taken up some time, it was decided not to field the possible spot at the YHA, but simply stop off to leave the cars there and pick up anything needed for the evening, and walk round to the "Ferry" for a leisurely drink before dancing and Dinner. The pub was quite busy with diners already and could not take the orders until 19-30, so the team relaxed over a pint until then.

19-40 The Ferry Inn, Alveston

A minimal audience assembled to watch the start of the spot, and then retired inside to eat, when two other people emerged and stayed until the end. Some of the people in the pub were able to watch through the windows.

Dances: RO; OW; AS; CL; IR; JIG; DR

6 + 1

Bonny Green Garters, Bampton.

9 Spots

Dances performed: 45 + 6 Jigs + Bonny Green

Après Morris: Having enjoyed a very good Dinner, albeit in the company of a couple of hopeful looking Golden Retrievers stretched out near the table (the pub seemed to have at least four dogs, as two others were in evidence on Friday evening), the team settled to a music session. This was very popular with the assembled pub crowd, and was felt to be one of the best the team has had for several years. Apart from the instrumental music and songs, Steve, Martyn and Joe all danced solo jigs in the bar, and Tony, David, and Joe inducted Martyn into the 4 man dance "Weobley Marsh", all of which added to the variety of the evening, which wound up at 23-45.

10th May 2009

A.G.M. held in the lounge of Hemingford House

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Minutes of AGM 10th May 2009

Venue: at Hemingford House, YHA Stratford-upon-Avon.

The meeting opened at 9-15a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker(Foreman), Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, David Wintle (Squire).

David as Squire opened proceedings by thanking the team for turning up for the weekend; it was good to see the return of Jo and Miles. Fortunately the weather had been OK for the Tour. He thought that having 9 men tended to make the organisation of the day less tightly controlled, with an extra body to account for at each stage. Generally however, David thought it had been an excellent weekend, with a particularly good session at the "Ferry" to finish the day, one of the best evenings for some years. He then thanked Joe for providing the dance tradition, which had been interesting, and "if spurious, no more so than some."

Tony expressed the thanks of the team to David for an excellent Tour, which had included some extremely pleasant spots and ales. There had been a slight dip in the afternoon, but that particular point in the day always seemed a tricky one to make interesting [apart from the Roman Winery on the Much Wenlock Tour!]. The teatime spot at Coughton Court had provided the best audience but also produced a slight organisational hitch, as Martyn had gone to get tea for the team, only to find several had vanished into the second-hand bookshop or were not otherwise on hand, to select choice of cake and so forth. David pointed out this was the sort of organisational detail which could create problems with timing. In their own defence, Joe and John pointed out that en route to tea they had been waylaid by members of the public, with money for the box, and had felt obliged to engage in a little PR for the Morris.

The use of only two cars had worked well even with 9 men, thanks to the extra space provided by Tony's.

David reiterated a point which had arisen when it was proposed originally to increase the team to 9 men, viz. that finding accommodation was a problem, as bunkhouses and similar places tended to work in multiples of four. John asked what sort of scale of costs was considered acceptable. It was pointed out that standard Bed & Breakfast costs had risen steadily since the team started, and had begun to seem too high. This had led to the more recent arrangements of Bunkhouse or Hostel being used.

Martyn commented that as a man coming back from injury he had paced his dancing during the day, and the presence of the ninth man had been very helpful in that respect.

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Joe as Foreman then commented on the dancing. By and large he thought it had gone quite well, even occasionally rising to excellent, given that there were a number of features of Derby which were unique and required the dancers to concentrate. What in advance had looked like the most difficult manoeuvres had in fact proved easier than expected, though some of the trickier sticking was frequently erratic, and there was tendency for men to drop into default Bledington in moments of stress. It had only fallen apart seriously twice in the course of the day, which was not too bad, considering there had been performances of 45 dances and 6 Solo Jigs. However, thanks were due to everyone for their hard work, and to Tony for the music.

Martyn and David both agreed it had looked good when it had worked best.

Martyn then reported on the finances. The bag for the day had come to £89-62, mainly from the collections in Stratford, at Coughton Court, and at the "Ferry". As usual Tony agreed to sort the team subscription to the Morris Ring, necessary for Public Liability Insurance, requiring £45-00 from the funds. The remainder would be carried forward as next year's float. Tony thanked Martyn for his account-keeping work.

David also proposed thanks to Joe for his ongoing secretarial work for the team.

The officers for 2010 were then elected. According to the arcane rules of the rota, Andrew was the next candidate for Squire, and he agreed to go ahead. Jo was next in line for Foreman, but he asked to be excused as he did not feel himself competent to cope with the necessary technicalities of teaching. John was next in line, and agreed to take it on.

The date was agreed as **8th May 2010**.

Choice of tradition was brought up, as the list of those available was rapidly reducing, if the "no repeats" rule were to be observed. One or two possibilities were mentioned, though the issue of needing six dances was seen as requiring ingenuity in some cases. Tony pointed out that the "no repeats" rule had been broken once already, with two entirely different sets of dances, in different styles, from Fieldtown. John was provided with a copy of the list of traditions already danced on the previous Tours.

Tony then raised the question of music. The music had been shared for some years, until he had stopped dancing due to his knee injury. As he had now acquired a replacement knee, he would like to go back to doing some dancing and sharing the music, if there was another member of the team willing to do that. David said he was happy to share, particularly as he preferred to play solo for the dancers. Tony reminded John that both musicians would therefore need notice of tunes to prepare for the 2010 Tour.

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It followed from this change that a ninth set of kit for a dancer would be required, as this year the musician had not worn bells and rosette. Tony agreed to look into the possibilities of a match or revamp, as the sourcing of ribbon had been a problem previously. ***

*** Action: Tony

Martyn then returned to the question of discipline, as he had found himself stranded over the order for tea at Coughton Court, his point being that if tea together was agreed, then tea together should follow, not an exodus to various other attractions. David backed this up, saying discipline was necessary, particularly if the schedule was tight; there had been occasions when he felt he was herding the team because of the time. Generally the rest of the men agreed they had not felt herded in the course of the day.

Steve said he felt good advance notice of the Tour venue was needed, especially for the two men from Jersey, whose travel arrangements were likely to be more complicated than the mainland contingent.

The type of accommodation was again discussed, David pointing out that the use of YHA Stratford had been possible because it provided later access than most hostels, as well as having flexible room arrangements. Steve repeated his offer to do breakfasts if the Bunkhouse option should be chosen. Joe pointed out that a number of YHA hostels had been sold off to private operators, who ran them in much the same way as YHA, and a guide to these was available. Andrew asked that a copy of this guide be sourced if possible.***

*** Action: Joe

David then raised the question of start time. He wondered if men could arrive earlier on the Friday, whether it would be possible to bring the practice time forward, and allow more relaxation time, and reduce the pressure at practice. This was seen as possible, though it would depend on the work commitments of individuals.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

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23rd Annual Tour 2010.

Squire's Preliminary Notes - The Robin Hood Tour

The famous outlaw Robin Hood is said to have been born at Loxley, only eight miles from Hathersage. His lieutenant, Little John, is reputedly buried in Hathersage churchyard, in a grave measuring 11 feet from head to footstone.

The grave was opened in 1784 and a thigh bone 30 inches in length exhumed, which would make the occupant over seven foot tall. For many years a great bow and arrow hung in the church. On Stanage Edge is Robin Hood's Cave, which he is supposed to have used as a hideaway and the Hood Brook flows through the village.

10:00 - The Square, Hathersage, S32 1BB

The plan is to relieve the good people of Hathersage of as much of their gold and silver as possible and then escape over the border, into the jurisdiction of the Sheriff of Yorkshire.

11:00- The Old Horns, High Bradfield, S6 6LG

Loxley is situated in the Parish of Bradfield which is one of the three parishes comprising the Anglo-Saxon district of Hallamshire, the other two being Sheffield and Ecclesfield. All three along with Brightside and Handsworth now form the Borough of Sheffield.

We are on home ground now, so can afford to relax a little, possibly partaking of a few pints of ale and maybe some of the Royal Game.

Low Bradfield lies about half a mile to the south west but at a considerably lower altitude down in the upper Loxley valley. The two villages are linked by the steep Woodfall Lane.

12:00 - The Plough, Low Bradfield, S6 6HW 12:45

12-45 - The Strines Inn, Bradfield, S6 6JE

Originally built in 1275 as a Manor House for the Worrall family, who were Yeoman Farmers, as was (probably) Robin of Loxley, it was rebuilt around 1560 and became a Coaching Inn in 1771.

This is the lunch venue. If we are fortunate enough to have good weather, the place will be packed. I suggest that we order food before dancing.

14:15 - The Angler's Rest, Bamford, S33 ODY

We now tentatively step back over the border into Derbyshire and the jurisdiction of the hated Sheriff of Nottingham.

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Actually from 1068 until 1449 the position existed as High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and the Royal Forests. After 1449 the separate appointments of High Sheriff of Derbyshire and High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire were made.

Pushing on down the valley, we will stop for a little refreshment at the –

15:15 - The Rising Sun, Thornhill Moor, S33 OAL

Throwing caution to the wind, we will then perform under the nose of the High Sheriff himself, in the shadow of his Peveril Castle.

16:15 - Castleton Visitor Centre, S33 8WN

Peveril Castle was built by William Peveril who was rumoured to be the natural son of William the Conqueror. He was the first Sheriff of Nottingham having jurisdiction between Peveril Castle and Nottingham Castle including the whole of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The Peveril family held the castle for less than 100 years when in 1155AD a younger Peveril was disinherited for poisoning the Earl of Chester who features in the first literary mention of Robin Hood where in Piers Plowman we read, "I cannot perfectly say the Lord's Prayer as the priest sings it. But I know rhymes of Robin Hood and Randolph, earl of Chester."

The Royal Forest of the Peak where Peveril Castle is situated was a wild district forming part of the inheritance of the Anglo-Saxon Kings and was already royal property at the time of Domesday. The best hunting in England was to be found there and horses were bred specifically for the royal hunting parties. It was a favourite hunting ground of King John and the last sovereign to stay at Peveril Castle is thought to have been Edward III in September 1331.

It is interesting to note that the great majority of "deer stealers" came from the upper class of society, and included prominent members of the nobility! In fact it seems to have been the fashionable thing in Feudal times to poach the King's game from Peak Forest, and the fines formed an important item of revenue. Venison trespass records of, the thirteenth century include William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby (who died before coming to justice), Ralph de Beaufof of Trusley, Richard Curzon, Henry de Elton, and William May the Earl's huntsman, for having taken 1000 deer during the six years when Earl Derby was Chief Bailiff (1216-1222). Three of them were imprisoned but afterwards released with heavy fines.

