

Open Morris Annual General Meeting 2018

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Appendix 1 – 2017 Minutes

Minutes of Open Morris Annual General Meeting 2017

Sunday 26th November 2017

Coton Village Hall

Cambridge, CB23 7PL

1. Registration

Present:

Open Morris Officials:

Nicki Pickering (Chair)

Norm Warren

Liz Scholey

Malcolm Hills

Jenny Cox

Sheila Hill

Robin James

Will Nesbitt

John Scholey

Sides represented:

Bedcote Morris (Sharon Dodd, Graham Dodd)

Beorma Morris (Tony Roberts, Adrian Pitt, Linsey Duncan-Pitt)

Black Pig Border Morris (Nicki Crane)

Cadi Ha Morris (Miriam Wildermuth)

Earl of Stamford Morris (Nicki Pickering)

Fenstanton Morris (Penny Lury, Robin James)

Flagcrackers of Craven (Julie Greenwood)

Harlequin Morris (Will Nesbitt)

Heartsease & St Neots Sweeps and Milkmaids (Patti Pitt)

Holt Ridge Morris (Norm Warren)

Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts (John Edwards)

Kenninghall Morris (Pete Osborne)

Lady Bay Revellers (Gill Willson)

Madcap Morris (John Scholey)

Rattlejag Morris (Jayne Rose)

Theale Tattoo (Jenny Cox)

Tollerton Ploughboys (Barry Roland)

Wharfedale Wayzgoose (Malcolm Hills)

Wicket Brood Border Morris (Sheila Hill, Gill Grocott)

Life, Honorary and Individual Members:

Chris Hall (Life Member)

Doug Pickering (Individual Member)

Absentee Voters:

Allington Morris

Blackpowder Morris

Earl of Stamford Morris
Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts
Mucky Mountains Morris
Roses are Red
Young Miscellany
John Clifford (Life Member)
Kim Woodward (Life Member)

JMO Representatives:

Melanie Barber (President, The Morris Federation)
Sam Ross (Magazine Editor, The Morris Federation)
Eddie Worrall (Squire, The Morris Ring)

2. Opening of AGM

Meeting opened at 13.19, housekeeping notices were given by the Chair.

3. Introduction by the Chairperson

Nicki Pickering opened the meeting by welcoming all those present, with a special welcome and thanks to our JMO guests Ed Worrall and Melanie Barber who had agreed to act as Tellers. Nicki thanked Fenstanton for organising the food and the hall, Gog Magog for the morning workshop, John & Liz Scholey for providing the PA, Sheila Hill for providing the overhead projector, and all those who had contributed to the day. The meeting was declared quorate with 19 sides represented.

4. Apologies for absence

Allington Morris
Blackpowder Morris
Borderline Morris
Bunnies From Hell
Crosskey Clog
Eryri Morris
Lepton Morris
Mr Baker's Dozen
Pig Dyke Molly
Plymouth Maids
Roses are Red
Shinfield Shambles
St Katherine's Morris
West Somerset Border Morris
Whitethorn Morris
Wolfgate Border Morris
Wytchwood Morris (now disbanded)
Yorkshire Coast Morris
Young Miscellany
Lindsay McComb (OM Treasurer)
Craig Simmonds (OM Area Representative)
John Bacon (Honorary Member)

Ann Baines (Individual Member)
Mike Barclay (Individual Member)
Tony Chadwick (Individual Member)
Sue Deacon (Individual Member)
Kim Woodward (Life Member)

5. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were taken as read.

6. Adoption of Minutes of the 2016 AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were unanimously adopted by the meeting.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising were left outstanding, except that the creation of a 'Starter Pack' for new sides is not yet complete. Nicki Pickering has been working on this project but would welcome any help anyone may wish to offer, and she asked members to contact her at chair@open-morris.org if they are able to assist.

This project is separate to the JMO initiative to build a 'Foreman's Handbook.'

8. Reports from Officers

(as issued with the Agenda, and available on the OM website):

a. Chair of OM

Report taken as read. No questions arose.

b. Secretary

Report taken as read. No questions arose.

c. Membership Secretary

Report taken as read.

Membership has increased, with no leavers apart from sides who have sadly folded, one of which has since resurrected. There are 4 new member sides in the pipeline to register in January. Numbers are holding steady and creeping back up. Total membership stands at 121 sides, and 6 junior sides. Membership had previously dropped to 112 sides.