Other members of the nobility and gentry convicted for the fun of poaching were the Earl of Arundel, Sir Thomas Furnival, lord of Sheffield, Matthew de Hathersage, one of the Bagshawes, and I regret to say some members of the church, including the Rector of Manchester and the Vicar of Sheffield! Matthew de Hathersage was charged with having "a Bookstall in his great wood at Hathersage barely two bowshots from the King's Forest," and he had to pay 20 marks. The Buckstall was a kind of extended

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netted trap for catching deer. It would seem that Robin Hood and Little John were not the only poachers in the district.

There will be a chance to look around the small museum in the visitor centre or grab a cuppa across the road at the cafe before retreating back up the valley to Hathersage. No doubt hotly pursued by the Sheriff.

17:30 - The Little John, Hathersage, S32 1DD

I suggest that after dancing, we take the chance to freshen up at the hostel before reconvening at the Little John for a meal and music.

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23rd Annual Tour - 8th May 2010

The "Robin Hood" Tour – Hathersage & The Hope Valley

[Home Base: YHA Hathersage]

The Tradition: Bucknell

The Dances:

The Willow Tree	Handkerchief	WT
Old Black Joe	Handkerchief/Handclapping	OBJ
Queen's Delight	Handkerchief	QD
Maid of the Mill	Linked Handkerchief	MM
Room for the Cuckold	Stick	RC
Trunkles	Handkerchief	TR
Princess Royal	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Dearne MM	Squire
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
Glyn Vigurs	Lincoln & Micklebarrow MM	
John Weaver	Brackley MM	Foreman
David Wintle	Anker MM	Joint Music

The "Robin Hood Tour" : Itinerary

10-00	The Square, Hathersage
11-00	The Old Horns, High Bradfield
12-00	The Plough, Low Bradfield
12-45	The Strines Inn [Lunch]
14-15	The Angler's Rest, Bamford
15-15	The Rising Sun, Thornhill Moor
16-15	Peak Visitor Centre, Castleton
17-30	Little John Inn, Hathersage

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Log:

10-00 The Square, Hathersage

Overcast and chilly, with a hint of damping in the air at times during the spot. A good number of people stopped to watch instead of passing by, which got the day off to an encouraging start.

Dances: WT; OBJ; QD; JIG; MM; RC; TR 6 + 1

11-10 The Old Horns, High Bradfield

Following a spectacular scenic drive the team arrived at the venue to discover a Hen Party already ensconced, having breakfast before a trip to Nottingham Races. As an audience of young women in their best frocks could not be ignored, the dance spot was slightly delayed while they poured the pink champagne and mustered to watch. The programme included a performance of "Queen's Delight" with the Bride-to-be in the centre for the final corners. The traditional "lift" at the end was unsuccessful due to a lack of co-ordination among the men and the slippery fabric of the young woman's dress. The two parties then went their separate ways happily.

Dances: WT; OBJ; QD; JIG; MM; RC; TR 6 + 1

12-00 The Plough, Low Bradfield

The team danced behind the pub on a somewhat sloping and gravelly surface, which invited caution. It was noticeably breezy, but the sun appeared on and off during the spot. The audience consisted at first of the traditional "one man and his dog", then became "his dog" (a black Labrador called "Blackberry") when the man went to fetch a pint, and then expanded as a small number of other people arrived and sat down to watch. The pub seemed a popular venue for taking elderly relatives out for lunch. The dancing was feeling confident by this point, though the linking of handkerchiefs in "Maid of the Mill" failed this time.

Dances: OBJ; QD;RC;MM;WT 5

13-00 The Strines Inn

After getting drinks and ordering lunch, the team danced on the car park – a cold wind on the hillside, but superb views across the valley and reservoir below. Former Wonder Geoff Thompson and his wife Jill joined the party at this point, having driven over from their home in Sheffield specially to meet up. Geoff was suffering from the aftermath of serious illness and was regretting that he was currently lacking the fitness and stamina to dance, but it was a pleasure for him and his old friends in the team to meet up again. The programme was short as any potential audience was either already eating lunch or discouraged by the cold. The team then retired for lunch themselves, with Geoff and Jill. By this stage the Foreman John Weaver owned up to having pulled a calf muscle, which unfortunately halted his dancing for the rest of the day.

Dances: WT; TR; RC 3

14-30 The Angler's Rest, Bamford

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Another hillside pub where the bitter wind blew across the dance space. A small but very enthusiastic audience of half-a-dozen young people helped things along. After dancing the team joined in singing "Happy Birthday" to Adam, one of their number, before moving on.

Dances: OBJ; QD; MM

3

15-15 The Rising Sun, Thornhill Moor

Descending into the Hope Valley took the edge off the wind, though it was still chilly. In the pub the team found a Stag Party installed, all dressed in "hunting" clothes – tweeds, camouflage, Barbour jackets etc., with the Groom-to-be in a full "Stag" costume (though rather more "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" than the "Stag at Bay" in style!). The group formed another ready-made audience for a short spot, which included a performance of "Maid of the Mill" with the Stag, who being anchored by a hankie and talked through it by Glyn, made a reasonable fist of it, amid the expected rowdy encouragement from the rest of the party. Geoff and Jill had followed up to this point, but departed for home after the dancing.

Dances: WT; TR; MM

3

16-15 Peak Visitor Centre, Castleton

The team assembled to dance on the forecourt of the Visitor Centre, and were watched by a reasonable audience, which tended to be rather more mobile than usual, again because of the cold wind. It was felt appropriate to do a full set here, and towards the end the Stag Party from the Rising Sun passed by on the way to their coach and stopped to cheer. After dancing the group split for refreshments, some to a nearby pub, others to the "Three Roofs" Tearoom just across the road, where an excellent cream tea was enjoyed.

Dances: WT; OBJ; QD; RC; MM; TR

6

18-00 The Little John, Hathersage

Arriving back for the final spot of the day, the team encountered the Stag Party for the third time, this time just leaving for their next port of call. The last dances were performed on the Inn car park, in a rather grey evening light. A group of 4 women settled at a table to watch, otherwise the spectators tended to be passing by. As is customary, the entire repertoire was danced, with the exception of the Foreman' Jig, due to his injury, and the show finished with "Bonnie Green Garters".

Dances: WT; OBJ; QD; RC; MM; TR; Bonnie Green Garters, Bampton

6 + BGG

8 Spots Dances performed: 38 + 2 Jigs

Bonny Green

Après Morris: As the plan was to eat at the Little John and have the usual après Morris session there, some men stayed in the bar, while others returned to the YHA to freshen up. While looking at the menu to choose dinner, several musicians struck up.

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Shortly afterwards one of the bar staff quietly pointed out that as the management had not renewed their entertainment licence, there could be no live music after 7-30 p.m., which put an immediate damper on the proceedings, as 7-30 had just struck. The Squire was much put out, as he had been assured by the Landlady when arranging the Tour that all would be OK for the evening session. Some discussions followed, during which it was decided that invoking the Morris exemption would not actually be helpful – apparently part of the problem was that there had been complaints “from the neighbours” on previous occasions, and obviously the team did not wish to create problems for any subsequent Morris visitors. It was suggested that the Squire could perhaps check the situation at the other likely pub in Hathersage, the “Scotsman’s Pack”, which hosted the Sheffield carols, and was therefore friendly to tradition. John drove Andrew up to see how the land lay, and they returned shortly afterwards to say the pub was not only amenable, but had booked space for dinner for the team and were quite happy about the playing and singing. The men decamped to the “Scotsman’s Pack” without further ado, to find themselves ensconced in a small dining room behind the bar, more or less to themselves at first, later completely so, and therefore ideal for the evening. Following careful study of the menu, (which required several men to pass round one pair of “team” reading glasses), good beer, excellent food and more or less non-stop music and singing continued until about 11-30 p.m., when the team bade farewell to the very hospitable staff.

In the course of the evening the Loving Cup was brought out, and filled at the bar by Tony with the “secret” recipe. Tony reminded the men that the Cup had been the gift of Geoff Thompson to the team, and that it had been especially pleasing to have Geoff and Jill join the Tour for part of the time. At Joe’s suggestion the men stood in a circle and simply passed the cup round, each man offering his own toast, dispensing with further ceremony, until the Cup was empty.

9th May 2010 **A.G.M.** was held in the lounge of YHA Hathersage

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of the AGM , 9th May 2010

Venue The Lounge of YHA Hathersage,

Present: Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett (Squire), Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Glyn Vigurs, John Weaver (Foreman), David Wintle.

Apologies: Miles Spencer had to miss the meeting as BMI had brought his flight time forward.

Andrew opened the proceedings by thanking all the team for turning up and making a go of it as usual. He thought the day had gone well, apart from the hitch over playing and singing at the Little John. He thanked Glyn for agreeing to come along and fill the ninth man's place, John for doing the Foreman's job with tuition and dancing, and both John and Joe for doing the driving.

Martyn reported on the finances. The Tour had started with a substantial float of £82-72, and the day's collections netted £92-41. Expenses met were £41-00 for Hall hire, £45-00 for Morris Ring subs., £10-00 for ribbon. It had been decided to subsidise the accommodation costs to the amount of £71-00. This left a float going into 2011 of £16-99.

John as Foreman said he was delighted by the way the men had picked up the tradition and danced it with vigour – at times it had looked really good. The reaction from audiences had been positive to the "street theatre" element of performance. He apologised for ducking out of the dancing early, but a pulled calf muscle had left him with no choice.

Martyn thanked Andrew for managing to include the Hen and Stag parties in the itinerary – he felt personal interaction particularly with the young ladies of the Hen party had been excellent.

Joe reported the tally of dance performances was 38, with 2 Jigs, the Foreman's injury preventing a greater number of the latter.

Tony then raised the question of Jo Mitchell's membership of the team, as he had had to drop out, and wondered if Jo thought he was out. Steve reported that Jo did think he was out this time; one aspect of membership which had worried him was the prospect of the Foreman's job falling to him, as he did not feel capable of doing what was required. Joe made the point that Glyn's inclusion was clearly intended as "permanent", provided Glyn wanted to stay with it. Glyn responded that he had felt honoured to be asked – it was something special and he thanked the team for the invitation. He thought it had been a good weekend. On his future commitment, he said that his job could be a problem, as his whereabouts could be unpredictable over the next 3 years due to a new training regime, but he would make every effort to be there.

Tony thanked Glyn for joining up, and making a full contribution to the day. He said that One Day Wonders was not intended to be an "elite" group, the original intention being to recapture the spirit of keenness to participate which often went missing among teams after a while. He recalled the early designation of ODW as "Scab Morris", where some other men saw it as a self-selected "superior" group

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competing for the services of men from their own team. Joe pointed out that while "elite" was an inappropriate label, it was not a commitment one could ask from a novice dancer. Tony agreed, the criteria being can a prospective member dance, and make a contribution.

Glyn commented that he had found a nice balance between dance discipline, and the informality of the team – he felt it seemed neither elite in attitude nor pompous about the Morris.

Plans for 2011: It was decided to go for the second full weekend in May, 13th – 15th.

Squire: Steve Bignell

Foreman: Miles Spencer. (Before leaving to catch his plane, Miles had declared himself happy to do whichever job might fall to him, if one did)

Music: David commented that the sharing of Music had worked OK, but he did feel strongly that there should be only one musician at a time for any one dance.

Kit: With the advent of 9 dancing men, Tony had produced an extra set of Bell Pads, but a matching pair of hankies was needed, even though no-one had noticed Tony using his own plain ones this time.

Rosettes: There were only 8 matching rosettes, so again there had been an odd one on view, which John did not feel had been very obvious. However, it was decided to look into getting a new set. The original contact was no longer available, but Joe said he had a contact address he could pass on to Tony. In view of the fact that one bell pad needed repair, it was decided that Tony would take the box of kit and refurbish anything that needed it, rather than leaving bits with the incoming Squire and taking others away.

On photographs of the weekend, Tony reminded men to send theirs to Joe, preferably on disk, or as actual prints. He also enquired about Martyn's videos, which had been filmed over several previous years, but had not yet been seen by the team. Martyn said he hoped to be able to do some editing in the coming year, and perhaps be able to show them next time.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



24th Annual Tour - 14th May 2011

A Round of Northamptonshire

[Home Base: The George, Kilsby]

The Tradition: Stanton Harcourt

<u>The Dances:</u>	The Nightingale	Stick	N
	Black Joke	Stick	BJ
	Greensleeves	Stick	G
	Nutting Girl	Handkerchief	NG
	Constant Billy	Handclapping	CB
	The Clock	Handclapping	C
	Bean Planting	Stick	BP

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	Squire
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Dearne MM	Joint Music
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	Foreman
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
Steve Westwood	Northampton MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	

The Itinerary:

9-45	The George, Kilsby - Dance
11-00	Rugby Town Centre - Dance
11-30	Alexandra Arms, Rugby - Refreshments
12-15	Ward Arms, Guilsborough - Dance
1-15	The Chequers, Ravensthorpe - Dance followed by Lunch
3-15	The Aviator, Sywell - Dance
4-15	Castle Ashby – Tea and Cake
5-30	The Boat, Stoke Bruerne - Dance
7-30	The George, Kilsby – Dance

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4-15 The Courtyard , Castle Ashby

This was planned as a tea stop, so the team did not dance, but enjoyed tea and cake from the "Buttery", in the sunshine, at tables in the courtyard, and then browsed in the various shops before moving on.

5-30 The Boat, Stoke Bruerne

It had just showered, but was dry, when the team arrived. Apart from a boat passing through the lock, there were few people in evidence outside, probably because of the time and the recent rain. The men danced between the locks. The audience here included the two Steve's respective partners, who were enthusiastic.

Dances: G; CB; BP; NG; C; BJ

6

After further refreshment the team returned to Kilsby, travelling on the way up the Watling Street through a terrific downpour, which fortunately had eased by the time base camp was reached.

7-35 The George, Kilsby

Having had time to wash and change, the team assembled for the last spot of the day outside the George. The publicity, and the enthusiasm of Maggie, the landlady, had ensured that a good crowd of local people with children had come to watch, and after a shower the evening was dry, so the final dancing went down well.

Dances: BJ; N; C; B; NG; CB; G + Bonny Green Garters, Bampton

8

7 Spots Dances performed: 43 + Bonny Green Garters

Après Morris

The team enjoyed a very good dinner, aided by two bottles of wine courtesy of Maggie. The Loving Cup was passed as has become the custom. The following session proved excellent, with the usual wide variety of music and singing, Joe danced "Highland Mary" Oddington jig in the bar, and Woody from Rose & Castle helped drive the evening along. Several groups of locals were very enthusiastic about it all, and the session finally closed down at 1-15a.m.

15th May 2011 **A.G.M.** The AGM was held in the bar of the George

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Minutes of A.G.M. 15th MAY 2011

Venue: The Bar of the "George Inn" Kilsby.

Present: Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell (Squire), Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer (Foreman), Martyn Thomas, John weaver, Steve Westwood, David Wintle.

The Meeting convened at 9-05 a.m.

Steve Bignell as Squire opened the proceedings with the "same old" comments, thanking all the team for their contribution to the weekend. He had worried about the amount of travelling involved in the Tour, as he felt that the team had hardly arrived before they were leaving. The general feeling of the team was that this was not a problem. Steve said he felt the "George" had proved to be a good choice as base camp, and that the weather had been OK, though Sywell had suffered from the cold wind, and Stoke Bruerne from the time and the chill.

Steve Westwood wondered if the FA Cup had helped shrink any potential audience, but as Steve Bignell pointed out, the Tour was never a crowd-chasing exercise, and he felt it had worked. Martyn enquired about the absence of a stag do or hen party, these having featured in previous years – it was pointed out that a wedding had been imminent at Sywell. Steve also mentioned the now-established practice of dancing before dinner rather than after as being the best idea. Martyn said he thought the pause between finishing the dancing and eating was also good, as it gave time to recover.

Tony praised the excellent choice of the "George", describing it as a "gem" in all respects. Steve said he hoped the team did not mind Clive's being invited to join the session in the evening, but everyone felt he was a welcome presence, and it was pointed out that in the past it had frequently been something that happened when it was possible for nearby friends to come along. Steve wound up his remarks by thanking Miles for his work as Foreman, and threw in a final query as to whether a mini-bus would have provided more satisfactory transport. The general feeling was that it would be expensive to hire, and still require a driver. A vote of thanks to Steve for his Squireship was passed by the team.

Miles then spoke as Foreman. He thanked the men for their support, especially as the Stanton Harcourt tradition was new to him, himself. He was pleased that the result had seemed reasonably coherent in the event. David commented on the omission of "Brighton Camp" from the selection; this had probably been wise given the sticking involved. Thanks to Miles were then voted through.

Martyn then reported on the finances. The Tour had started with a float of £16-99 in hand, and the collection had been £67-27. After meeting some expenses the bag had £46-81 in hand. Tony mentioned that funds would be needed for new rosettes, and

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Andrew wondered if there would be money for nipple protectors for the team, given the known problem with chafing from the braces worn.

Steve Westwood was welcomed to the team, and in spite of his expressed conviction that "you're all bloody mad" he felt honoured to have been asked to join. He also said that his partner Carol, who had spectated at Stoke Bruerne, had been impressed by the standard of dancing and the quality of the dancers.

Joe then reported on the usual statistics for the tour, the team having performed 44 dances, including Bonny Green Garters. There was no Foreman's Jig this time. In discussions of the past statistics, there had been some confusion over which Tours had seen the largest and smallest number of dances, so Joe recapped that the most had been doing Bidford on the Lincolnshire Wolds tour with 57 dances and 8 Jigs, the least doing Badby on the Brecon Beacons Tour with 31 dances and 4 Jigs, though this last had been influenced by the shortage of a man and by the weather.

Plans for the 25th Tour in 2012 were then considered. Tony as an original founder agreed to be Squire for the 25th occasion, and Martyn was in line for Foreman. The date was to be **12th May**, there being no known problems for any of the men with this date. It was agreed that Glyn Vigurs would be first refusal as back-up if anyone had to drop out.

On kit, apart from rosettes, Steve Bignell said he thought the arm ribbons were not a very good match, being rather dark red. Tony recalled that he had had problems sourcing ribbon last time, but it might be possible to renew these. A Sweatshirt was needed for Steve Westwood.

On music, it was agreed that it should be shared, as Tony and Andrew had done this time. David pointed out that the sharing of music originally was intended to use one musician for each complete spot, possibly alternating, rather than for individual dances.

On the subject of the much-trailed but not yet seen video record of the team, Martyn said that owing to computer failure he had not been able to sort it this time, but that was fixed and so the video should be available in the future.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10-20.

Action:

Rosettes and (possibly) Arm Ribbons	Tony
Sweatshirt for Steve Westwood	Martyn

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25th Annual Tour - 12th May 2012

North West Leicestershire

[Home Base: The Tap House, Smisby]

The Tradition: Eynsham

<u>The Dances:</u>	Figure 8	Handkerchief	F8
	The Poacher	Handkerchief	P
	Shambles	Stick	SH
	Cock o' the North	Handkerchief	CN
	Feathers	Handkerchief	F
	The Mystery	Stick	M
	Nutting Girl	Handkerchief	NG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Squire & Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Dearne MM	Joint Music
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	Joint Music
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Foreman
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
Steve Westwood	Northampton MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	

The Itinerary:

09.45	Run-through at the Tap House, Smisby
10.30	Ashby de la Zouch Town Centre
11.00	Refreshments at "The Bull", Market Street.
11.30	Ashby Castle
12.30	The John Thompson, Ingelby – Dance followed by Lunch
14.15	The Blue Bell, Melbourne
15.30	Calke Abbey - Dance followed by Tea
16.45	The Kings Arms, Coleorton
18.00	The New Inn, Peggs Green
19.15	The Tap House

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15.40 Calke Abbey

Following a dramatic approach through the parkland to the National Trust property, the team danced in the grass courtyard among the outlying buildings. Thanks to the fine weather there was quite a crowd of visitors, so a good sized audience for the performance. Alan Dandy (Anker MM) and his wife Elizabeth had turned out with some friends to watch, and Alan relieved the team of the job of collecting. Following the dancing the team took Tea and Cake in the paved courtyard by the restaurant.

Dances: NG; F; SH; P; F8; M 5

17.00 The Kings Arms, Coleorton

A quiet pub with a family audience assembled to watch in the garden. The team danced on the paved patio area, after moving the tables to make space. The audience included Martyn Oliver (Anker MM) who had come along to see what it was all about, and Geoff and Jill re-joined the party here.

Dances: CN; SH; F; P; M 5

18.15 The New Inn, Peggs Green

A roadside "country" pub with greenery up the outside and an amazing interior, absolutely jammed with shelves of assorted bric-a-brac, cabinets of china, and very miscellaneous items hanging from the ceiling, The resident family who keep the pub are Irish, so that connection is also visible. The small audience included several interested parties, including a friend of Geoff and Jill from Packington MM. The team danced in Clay Lane adjacent to the pub as the road was quite busy and the car park was on the opposite side. The sunshine continued.

Dances: F8; F; SH; P; M 5

19.15 The Tap House, Smisby

Amazingly the sun was still shining as late as it was, for the final spot of the day. The team danced on the forecourt in front of the pub, and a number of small family groups spectated, tending to come and go as they went to eat or emerged. As is customary at the final spot, the entire repertoire was danced, with the addition of Bampton "Bonny Green Garters"

Dances: F8; P; SH; CN; F; M; NG + Bonny Green Garters 7 + 1

8 Spots Dances performed: 44 + Bonny Green Garters

Après Morris

Following a good dinner the team ensconced themselves in the bar for music and singing, which went ahead without the previous evening's alarms and excursions with Veronica, who did not appear.

13th May 2012 **A.G.M.** The meeting was held in cottage 4a, Forest Court, the accommodation at the Tap House.

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Minutes of AGM 13th MAY 2012

Venue: Cottage 4A, Forest Court, The Tap House, Annwell Lane, Smisby, Leicestershire.