Chris Hall asked if the sides that have joined are sides who had left and come back - Liz Scholey replied that these sides are new.

d. Web Officer

Report taken as read.

Chris Hall thanked Malcolm Hills for his work and praised the new website, pleased to keep the orange colour and our original cartoons, but commented that we've lost the links section which was useful. Malcolm said this had slipped through the net during the redesign, and he'd be happy to put up a links page.

Malcolm stated that he does not feel he is creative, and is always open to ideas and constructive criticism, so if there's anything you don't like about the OM web or email facilities, please let Malcolm know at admin@open-morris.org

Chris Hall said that the old template for a Side Constitution was useful for new sides for purposes such as opening bank accounts.

Nicki Pickering asked the Ring and Federation representatives if they have any such

feature, which they did not. Nicki said this could be devised in the future if it was wanted.

Jenny Cox said that it's not generally necessary to have a Constitution to open a bank account nowadays.

ACTION POINT

Officers to try and source a Side Constitution Template

e. Treasurer

Report taken as read.

Norm Warren and Liz Scholey had collected an up-to-date bank statement from Barclays, (available at the AGM) and all is in order.

Chris Hall asked if we had any plans to use the large amount of money we have in the bank.

Nicki Pickering stated that Lindsay McComb had recommended a period of financial stability and limited expenditure following a loss the previous year, but that we now have the Sue Dyke Award and the prospect of bursaries, though there have been no applications.

Malcolm Hills asked why we were refunding subscriptions.

Nicki Pickering explained that some sides had paid twice in error, so those payments had been refunded.

Chris Hall questioned the fact that income from subs is lower this year, but numbers have gone up.

In the absence of the Treasurer, this point was discussed without conclusion.

Nicki Pickering said that we had lost some Individual Members, and new Junior Sides and an Overseas Side paid lower subs.

Liz Scholey highlighted the fundamental problem ... the date on which the accounts were finalised is not the same as the date on which the membership numbers were totalled. She was not sure it could be sorted out retrospectively, because we have no snapshot of the membership at particular dates. All we can do is provide the total of money in from subs.

Liz Scholey stated that in future, if we knew we had to do it, we could relate the membership numbers at the end of the financial year to the income from membership at the end of the financial year.

Liz Scholey added that membership is a fluid thing that changes across the year.

Nicki Pickering added that a cheque from a member joining one month might not be recorded as paid in until the following month. Liz Scholey pointed out that the Treasurer's Report says income from membership was £191.60 less than last year, but nobody pays an odd 60p for membership.

Sharon Dodd said that there may be a discrepancy between cash based accounting and e-accounting – this common practice is known as “income and expenditure accounting”.

Chris Hall questioned the adoption of accounts with the discrepancy mentioned, a lot of people voiced agreement.

Patti Pitt questioned why the financial year and membership year do not run in parallel.

ACTION POINT

Officers to consider coordinating the financial year with the membership year and

bring a response to 2018 AGM.

Norm Warren stated that constitutionally there are only two options:

- a. Adopt the Treasurer's Report as issued to members
- b. Refer the report back to the Officers.

Nicki Pickering recommended adopting the Report as issued, in the light of the Auditor's report (which found the accounts to be true and fair), and Officers will report back on the point raised by Chris Hall.

This was unanimously agreed.

Treasurer's Report was then adopted unanimously by the meeting, and signed by Nicki Pickering and Malcolm Hills. (see Appendix 1).

ACTION POINT

Officers to check the point raised by Chris Hall that income from subs is lower this year, but numbers have gone up.

Chris Hall asked that we make sure we thank Lindsay McComb for her work as Treasurer. Nicki Pickering agreed that Lindsay took over at a very difficult time, but she gave some very good work and sorted out a lot of problems.

Nicki proposed a vote of thanks to Lindsay which received a hearty round of applause.

9. Reports from other Officials:

- a. Editor of *Dancing On!*
- b. Archivist
- c. Area Representatives:

Nicki Pickering:	Wales and NW Area
Jenny Cox :	Central Area
Will Nesbitt :	East Midlands Area

All Reports were taken as read. No questions arose.