Convened at 10-15 a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley(Squire), Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas (Foreman), John Weaver, Steve Westwood, David Wintle.

Tony as Squire for the tour opened proceedings by asking if the team were happy with the weekend, in spite of there having been a panic over the accommodation being partially double-booked by the pub management, which had been sorted reasonably well, with the useful outcome of a reduction of the weekend costs to £32. He himself was happy with the tour, feeling it had gone better than he had expected, though the weather had helped a great deal. Martyn and Steve W commented that Calke Abbey had been a really good spot, with the best audience; the John Thompson had been a little disappointing from that point of view, mainly because most people were inside eating, and were not going to drop their knives and forks to come out and watch. There was a tendency in some cases for potential audience not to notice things were happening, even when announced, and appearing enquiringly afterwards, as had happened with two ladies at the Tap House in the evening. The amount of travelling had been quite light, and Martyn commented that here had been Tours with much longer distances between spots.

Tony referred to Steve B making what Steve himself called the "same old comments" the previous year, but they tended to fit so he made them anyway. He thanked the men for turning out, and hoped they had enjoyed the dancing, as well as the Beer, which he thought had been really good. The New Inn had not been chosen for its beer, though it was perfectly OK in that respect, but because the pub itself was worth visiting for its quirky character. He did apologise that he had not been able to arrange a Stag or Hen party to meet the team at some point, after Andrew's spectacular efforts at Hathersage 2 years previously, but thought setting the number of spots at 8 was about right. He thanked Joe for providing the second lot of transport. Thanks were also offered to the other musicians, and to Steve W who did good work collecting.

Martyn as Foreman started by proposing thanks to Tony for his organising of the Tour, and taking on the full duty of cooking breakfasts for everybody under the revised accommodation plan. He then moved on to the dancing, first of all thanking David for supplying him with notes on Eynsham, and advising and helping during practice and while on tour. To begin with, Eynsham was a challenge (Tony interjected that he'd always wanted to have a go at it), and for the Foreman remembering the sequences for each dance had been difficult, compared with the usual regular patterns in other traditions. There had been occasional hiccups during the day's dancing, but generally things had smoothed out later on. The calling of sequences had been a bit

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variable, but again settled down as time went on. Martyn thanked everybody for their work, as it was a dream come true for him to have got a team out dancing Eynsham. Tony commented that watching Eynsham themselves at Saddleworth Rushcart, it had been difficult to decide whether all the men were doing the same thing at the same time in the dances, with the implication that polished togetherness was not what Eynsham did.

Joe reported that a total of 44 dances, plus Bonny Green Garters, had been danced.

Martyn then donned his money-man's hat and reported on the finances. The collection for the day was £101-73, which was very good. Ex-wonder Geoff Thompson, who had turned out to watch the team for part of the day, had donated £40 to the Beer Kitty as a token of his long-standing attachment to the team. Tony had used £15 from last year's float for the new rosettes, and £45 needed to be put aside for Morris Ring Subscription. This left a surplus of £107-44. Martyn suggested a refund to men towards accommodation costs, as had been done on occasion in the past. However, Tony pointed out that the hankies had become riddled with pinholes, probably due to the previous year's Stanton Harcourt, and really ought to be replaced. As the Morris Shop was currently unable to supply hankies due to problems with sourcing them, Andrew offered to enquire of Bert Cleaver as a source of supply. This was agreed, and 10 pairs provisionally ordered, sized approximately 22" square.

The 2013 Tour was then discussed. The lists indicated that the Foreman should be David Wintle, and the Squire John Weaver. The date would be **11th May 2013**.

Under "any other business" Tony asked how men felt about 3 musicians, this having come about because Miles' ankle injury had threatened to curtail his dancing this time round. The general feeling was that it worked, and meant that the musicians all had a greater chance to dance as well as playing.

Steve then raised the question of how long would the team be able to keep going, given age and injuries. David suggested that it would be wound up when it became obvious that was the best option; attempts at recruiting younger men had not worked out as hoped. Martyn thought that if several men had to drop out it would be ideal to recruit 3 or 4 young dancers, but Joe felt that large a change all at once would compromise the sense of continuity which was an important element of the team, incremental replacement working best. The issue of fitness was mentioned, as Steve W had a serious knee problem surface at practice, and had not been able to dance on the Tour, Andrew had his back problem, and several men seemed to come equipped with Ibuprofen and Neoprene supports to cope with possible problems. Andrew commented that he had felt he "would be a liability" with his back, "until I saw the rest of you". Joe commented that as long as the team could look impressive while dancing, not like

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a group of older dancers struggling to cope, then things could continue. Martyn asked if the team had looked “tidy enough” compared with Eynsham as seen on YouTube and the Eynsham website. Steve W said he thought it had looked very impressive later in the day, and the general feeling of those who has stood out occasionally was that it had looked vigorous and coherent, in spite of occasional errors or unevenness.

John, as incoming Squire, raised the question of how far afield the Tour could go. Joe referred back his Wensleydale Tour, after which there had been a general feeling that travelling that far presented a problem on a Friday afternoon for men who were working, and it was agreed that nearer venues were desirable, which had influenced subsequent choices of venue. Steve B made the point that given the location of many of the team in central England, this was going to lead to Tours being around the same territory much of the time, when more variety was needed. In discussion it emerged that the question of travel seemed less of a problem now, provided that men who were working knew in time that they needed to book time off in order to travel. Those involved thought this was perfectly possible, with the proviso from David that overnight into Friday was not acceptable.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10-50 a.m.

Action point: Hankies*

Andrew

*Between the AGM and writing up the Minutes, the Morris Shop declared it had a new source of hankies – these with a satin stripe round the edges. It has been suggested that Andrew continue with his original enquiry, as plain would be preferable, depending on costs.

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26th Annual Tour - 11th May 2013

The Gower Peninsula

[Home Base: Park Place / King Arthur, Reynoldston]

The Tradition: Snowhill

<u>The Dances:</u>	Saturday Night	Handkerchief	SN
	Trunkles	Handkerchief	TR
	We Won't Go Home til Morning	Handkerchief	WGH
	Evesham	Stick	EV
	Warwickshire Lads	Stick	WL
	Blow Away the Morning Dew	Handclapping	BMD
	Jockey to the Fair	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Dearne MM	Joint Music
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	Joint Music
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
John Weaver	Brackley MM	Squire
Steve Westwood	Northampton MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	Foreman

The Itinerary:

10-00	Depart Home Base in Reynoldston	
10-30	Killay: The Village Inn	
11-30	Oystermouth	
12-30	Bishopston: Joiner's Arms	(Lunch)
14-30	Kittle: Beaufort Arms	
15-30	Nicholaston Farm	(Tea)
17-00	Oldwalls : The Greyhound	
18-00	Llangennith: The King's Head	
19-15	Reynoldston: The King Arthur	

Pre Tour: Friday Evening in the King Arthur

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The post-practice session in the King Arthur went well, with some appreciative audience members. The parents of the bride whose wedding was taking place the next day, with the wedding breakfast at the King Arthur, were there, and the bride's father asked the team if they would dance for the wedding party the next evening, and bought a round of drinks as a gesture of good will. It was agreed it would be done if practicable.

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Log:

In contrast with the usual pattern for the day, there was no preliminary dance spot at home base, the team departing for the first location without one.

10-30 Killay : The Village Inn

In spite of the name, the Village Inn is in the corner of a modern pedestrian shopping square. However, it lived up to its name as the clientele consisted of a varied selection of local people, many of them women chatting over coffee, as well as drinkers. The landlord and landlady were extremely welcoming, and provided beer on the house before the team danced. The musicians played a few tunes outside to "warm up" the crowd, though it didn't temper the chilly wind. The performance proved something of a practice session, as the opening spot often tends to be with a technically challenging tradition, though the reasonable audience were appreciative. It was unfortunate that the Foreman badly strained a foot during the dancing and had to abandon performing for the day, taking up the role of sideline prompter instead of calling from in the set. On retiring into the Inn a second round of drinks on the house was forthcoming, followed by bacon batches for those who wanted.

Dances: SN; WGH; TR; EV; BMD; WL 6

11-45 Oystermouth : Outside NatWest bank

Having negotiated the parking on the sea front, complicated by a charity event which was taking place, the team performed on the pavement outside the bank. There were quite lot of people passing, some of whom stopped to watch. It was still dry but not warm.

Dances: SN; TR; EV; WGH; WL 5

12-40 Bishopston: The Joiner's Arms

Curiously positioned on one side of a triangular space, making parking tricky, the pub looked small, old and well-worn compared with a fancier pub/eating house opposite. However, it was bigger inside, though obviously an old building. It also has its own pub brewery. The team ordered food and went outside to dance while it was being prepared. The sun shone on this endeavour for the first time in the day, and a small number of the pub customers came out to watch. After dancing the team had lunch (which included generous portions of excellent but mouth-searingly hot chips), and watched the Rugby Sevens on TV during a rain shower outside. The rain had stopped by the time the dancers left for the next venue.

Dances: SN; BMD; TR; EV 4

2-30 Kittle: Beaufort Arms

The pub patio is graced by a splendid spreading chestnut tree, but the team danced in the open space of the car park. The audience consisted largely of a man from Sweyns Ey MM, who had turned up especially to watch the performance. In the course of the conversation it turned out he had been with Cardiff MM at the same time

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as Steve Westwood, who remembered him and his wife from that time 30 odd years ago.

Dances: SN; WGH; TR; WL 4

3-30 Nicholaston Farm

The farm has a site for caravans, and is where the Squire and his wife come regularly for a holiday with their caravan, which explained the choice of venue. The owners were very welcoming, and provided tea and cake "on the house" for the team after the dancing. A small family group watched the performance in the sunny farmyard.

Dances: SN; BMD; TR; EV; WGH 5

5-00 Oldwalls: The Greyhound

Beer having been got in, the team went out to dance on the car park, to encounter a bus load of women in party frocks and wigs celebrating the birthday of one of their number. They of course pranced about demanding a dance. At this point a minibus of men turned up, not connected to the other party, also involved in a pub crawl. While watching, one or two were egged on to try it, and proved insistent, so a performance of Bampton "Bonny Green Garters" was mounted with the men in, which was rapturously received.

Dances: SN; WL; WGH; Bonny Green Garters; TR 4 + 1

6-00 Llangennith: The King's Head

The pub was busy with another party of women (who stayed inside), plus the men from the previous spot, who had also chosen this pub on their itinerary. They confined themselves to the pool table while the dancing was going on. The performance took place on a narrow wedge shaped terrace overlooking the (very interesting) church of St Cennyth. The confined space roused comment from the dancers as it constrained movement in the hey, which worked better in those circumstances. A small group, and the pub dog, watched the proceedings.

Dances: SN; WGH; BMD; EV; TR 5

7-35 Reynoldston: The King Arthur

The start of the spot was delayed as it was raining heavily at the scheduled time, but eventually the rain stopped and the sun came out. There was quite a lot of coming and going as people arrived and departed, including some evening guests for the wedding, which was going forward in the wedding suite. As tends to be the case, the team rose to the occasion with an audience and danced the best Morris of the day – the feeling being that this was rather later in the day than usually occurs, as the technical hitches had taken longer to iron out.

Dances: SN; TR; EV; WGH; BMD; WL Bonny Green Garters

6+1

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Messages had been passing back and forth about the status of the wedding party, with some uncertainty about timing, and the team were hoping to eat dinner before too long, but on finishing the performance it was announced that the wedding party were assembling to watch a command performance. The team moved down to the courtyard outside the suite, and danced a short spot for the bride and groom and the guests. This performance concluded with another Bampton "Bonny Green" as it was felt this made a good finish.

Dances: TR; EV; Bonny Green Garters 2 + 1

8 Stands 41 Dances + 3 Bonny Green Garters **

**[Owing to the Foreman's early injury, the Jig was not performed]

Following an excellent dinner, the music session went on until 1 a.m. (to a steadily thinning audience) – the bride's father bought another round as thanks.

12th May 2013 Lounge at Park Place, Reynoldston **AGM**

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Minutes of AGM 12th MAY 2013

Venue: in the Kitchen /Dining Room at Park Place, Reynoldston. 9-25 a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver (Squire), Steve Westwood, David Wintle (Foreman).

John Weaver as Squire "chaired". John began by asking if the distance travelled to get to this year's tour had seemed too much. He felt it was a good place to be, and he had contacts locally which made the planning easier. The Village Inn at Killay had been especially welcoming, providing two rounds of beer and bacon rolls on the house. John was happy with the timekeeping which had been excellent, the team being where it should be to dance at the advertised time. The only exception was Oystermouth, where it was not important. That the audience does take notice was shown by the experience at Llangennith, where one spectator came to find where we were. John thanked the team for their efforts, especially David for his work as Foreman, who even when forced by injury to stand out of the set was able to take an objective view, spotting the numerous errors.

David then spoke as Foreman. He offered thanks all round, first to John for the choice of dance spots; none had been bad for surface, though occasionally a bit tight for space. Thanks were also given to the musicians, though sometimes the speed "ran away" a bit, though the speed might be authentic. The dancing had got better towards the end of the day, improving up to the last two spots, as the presence of an attentive audience makes dancers raise their game. Also friendly heckling from the crowd tended to lift the performance standard in response. The tradition was not a usual one to see, and David felt the dances were probably a more authentic reconstruction than some others more familiar in the Morris repertoire. Miles commented that the preliminary "trial" spot usually done first thing on Saturday was a good idea, and might have contributed to a faster improvement. David agreed it was the customary pattern.

Martyn then reported on the finances. The bag contained £122-36. There was a residual amount in the Beer fund of £7-82; expenditure having been rather lower than usual in that respect owing to Welsh hospitality. The teams total funds stood at approximately £200.

Tony then raised the matter of renewing the hankies. Andrew had enquired of Bert Cleaver, who was prepared to make a set, but this had been put on hold when the Ring Shop announced it had a new supply. On inspection these turned out not to be of the sort of quality wished for, however, so the matter was now open. The addition of the team emblem was discussed. This had originally been added in fabric pen and had lasted well. Steve Westwood asked if an embroidered version using a computerised sewing machine might be an option, but it was felt that this would have to be a professional job and therefore more expensive than was warranted. It was

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agreed that the new ones should be 24" hemmed down to 22", with finger loops incorporated this time. ** Action Andrew

It was agreed the bell pads would be checked over. Martyn asked if anyone needed a new sweatshirt, but all the team were currently happy with the one they have. On braces, Tony asked if there had originally been 9 or 10 pairs. After some thought it was agreed there had been 9, catering for a team of 8 with one spare set. Comment was made on the tendency for them to "ping off" during the dancing; it was agreed that careful adjustment of the tension, as they are not actually needed to hold the trousers up, could greatly reduce the risk of their coming adrift.

Plans for 2014 were then discussed. The lists indicated that it was Miles' turn to be Squire, and Steve Westwood to be Foreman. Steve asked if he could postpone his duty for a year, as he foresaw some personal difficulties which might interfere with his doing that job. Tony being next in line, he agreed to be Foreman for 2014. It was agreed that travelling to Jersey did not present any major problem in principle. Miles said the tour was likely to be very like the previous one on the island, but those who had been before were happy with that as it had been very good then. Miles did say he had toyed with the idea of Guernsey as an alternative, but one problem there was collecting was apparently not allowed.

The date was fixed as **17th May**, which suited various commitments, and Miles thought it better as the previous weekend would be the Liberation celebrations on Jersey which would rather snarl things up. Steve Bignell asked if it would be possible for wives to go along as before, and Miles didn't see any problem with that.

Tony commented that the shared music had seemed to work once more, and thanks were expressed to the musicians for their contribution.

Tony proposed thanks to John for organising a cracking weekend, which had also given a new view of Welsh hospitality. In the winding down conversation, Steve Westwood commented that the hey had looked really good when it had worked, and David said that of course the galleys in the hey were really the whole point.

Tony said the accommodation had been excellent, though it was ideal to stay in the pub used for during the weekend. John said it would have been prohibitively expensive to stay at the King Arthur. Thanks were due to the team for sharing, which had not proved a problem owing to the variety of spaces available.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9-54a.m.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



27th Annual Tour - 17th May 2014

The Second Jersey Tour

[Home Base: Outdoor Centre, formerly YHA, Haut de la Garenne]

The Tradition: Duns Tew

<u>The Dances:</u>	Old Gordon	Handkerchief	OG
	Jersey Bill	Handkerchief	JB
	The Old Number 5	Hand-Clapping	No 5
	Seaside Shuffle	Handkerchief	SS
	Gallant Weaver	Stick	GW
	Mrs Casey	Handkerchief	MC
	Balance the Straw	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Foreman / Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Dearne MM	Joint Music
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	Squire / Joint Music
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
Steve Westwood	Northampton MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	

Itinerary:

9-30	Haut de la Garenne	
10-30	Liberation Square, St Helier	
11-30	St Aubins Harbour [Parish Hall]	
12-30	Old Smugglers' Inn, Ouaisne	[Lunch]
2-30	Old Portelet Inn, St Brelade	
3-30	Mont Orgeuil (Gorey Castle) - Lower Ward	[Tea]
5-00	Rozel Bar & Restaurant, St Martin (in the road)	
6-00	Farmers Inn, St Ouen	
7-15	Les Fontaines Tavern, St John	[Dinner]

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[Note on Friday: Owing to the very varied arrival times of the team in Jersey, separately by Plane or Ferry, the Squire spent a somewhat hectic time picking everyone up in a variety of locations, including hotel, airport and Ferry terminal. The result was a late meal at the Royal Hotel, St Martin, which resulted in a late start to practice in Samares School. As the school alarm system automatically set at 10 p.m., there was only time for a single run-through of each dance, so no-one actually danced every dance in practice. It was felt the opening "dress rehearsal" spot would be rather more rehearsal even than usual].

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Log:

9-30: Haut de la Garenne. On the forecourt.

As was expected after the truncated practice time the previous evening, the opening spot featured several restarts and adjustments as the dancers settled in. As usual the complete repertoire was performed.

Dances: JB; OG; GW; No 5;SS; MC; JIG 6 + Jig

10-30 Liberation Square, St Helier.

A reasonable audience gathered during the performance, which went well. The group of "other halves" who had come along for the trip to Jersey commented that the dancing looked very competent. A member of the audience filmed one dance and this later surfaced on the web and bore out that impression.

Dances: JB; OG; GW; No 5;SS; MC;

6

11-50: St Aubins Harbour

The sun broke through here and added a pleasant air. The spot started late as there had been traffic problems getting through and the Squire had to cope with parking the mini-bus. A small audience of stall-holders and passers-by watched the performance. Afterwards the team were able to repair to a nearby pub for a beer while the Squire retrieved the mini-bus and brought it round, requiring a swift embarkation as the schedule was behind and parking restricted.

Dances: SS; OG; GW; No 5; JIG 4 + Jig

12-50 Smugglers' Inn, St Brelade

The dancing here had to be in the road as there was no other suitable area, so the traffic, of which there was quite a lot coming and going, had to wait, some more patiently than others. A man spectating from a next-door balcony donated bags of 1p and 2p coins to the collection. The dancing was followed by Lunch, after which there was some singing from the team, which resulted in the gift of a jug of beer in appreciation from a man from "East London".

Dances: MC; OG; No 5;GW; JB; JIG 5 + Jig

3-00 Old Portelet Inn, St Brelade

An interesting pub overlooking the cliff. The dance area was a rather compact patio, requiring that tables be moved to make room. A small audience assembled, including a small child in a buggy on the "front row".

Dances: JB; OG; No 5; GW; MC; 5

3-30 Mont Orgueil (Gorey Castle)

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A spectacular venue in the Castle overlooking Gorey Harbour. This was a pleasing re-union with retired One Day Wonder Jo Mitchell, who was on duty as Castle Custodian, and who conducted the team on a brief tour of the lower precincts once the dancing was over. Tea was enjoyed under the umbrellas on the lower ward. Time was pressing so only a rapid climb to the top of the Keep was possible, rather than any wider exploration of the upper reaches, but the view was well worth the effort. Surprisingly few visitors were in evidence.

Dances: SS; OG; No 5; GW; MC; JIG 5 + Jig

5-50 The Rozel Bar & Restaurant, St Martin

A dance spot in the road outside – rather hemmed in by the buildings, though the sea was visible at the end of the street. Only the odd passer-by watched.

Dances: JB; No 5; MC; GW; JIG 4 + Jig

6-00 Farmers Inn, St Ouen

A small and boisterous group provided an audience here. There was a generally relaxed feeling to the afternoon by now, which partly accounted for the fact that when "Jersey Bill" was called, the music played "Seaside Shuffle" while the dancers danced "Jersey Bill". This actually proved possible without disaster.

Dances: OG; SS (JB); No 5; GW; MC 5

7-15 Les Fontaines Tavern, St John

This being mainly an eating place, and early in the evening, there was a total absence of audience. A couple of kitchen staff appeared, but had to go back to their job before the dancing started on the paved terrace. As is the custom the entire repertoire was performed, followed by Bonny Green Garters, Bampton.

Dances: SS; MC; JIG; No 5; GW; JB; OG Bonny Green 7 + Jig

The team then went in for Dinner. This was followed by the traditional music and singing session, which a couple of local musicians known to the Squire joined. The company included a couple of young women from Eastern Europe, one of whom Martyn inveigled into a dance with him (as is frequently his wont on these occasions). The party broke up at closing time.

9 Stands Total Dances performed: 46 + 6 Jigs

18th May 2014 In the Bonne Nuit Suite, Haut de la Garenne. **AGM**

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 18.5.2014

Venue: Bonne Nuit Suite, Haut de la Garenne, Jersey 9-45 a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley (Foreman), Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer (Squire), Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, Steve Westwood, David Wintle.