10. Election of Officers:

a. Chair of OM – Nicki Pickering, proposed by Bollin Morris and seconded by Wolfgate Border Morris, was duly elected -

For	26
Against	2
Abstentions	0

b. Treasurer – Liz Scholey, proposed by Fenstanton Morris and seconded by Peter Luckin (Individual Member), was duly elected -

For	7
Against	1
Abstentions	1

c. Secretary – Norm Warren, proposed by Madcap Morris and seconded by Holt Ridge Morris, was duly elected -

For	28
Against	0
Abstentions	0

d. Membership Secretary – John Scholey, proposed by Roses are Red and seconded by Madcap Morris, was duly elected -

For 27
Against 0
Abstentions 2

e. Web Officer – Malcolm Hills, proposed by Cadi Ha and seconded by Harlequin Morris, was duly elected -

For 28
Against 0
Abstentions 0

Jenny Cox proposed a vote of thanks to Ed Worrall and Mel Barber for acting as independent Tellers, which received a hearty round of applause.

11. Appointment of Officials

Jenny Cox is happy to continue as Editor of *Dancing On!*

Sheila Hill is happy to continue as Archivist.

Nicki Pickering proposed that they continue these appointments, with unanimous Committee approval.

Area Representatives: Nicki Pickering (Wales & NW), John Scholey (South East), Jenny Cox (Central), Robin James (East Anglia) and Craig Simmonds (West Midlands) are happy to continue as Area Reps.

Malcolm Hills (North East) and Lindsay McComb (South Central) will continue holding the fort under forbearance, but would both be glad to be replaced.

Will Nesbitt (East Midlands) stood down and was thanked for his work in the role.

This leaves East Midlands, West/South West, North East and South Central areas available. Nicki Pickering asked members to contact her at chair@open-morris.org if they are able to volunteer to represent any of these areas.

Nicki stated that the Area Representative role can be as much or as little as you want, but should be a conduit for information from member sides to OM and vice versa, and could include visiting sides at practice and dancing out.

Linsey Duncan-Pitt asked for clarification of the actual areas, Jenny Cox suggested an area map could be included in a future *Dancing On!*

Action Point

Officials to create a map showing the Area Representative regions, to appear in an edition of *Dancing On!* and to be made available on the website.

12. Appointment of Auditor

Malcolm Hector does not wish to continue as Auditor with the change of OM Treasurer, as he lives on the Isle of Wight near the outgoing Treasurer, making the arrangement impractical going forward.

Nicki Pickering has approached Stephen Archer, who is current treasurer of The Morris Ring (shortly to step down). Although he isn't an auditor by trade he has both run his own business and served as Morris Ring and JMO Treasurer for some years. Stephen lives close to Liz Scholey, so future dealings would be mutually convenient. The appointment of Stephen Archer as Auditor was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

13. Nominations for Honorary / Life Membership

None received.

14. Constitution Motions and Amendments as published with the Agenda

Motions and Amendments were taken as read.

Constitution Motion 1 - Batch voting on Motions at the 2017 AGM
Constitution Motion 1 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Constitution Motion 2 – Absentee Voting.

This has been trialled. Norm Warren raised a point of order, 14.g (“If no nomination is received ...”) had accidentally disappeared from digital copies, but was correct on the hard copies in circulation at the meeting.

Constitution Motion 2 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Batch of Constitution Motions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Constitution Motion 3 - “Last-minute” nominations.

Constitution Motion 4 – To correct the contents of AGM Notices to members.

Constitution Motion 5 – To include reference to the OM Equality Policy in the Constitution.

Constitution Motion 6 – Motions and Amendments at an AGM or EGM.

A Committee Amendment to Motion 6, as published with the Agenda, highlights exceptions to Rule 11 in Rules 23 and 24, and was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Constitution Motion 7 – Constitution Motions or Amendments at an AGM or EGM.

The batch of Constitution Motions 3, 4, 5, 6 (as amended) and 7 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Batch of Constitution Motions 8, 9, 10

Constitution Motion 8 – To allow electronic transfers from an online bank account. Some explanation was given that the Motion maintains the requirement for two signatories, and adds that only the Treasurer or Chair will be able to initiate a payment.

Chris Hall questioned the availability of double signatory functionality for electronic transfers. The Chair explained that this is a relatively new feature of some banks and is now available to OM through our Barclays account.