The meeting opened with Miles thanking the men for making the effort to come, as travel to Jersey could sometimes be a problem. He also thanked Tony for his choice of tradition, "Duns Tew" having proved manageable for all, with no injuries during or afterwards. John proposed a vote of thanks to Miles for arranging a great weekend, and the charging around which had ensued on Friday evening in particular was a noble sacrifice. Miles replied that he could bear any withdrawal symptoms. All approved John's proposal, Tony endorsing the view that it had been a great time, with super ales.

Tony then spoke as Foreman. As usual, given the history of the side, there is always the question of which tradition to choose to do, whether to repeat something or find another. He chose "Duns Tew" as it looked like a good tradition for the type of weekend, and conveniently the internet provided information via USA Morris. Martyn commented that the figures had looked pretty good in the event, the choruses less so. Tony had noticed the hand-clapping dance had tended to lapse, with everyone having a memory "blip" as some point. He had left out "Two Brothers" as the timing was very tricky and unlikely to be sorted in the time available. He hoped the side had enjoyed the choice of dances.

Thanks were offered to the musicians. Joe reported that the log showed 46 dances performed, and 6 Jigs. Martyn reported on the finances, saying the bag had been the second highest on record at £108-76, bringing the total funds to £247. Expenses to be taken into account were £45 for the new hankies, and a minibus hire at £210, plus £45 needed for the Morris Ring subscription. As this came to more than the funds, it was agreed that all should top up the kitty with £10.

Plans for 2015: The date of the Tour was agreed as **16th May 2015**. The list indicated that Joe would be Squire, and Steve Westwood Foreman (postponed from the previous year).

On kit, it was agreed that it was OK for another year. The question of re-instating the sun emblem on the new hankies was raised; Steve Bignell said they did not show up in use, so we didn't need them, and Joe agreed, so it was decided not to bother. Martyn recalled that the originals had been executed by Jackie Barker when Pete Barker was Squire, and that Jackie had died earlier in the year.

Tony then posed the crucial question: was everyone up for it again. A unanimous yes was given, though Martyn did comment "knees and legs permitting".

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Under any other business, Martyn wondered if bringing in a youth policy might be a way of keeping the team going in the future, perhaps by bringing a "youth" along for the weekend. Steve Bignell said there were problems with the logistics of finding an appropriate youth; Joe mentioned that bringing in Graham Hubbard, who was at least younger, had not worked because Graham was heavily involved in other Morris and music and so did not feel he could commit himself to ODW, and this was likely to be a problem with quite a few younger Morris men. The feeling was that if bringing a younger man in when someone had to drop out did not happen, then the side could gracefully expire.

Steve Bignell then commented about the Friday evening, as getting late to the venue and having a meal had tended to cut into practice time, which was not good. It was pointed out that the men had indicated in the past that getting away early enough should not be a problem, and the difficulties of travelling to Jersey and liaising were not really typical. David suggested that bringing the start time forward to 7 p.m. would give longer practice time and more drinking time afterwards if things went well.

Joe said that this year's experience of once through each dance, with two men standing out, was not enough, even with a relatively easy tradition, notwithstanding that comments from partners were favourable: Frances Wintle had said it looked good in Liberation Square, and Carol had told Steve W that she could see why he "enjoyed dancing with such a fine body of men".

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10-10 a.m.

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28th Annual Tour - 16th May 2015

Shrewsbury : Walking Tour + Attingham Park

[Home Base: The Shrewsbury Hotel (Wetherspoons)]

The Tradition: Fieldtown

<u>The Dances:</u>	Valentines	Handkerchief	V
	Dearest Dickie	Handkerchief	DD
	Signposts	Handkerchief	S
	The Rose	Handkerchief	R
	Young Collins	Stick	YC
	Banks of the Dee	Handkerchief	BD
	[Balance the Straw	Stick]*	[BS]

*[Owing to technical problems with stick throwing in "Young Collins", "Balance the Straw" was substituted for most of the Tour]

As the Foreman was not able to turn out on the Tour and dance due to illness, there was no Foreman's Jig. The Squire offered "Nutting Girl" as an alternative.

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Deerne MM	
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	Squire
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
Steve Westwood	Northampton MM	Foreman
David Wintle	Anker MM	Joint Music

Itinerary:

9-30	Shrewsbury Hotel
10-00	The Square, Shrewsbury
10-20	Pride Hill, Shrewsbury
10-45	Shrewsbury Castle Grounds

REFRESHMENT at The Loggerheads, Church Street

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11-30	Forecourt, St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury
12-05	Pride Hill, Shrewsbury
LUNCH	3 Fishes Inn, Fish Street, Shrewsbury
2-10	The Square, Shrewsbury
3-15	Attingham Park, The Stableyard
TEA AND CAKE	
4-10	Attingham Park, The Stableyard
6-00	R & R at The Salopian Bar, Shrewsbury
7-00	The Shrewsbury Hotel
8-00	DINNER The Old Buck's Head Inn, Frankwell, Shrewsbury

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Log:

- 9-30 The Car Park, Shrewsbury Hotel
As usual the opening salvo included the full repertoire, performed to a few people coming and going.
Dances: V; DD; S; RR; BS; BD 6
- 10-00 The Square, Shrewsbury
On foot uphill via Mardol to the Square. This was planned as an opportunist spot, as there was a Shropshire Food Market on the Square, so dancing depended on there being space by the stalls, and the goodwill of the stall-holders. In the event, there was space by the statue of Clive, and the nearby stall-holders were happy for the team to perform. The sun shone.
Dances: BD; BS; V 3
- 10-20 Pride Hill, Shrewsbury
Uphill again, (with one or two complaints) via Grope Lane and Bear Steps. The street is pedestrianised, with a good open space outside the entrance to the Darwin Centre; quite a few people were around, but they tended to pass by rather than stop and watch. Joe's brother Frank, who had helped with some of the preliminary planning, turned up to watch and take photographs.
Dances: DD; S; BS 3
- 10-45 Shrewsbury Castle
The team danced in the Castle Grounds in front of the building, a beautiful setting in bright sunshine. A small number of people were visiting the gardens and stopped to watch.
Dances: BD; V 2
- 11-00 A short refreshment break was taken at the "Loggerheads" in Church Street, only 2 minutes walk from the next venue.
- 11-30 Forecourt, St Mary's Church
This was arranged in conjunction with the Shrewsbury Bell Ringers, who were ringing at St Mary's this day, so the spot followed their session. Though advertising had been promised, it did not seem to have materialised, so only the small group in the church and a few passers-by provided an audience.
Dances: DD; S; R; BD; BS; Squire's Jig 5 + Jig
- 12-05 Pride Hill, Shrewsbury
A busier second spot here, with a good crowd watching.
Dances: V; S; BS; DD 4

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Minutes of A.G.M. 17th May 2015

Venue: Bar of the Shrewsbury Hotel at 9-20a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley; Steve Bignell; Andrew Fawcett; Joe Oldaker (Squire); Miles Spencer; Martyn Thomas; John Weaver; David Wintle.

Apologies: Steve Westwood (Foreman)

Joe as Squire thanked the team as usual for turning up and making it a good weekend – he felt the walking tour had gone well, and Attingham Park had provided a captive audience at teatime with an excellent dance space. Steve Bignell commented that a walking tour was perhaps a good choice in future planning, avoiding the driving around which was the usual pattern. Thanks were offered to Joe for organising.

Martyn reported on the finances: the collections had come to £50-77, with £18-28 in the kitty. The collections were down, possibly due to being a man short. The second spot on the Square had been a collection for Macmillan, not the team, though there had been a bonus £10 from the "Birthday Boy" at the Salopian Bar, which was an unscheduled spot. The audience at St Mary's was also very thin, the promised advertising not having materialised.

Joe reported that 44 dances and 2 Jigs had been performed.

It was felt the dancing had gone well, though there had been a tendency for dancers to revert to their familiar style for the tradition. The proposed "Young Collins" had looked too tricky to sort in the practice time, and so it was decided to substitute "Balance the Straw", which was known by most of the team already. Steve Bignell thought "Signposts" was "not much fun" to dance or watch; he also thought that "Young Collins" might have come together with a little practice, as it had not been a disaster at Attingham Park on the only occasion it was performed. Thanks were voted to Steve Westwood for teaching, in spite of his illness.

2016: The Tour date was agreed as **MAY 14th**.

Squire: Martyn Thomas Foreman: Steve Bignell.

Kit: Tony offered to be kit man, but Martyn said he would take the box (as Squire-elect) and sort anything as need.

Steve Westwood had expressed the wish to continue, subject to his health improving.
Future Planning:

Looking ahead, the team discussed possible futures. Tony asked if the team should wind up with the 30th tour in 2017, as the projected continuity had not really happened. Mile said that as Helier MM was folding, he would no longer be a "Morris man"; it was pointed out that this was not a rigid criterion, as Peter Barnard had not

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been “attached” to a specific team during his membership, so it was perfectly acceptable for Miles to continue.

John Weaver suggested that as the present format couldn’t continue, as age and injury took their toll, should a changed arrangement be set up with “guest” members up to 12 in total, bringing in younger men who might form a nucleus for a revived team. Tony commented that there were logistics problems with accommodation for that sort of number, and also it was moving to the situation of “waiting for one more man to get up” which ODW was created specifically to avoid. Also, Tony felt that having been in at the start, he wanted to be there at the end. It was agreed that the 30th Tour would be the last, though no definite plans were put forward for it.

The meeting closed at 9-42 a.m.

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29th Annual Tour - 14th May 2016

The New Forest

[Home Base: The White Rabbit, Lyndhurst]

The Tradition: Badby

<u>The Dances:</u>	Cuckoo's Nest	Handkerchief	CN
	Broad Cupid	Handkerchief	BC
	Saturday Night	Handkerchief	SN
	Bobbing Joe	Stick	BJ
	[aka "Bobby & Joan"]		
	Balance the Straw	Stick	BS
	[Tune: "Innocent Hare"]		
	Shepherd's Hey	Stick	SH
	Flowers of Edinboro'	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Music
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	Foreman
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-on-Dearne MM	Joint Music
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	Joint Music
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Squire
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	Joint Music

The New Forest: Itinerary

9-30	The White Rabbit, Lyndhurst	
10-15	New Forest Cider Pantry, Burley	
11-30	Furlong Shopping Centre, Ringwood	
12-45	The Alice Lisle, Rockford Green	[Lunch]
14-00	The Red Shoot Inn, Linwood	
15-00	Royal Oak, Fritham	
16-00	Furzey Gardens, Minstead	[Tea]
17-00	The Trusty Servant, Minstead	
18-00	The White Rabbit, Lyndhurst*	

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An older pub with beer from barrels behind the bar. Again a sizeable garden with a good crowd sitting out in the sun. Another group of small girls eager to be involved were “allowed” by John Weaver to carry the sticks from the dance spot back to the team’s table. An extra dance was performed for them in recompense. The audience included an ex-Morris Man who was quite keen to chat, and the musicians played a few tunes. A jug of beer “on the house” then appeared, which somewhat delayed the team’s departure for the next spot.

Dances: SN; BJ; CN; BC (the extra dance) 4

16-25 Furzey Gardens, near Minstead

The team arrived late owing to the free beer at the Royal Oak. The varied gardens are arranged around thatched cottages and barn. The audience was spread across the gardens, but the team managed a short spot on the grass in the continuing sunshine. Frances Wintle came along to spectate here. Following the dancing the team enjoyed tea and delicious cake “on the house” – the length of the spot was partly governed by the fact that the tea-room was about to close. After tea the musicians sat and played some tunes around the table on the terrace before moving on.

Dances: SN; SH; JIG; BC 3 + 1

17-30 The Trusty Servant, Minstead

Again a late arrival, though this seemed of little consequence. Again a pub-garden spot with a small group of spectators. The pub has an unusual name, and a very interesting sign to go with the rhymed description of a “trusty servant” which is on a painted board. The verse is said to come from Winchester College at a period when pupils had personal servants – an early job description:

“Manners Maketh Man”

“ A Trusty Servants portrait would you see
This Emblematic Figure will survey
The Porkers Snout not nice in diet shows
The Padlock Shut no secrets he’ll disclose
Patient the Ass his Masters wrath will bear
Swiftness in errand the Staggs feet declare
Loaded his Left Hand apt to labour saith
The Vest his neatness Open hand his faith
Girt with his Sword his Shield upon his arm
Himself and his master he’ll protect from harm”

The figure depicted on the sign has the Pig’s head, Stag’s feet and so on.

Dances: BS; BC; SH; BJ 4

The team then returned to home base for the final performance of the day.

18-30 The White Rabbit, Lyndhurst

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The dancing was again in front of the entrance, but there were very few people about, outside or in.

Dances: CN; BS; JIG; BC

3 + 1

At this point it was decided to break with the usual practice, and move to the Waterloo Arms nearby, where the Friday evening post-practice beer had been taken, and which appeared to be a busier place. It was quieter than the Friday evening (when two parties had been in), but convivial. A further set of dances was performed outside to finish the Tour, though with a minimal audience here too.

19-10 The Waterloo Arms, Lyndhurst

The team danced on the wide space in front of the pub, under the sign.

Dances: BJ; SN; SH; Bonny Green Garters.

4

The team then returned to the White Rabbit for Dinner, and a low key Session in an alcove in the bar, where there were barely half a dozen other clientele.

10 Spots

Total Dances: 40 + 6 Jigs

15th May 2016 **A.G.M.** Held in the Bar of the White Rabbit.

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of AGM 15TH MAY 2016

Venue: Bar of the "White Rabbit", Lyndhurst at 9-30a.m.

Present: Tony Ashley; Steve Bignell (Foreman); Andrew Fawcett; Joe Oldaker; Miles Spencer; Martyn Thomas (Squire); John Weaver; David Wintle.

Martyn as Squire opened the meeting with thanks to the team, and expressions of delight that the Tour had worked – though it was regrettable that no collection had been possible at the Furlong Centre, there had been free coffee, and the "Royal Oak" at Fritham had provided a jug of beer. The weather had been excellent, which always makes a Tour really good. Martyn then thanked Steve for his work as Foreman, offering dances which were "achievable" within the usual variations of style and detail.

The team then thanked Martyn for keeping up the standard, a brilliant outcome. The "White Rabbit" had proved a bit lacking on Friday evening, but the Waterloo Arms was a good substitute; their Friday was very busy with two parties in, but quieter on Saturday, which was ideal.

Steve thanked the team for working well with the dances, though he hadn't known that Anker did all the dances normally. Tony pointed out that the tradition as taught was slightly different to Anker's version. Steve commented that the triple stick clash with double foot across was tricky, and had started out looking ropey but got better, though people looked tired towards the end. Martyn said the audiences obviously enjoyed it, as there was £30 in notes in the box. Steve apologised that it wasn't more challenging, to which Miles commented it was challenging enough to someone who had not danced it before. The music had been good, with all four musicians playing at some point for one or other of the dances. Joe had recorded 40 dances performed, including Bonny Green Garters, with 6 Jigs.

Martyn then reported on the finances. The bag came to £81-90, which with a balance brought forward of £8-09 brought the total to £89-00, rounded up with a stray 1p. Although barred from soliciting contributions directly at the Furlong Centre, there had been money put in the box; at Furzey Gardens the collection had been for them, but they did provide free tea and cake. Expenses were £40 for the practice hall, and £45 for Morris Ring subscription.

The team then discussed the plans for 2017. The decision had been made in 2015 that the 30th Tour in 2017 should be the last. The date was fixed for **13th May 2017**.

The discussion then turned to where, and what form the Tour should have. Martyn suggested a return to the "Sun" at Clun, as the four original members remembered it, though obviously the other four didn't. Joe pointed out that the pub had changed somewhat since then, and going back might prove a disappointment. Tony maintained

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that the Tour should revisit South Shropshire. David said that if it was his Tour he didn't want to be bound by the location in South Shropshire as he had limited time to spend on organising. Joe asked if the team had to stick to the rule on this occasion, as joint organisation was possible, having been done in the past. It was agreed that Martyn and Tony would liaise to organise the Tour.

David wondered if it would be appropriate to revisit Oddington as the tradition, and would do that if Foreman. Technically Andrew was due to be Foreman, but he was happy to stand aside, and the alternative of multiple Foremen to reprise a set of different traditions was not really practicable. David's "reconstructions" would be difficult to master again in those circumstances; it was also decided to pass over the traditions the team had never tackled, e.g. Ascott under Wychwood, and Hinton in the Hedges, among others. The final decision was to reprise Oddington.

The team then discussed whether former ODW men should be asked to join the team on an informal basis. Tony insisted that only former dancers/musicians should be asked, not all and sundry. Martyn wondered if Dave Brown's son Tom, and George Barker could be included. It was agreed the invitation should be to meet up for the final evening, with the option of spectating on the Tour during the day.

Martyn agreed to take the kit, and trim the rosettes. David commented that it would be nice to "hand over" the kit, but to whom? Joe suggested that some of the "youth", the core of the 18-30 Morris for example, might take it over. However the feeling was that they tend to do their own thing, not with the discipline of a ODW team, and the matter had to be left unresolved.

There being no further business the meeting closed. The time went unrecorded.

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30th and Final Annual Tour - 13th May 2017

South Shropshire Revisited

[Home Base: Stokesay Inn, Craven Arms]

The Tradition:

Oddington

The Dances:

Boys of the Bunch	Handkerchief	BB
Half a Brown Ale	Handkerchief	HBA
Charley Barley	Handkerchief	CB
Belle Isles March	Handkerchief	BI
Galopede	Stick	G
Shooting	Stick	S
Balance the Straw**	Hand-clapping	BS
** See the Log for the "White Horse", Clun		
Princess Royal	Foreman's Jig	JIG

The One Day Wonders:

Tony Ashley	Anker MM	Joint Squire
Steve Bignell	Northampton MM	
Andrew Fawcett	Wath-upon-Dearne MM	Joint Music
Joe Oldaker	Anker MM	
Miles Spencer	Helier MM	Joint Music
Martyn Thomas	Lassington Oak MM	Joint Squire
John Weaver	Brackley MM	
David Wintle	Anker MM	Foreman

Itinerary:

9-30	Stokesay Inn, Craven Arms
10-15	Stokesay Castle
11-00	Craven Arms "The Auction Yard"
12 Noon	White Horse Inn, Clun
1-00	Three Tuns, Bishops Castle
1-30	Lunch at the Three Tuns
3-00	Kerry Vale Vineyard
4-00	Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms (Tea)
5-15	The Plough, Wistanstow
6-15	The Stokesay Inn.

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Log:

9-40 The Stokesay Inn, Craven Arms
A leisurely start in the yard at "home base" with only 3 dances and the Jig as there was an absence of spectators. The weather dry but dull.

Dances: HBA; BB; S; JIG 3+ 1

10-15 Stokesay Castle

A beautiful setting in the grass courtyard between the castle proper and the half-timbered gatehouse. A few tourists watched the dancing under a grey sky. The Editor of the Morris Ring Circular, Tony Foard, turned up with his wife Carole to record this historic last Tour, with a view to including a feature in the Circular.** The dancing seemed to have settled well even at this early point in the day.

Dances: HBA; BI; G; CB; BB; S 6

11-00 Craven Arms, The Auction Yard

Effectively the "centre" of the town, [which hasn't really got one], though an entirely modern pedestrian square, graced by a dramatic "Sheep Tracks" Tree, beside which the team danced. Few spectators, including a woman with small children. A touch of rain encouraged the dancers to complete the spot – after which they retired (via the rear entrance!) to the "Craven Arms Hotel" opposite for refreshment.

Dances: HBA; BB; S; BI 4

12-00 White Horse Inn, Clun

After slight difficulty parking, the team assembled on the narrow pavement outside the pub, where the first Tour had danced in the beginning, while staying at the "Sun". Buildings one side and parked cars along the kerb left little room for expansive dancing. At this point the Foreman decided to fulfil a long-held ambition to have the dancers perform a dance learnt on the spot, without previous notice. With brief instruction, "Balance the Straw" was danced, providing a unique moment in the team's history, being a seventh dance added "sight unseen" to the normal six. Not much audience, there being little space, though Adam Garland, past Wonder and immediate Past Squire of the Morris Ring joined the group. The team then went in for beer – the pub has its own brewery.

Dances: HBA; G; BB; BS 4

1-00 Three Tuns, Bishops Castle

The team danced on the pub yard, as they had on the first tour, with a small but very enthusiastic audience. This, and rather brighter weather, seemed to give the performance extra vigour and style. The pub is also still a brewery of course, though it has enlarged extensively in the past 29 years.

Dances: CB; BI; JIG; S; BS 4 + 1

LUNCH followed.

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The team was joined here by a number of Past Wonders, some with companions, as an invitation to join the Tour as spectators had been sent out to all past members of the team surviving – sadly Mike Hitchener, Dave Brown and Geoff Thompson had all fallen victim to cancer in the intervening years.

Guests included Jo Mitchell, Adam Garland with his wife Rhen, Pete Barker and his son George, Chris Barber (Founding Father of the ODW), Frances Wintle wife of the Foreman, and Tony and Carole Foard.

The lunch was excellent, and a brilliant song session followed, centred round the main table for 15 – it was agreed this was one of the best lunchtime pub sessions the company had enjoyed.

3-00 Kerry Vale Vineyard

A pleasant and sunny spot on the patio with wide rural views in all directions. A small number of visitors settled in to watch. After the dancing the team explored the vinous merchandise available, and some bottles, including the “champagne- style” sparkling, were purchased for future consumption. A pleasantly relaxed time had by all.

Dances: HBA; BI; G; BS; BB; S 6

4-00 Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms

The Tour circled back to Craven Arms for this spot, as it was planned to take Tea here. The team danced on the forecourt, and then posed for a team photograph with a (rather diminutive) stuffed Mammoth which guarded the entrance. Tea and cake were then enjoyed in the Centre café.

Dances: CB; G; BB; S 4

5-15 The Plough, Wistanstow [Wood’s Brewery]

Chosen in particular because the team had danced here on the Second tour in 1989 and also because the Squires wished to add to the tally of brewery/pubs for the day! The weather continued fine, and several of the guests joined the group again as spectators, as well as Joe’s brother from Shrewsbury.

Dances: HBA; BI; BS; S 4

6-15 Stokesay Inn, Craven Arms

As had always been the custom, the team returned to “home base” for the final spot of the Tour. As well as the remaining guests, a small group of the public assembled to watch the dancing in the evening sunshine, making a satisfying end to the Final Tour. An enthusiastic lady insisted that her dog be photographed with the team, so the dancers and the past Wonders who were still there obliged with a group picture.

Dances: HBA; CB; G; BS; BI; BB; S JIG Bonny Green Garters 7 + 1

7-00 DINNER in the Stokesay Inn

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An excellent dinner was enjoyed by the assembled company. The team had decided that the party at dinner should consist only of Past and Present Wonders, preserving a team rule; an exception was made after some discussion for George Barker, who always expressed boundless enthusiasm for the One Day Wonders, and it was felt that he could fill the space of his mother Jackie, who had effectively done a Squire's job and organised the 1994 Tour on her husband Pete's behalf, as an emergency when Pete de Courcy had to drop out. Jackie also had succumbed to cancer in the meantime.

Adam, Jo, Chris, Pete and George therefore joined the rest of the team for dinner. "Non-Wonders" were able to enjoy their dinner separately away from the relative formality of the "Final Dinner".

The meal was followed by an excellent "Après Morris" session, with contributions of songs and tunes from the guests as well. A number of locals were greatly appreciative of the entertainment.

The last ever "end-of-the-day" session of the finally wound up at 25 minutes past midnight.

9 Spots

Total Dances: 42 + 3 Jigs + Bonny Green Garters

14th May 2017

AGM

Held in the Bar of the Stokesay Inn

ONE DAY WONDERS TRAVELLING MORRIS



Minutes of A.G.M. 14th May 2017

Venue: Bar of the Stokesay Inn, Craven Arms.

Present: Tony Ashley,(Joint Squire) Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas,(Joint Squire) John Weaver. David Wintle (Foreman).

Tony (as 'senior' joint Squire) took the lead. He recounted that the arrangements had been made rather late, as he had been preoccupied for much of 2016 with his wife's illness. The intention had been to base the Tour in Ludlow, but as it was Ludlow Food Festival, Ludlow was effectively full, so they had to look further afield. The Stokesay Inn had been found as a suitable base. The Tour plan was partly governed by problems finding a suitable Tea spot, as nowhere seemed likely, hence the return detour to the Discovery Centre. Everyone seemed happy with the Tour as constituted. David commented that he thought the Lunchtime song spot was a highlight, with a good choice of songs and excellent singing for team and visitors.

David as Foreman then gave his assessment of the dancing. He thanked everyone for coping, as it was a version of Oddington no-one dances, but is interesting because it was collected from one man, by Clive Carey alone, forming a unique source. He commented that the dancing together got better through the day, even if the technical stepping did not, frequently not appearing as taught, with the slow capers always something of a problem. He thanked the team, saying it had been a pleasure as Foreman and as a team member over the 30 years.

Martyn then reported on the finances. There had been £48-54 left in the box from the previous year. The Hall hire had been £15-00. Tony and Martyn suggested that a sum should be donated to the Morris Ring, as the team membership would lapse. It was agreed that £30 should be donated to the MR Youth Fund. The collection for the day on the Tour had been £34-58. By agreement the remaining balance of funds had been used to augment the kitty on Saturday evening, and only £2-02 was left. This was donated to "Sooty", presiding over the RNIB Charity Box on the bar.

Joe then asked about final arrangements for the Team Records. He said he would circulate a photograph selection from this year's Tour, and produce a final album, but the longer term needed to be considered. He thought that at least the photo albums should be offered to the Morris Ring Archive, and probably the Log as well. There followed discussion of the possible format in which the Records could be kept, and consulted. Digitising the photo albums would make them easier to access, as David pointed out that storage with the MR Archive in Kent was not a convenient location for consulting them. They would of course need indexing. Joe said that he had considered collating all the Logs from the beginning and producing a single Log Book in one format, as the early Logs were hand-written by himself and by Bob Collier before that. Obviously that would take some time, but in the meantime he would hold the Records as before.

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A set of albums of photographs from all 30 Tours had been compiled by Joe, and he agreed to hold these along with the records.

Tony Foard had asked for an article for the Morris Ring Circular, which he edits, and Joe had agreed to do that.

The matter of the kit was then discussed. It was felt that it should stay together, so it could fit out a team. David was emphatic that it should only go to a "ready to go" team, not just a potential gleam in someone's eye. It was commented that various parts, such as the Rosettes and the Arm Bands, were showing wear, and would have a limited future life. Martyn commented that it could be looked upon as a preliminary set, which any team acquiring it could refurbish and update as they saw fit. Martyn said that Tom Brown of Lassington Oak MM, son of the late Dave Brown, the team's musician 1989-1995, was keen to start a new side, as he was no longer eligible for the 18-30 Morris. Tony queried whether his idea was similar to the ODW idea, or just another side. It was agreed that Martyn should store the kit for future reference. Tony mentioned the Loving Cup, donated to the team by the late Geoff Thompson. It had originally been used by Packington MM, but as it was now engraved with the One Day Wonders name, and as Packington MM were currently struggling for survival, it was agreed that Tony take custody of it. **

The team then had a general sharing of views about One Day Wonders, its history, and how they felt about their participation. Tony declared it an excellent experiment, which had worked. The initial impetus had come from Chris Barber of Forest of Dean MM, when having been frustrated with men not getting into a dance because they were eating ice-cream or queuing at the bar, (what was dubbed the "one more man" syndrome), he went on a Fools & Animals Weekend at Wath-upon-Deerne, where in contrast men were nearly fighting to get into the set. From this sprang the idea of a team of 7 dancers and a musician, all keen to be there, forming a once a year side. Having mooted the idea among some he saw as kindred spirits, the team emerged, by invitation. Bob Collier of FODMM sketched the idea for the kit, and David Wintle (then also with FODMM) suggested that rather than the usual miscellany of dances from all over, the team should dance a single tradition each year, but not necessarily the same one. This became a unique feature of ODWTM.

The first Tour was partly a matter of luck. Tony and Chris Barber explored South Shropshire, and stumbled across the "Sun" at Clun, which proved an ideal first base. After two years there it was decided to go somewhere different, and the pattern of Squire's choosing a venue was established.

Personal comments included David's statement that ODW had given him some of the best days of dancing he had ever had, Martyn's feeling that the quality of performance had been recognised by the outside world, and Miles saying that his knowledge and appreciation of the Morris had been expanded immeasurably by his

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being in the team; this wouldn't have happened in the Morris world of Jersey. David emphasised what had been a key feature – that experienced men had been asked to join. Martyn agreed that that had been crucial to getting the dancing together quickly, which was necessary given the format of the weekend. Tony commented that personally he always thought there was one thing that didn't quite come together each time.

The assembled company then agreed that the ODWTM was officially at an end. Martyn half-seriously suggested there might be a reunion, but this was not further examined and the meeting closed.

** Tony Foard's brief account of the ODW and the final Tour appeared in Morris Ring Circular 73, 2017

A short but fairly comprehensive history of the team by Joe Oldaker was published in Morris Ring Circular 74, Spring 2018.

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CONTINUATION

In 2018 David Wintle's son Ollie canvassed a number of young dancers mainly involved in the 18-30 Morris, with a view to reviving the One Day Wonders. A team of 8 was assembled, and the original kit handed over to the new generation in time for their first tour in 2019. This took place in the Forest of Dean, with Ollie as Squire and Matt Simons as Foreman, dancing Ruardean.

Former Wonders Tony Ashley, Chris Barber, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas and David Wintle joined as spectators for part of the day.

Tony and Joe attended the evening dinner by invitation, and Tony passed over to the new team the Loving Cup originally donated by the late Geoff Thompson.

The new ODWs continue. (2024)



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ODW Personnel Changes: Full lists

* Indicates a man joining that year.

- 1988** Tony Ashley, Chris Barber, Bob Collier, Joe Oldaker, Simon Rollinson, Martyn Thomas, David Wintle, Mike Hitchener (Music)
- 1989** Tony Ashley, Chris Barber, *Pete Barker, *Dave Brown (Music), Bob Collier, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, David Wintle,
- 1990 – 91** Tony Ashley, Chris Barber, Pete Barker, Dave Brown, Bob Collier, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, David Wintle
- 1992 – 93** Tony Ashley, Chris Barber, Pete Barker, Dave Brown, *Pete de Courcy, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, David Wintle
- 1994** Tony Ashley, Pete Barker, *Steve Bignell, Dave Brown, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, David Wintle [Pete de Courcy unable to make it]
- 1995** Tony Ashley, Pete Barker, Steve Bignell, Dave Brown, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, *Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 1996** Tony Ashley, *Rob Ashton (Music), Pete Barker, Steve Bignell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 1997** Tony Ashley, Rob Ashton, Pete Barker, Steve Bignell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 1998** Tony Ashley, Pete Barker, *Peter Barnard (Music), Steve Bignell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 1999** Tony Ashley, Peter Barnard, Steve Bignell, *Adam Garland, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 2000 -2003** Tony Ashley, Peter Barnard, Steve Bignell, Adam Garland, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 2004** Tony Ashley, Peter Barnard, Steve Bignell, *Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 2005** Tony Ashley, Peter Barnard, Steve Bignell, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, Geoff Thompson, David Wintle
- 2006** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, *Andrew Fawcett, *Graham Hubbard, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, David Wintle
- 2007** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, *John Weaver, David Wintle [Miles Spencer substituted for John Weaver on the day – see Log]
- 2008** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, David Wintle [Jo Mitchell injured]
- 2009** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Jo Mitchell, Joe Oldaker, *Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, David Wintle [AGM 2008 decided to have 9th man in]
- 2010** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, *Glyn Vigurs, John Weaver, David Wintle
- 2011** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, *Steve Westwood, David Wintle
- 2012 -2015** Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker,

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Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, Steve Westwood, David Wintle

2016 Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, David Wintle [Steve Westwood retires due to ill-health, no 9th man proposed as the 2017 tour intended to be the last]

2017 Tony Ashley, Steve Bignell, Andrew Fawcett, Joe Oldaker, Miles Spencer, Martyn Thomas, John Weaver, David Wintle