Constitution Motion 9 – To allow online viewing of the OM bank account

Constitution Motion 10 – To reduce the maximum number of OM bank account

Signatories. Some explanation was given that the OM Constitution currently requires a minimum of 4 signatories to be available, but we have only 5 Officers, so it was felt at review to be a more robust strategy to constitutionally require only 3 signatories, and reduce the likelihood of becoming unconstitutional in the event of illness, or at officer changeover. The current Officers intend to keep 4 signatories on the account. A Committee Amendment to Motion 10, as published with the Agenda, replaces the terms ‘audit’ and ‘auditor’ with ‘independent review’ and ‘independent reviewer’ throughout OM documents, and was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

The batch of Constitution Motions 8, 9 and 10 (as amended) was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

15. Other Motions and Amendments as published with the Agenda

Batch of Motions to amend the Treasurer's Guide and Chair's Guide

Motion TG1 – Notifying members of a change to the mileage rate.

Motion TG2 – Dealing with the Treasurer's Report at AGM.

Motion CG1 – to clarify the role of the Chair of OM at Meetings.

Motion CG3 – Chairperson's discretion to determine the timing of items on the Agenda

Motion CG2 – Discretion for the Chair to deal with Motions. Some clarification was given that a Late Motion may be submitted up to 48 hours before the AGM, but Late Amendments may be submitted during the AGM. Any Late item is heard at the Chair's discretion.

The batch of Motions TG1, TG2, CG1, CG3, CG2 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Batch of Motions to amend the Complaints Policy and Procedure

CPP Motion 1 – Delete the redundant word "surface", and the inappropriate phrase "scratched on a brickbat" from 1.b.

CPP Motion 2 – Amend the final bullet-point to ensure the complainant has the appropriate contact details.

CPP Motion 8 – Delete the final bullet-point in 2.a ii.

CPP Motion 3 – Amend to allow for the possibility of unsuccessful mediation.

CPP Motion 4 – Amend to ensure that a mediation agreement will remain confidential.

CPP Motion 5 – Amend to remove repeated "if" phrases at the beginning of the sentence.

CPP Motion 6 – Amend to make clear that the Appeal Panel's decision is final. Linsey Duncan-Pitt suggested that it should be possible to give the complainant an avenue to complain about the CONDUCT of the panel, as an addendum to the closure of an appeal. Malcolm Hills suggested adding 'unless further appeal is needed', however Liz Scholey suggested that a problem with Personnel Panel conduct would be characterised as a separate complaint. Following this discussion, Motion CPP 6 was left unchanged.

CPP Motion 7 – Amend to comply with the OM Equality Policy by replacing the word "member" with the word "person".

The batch of CPP Motions 1, 2, 8, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

Volunteers for the Personnel Panel were requested, 3 volunteers from the Meeting will contact Norm Warren regarding this.

Batch of Motions to amend the Complaints Policy and Procedure

CPP Motion 11 – Complaints Policy 1.d) and Complaints Procedure 2.c)

CPP Motion 12 – PERSONNEL PROCEDURE 3.c) and Complaints Policy 1

CPP Motion 13 – PERSONNEL PROCEDURE. Regarding dealing with a complaint about the Committee independently. The intention is that in the event of a complaint against the Committee, the Personnel Panel would implement the Complaints

Procedures.

CPP Motion 10 – Complaints Policy

Linsey Duncan-Pitt questioned that the wording doesn't include reference to the Committee.

Chris Hall clarified that 'All of OM' is a constitutional category which includes the committee.

Discussion around this point regarding how an official would be regarded in the event of a complaint being made against anyone who may also be performing as part of a member side, and how a member of a member side would be viewed if they were not performing but volunteering as a steward at an OM event.

Tony Roberts asked what would happen if a complaint was made to OM about a whole side.

Nicki Pickering stated that this would be dealt with by OM.

Liz Scholey clarified that the intent of this amendment is to emphasize that OM as an organisation does not interfere in the running of member sides.

Linsey Duncan-Pitt suggested that the procedure should include people acting in an official capacity for OM.

Norm Warren drew up a Late Amendment to CPP Motion 10 to add 'or any person acting in an official capacity for OM'. Tony Roberts of Beorma Morris proposed it, and Malcolm Hills seconded for Wharfedale Wayzgoose, and it was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

CPP Motion 9 – Amend Complaints Policy 1.g) to read:

1.g) If a need for change is indicated, the Committee will propose appropriate updates to the Complaints Policy and Procedures for adoption at AGM or EGM.

The batch of CPP Motions 11, 12, 13, 10 (as amended) and 9 was unanimously agreed by the Meeting.

16. Late Motions (at Chairperson's discretion, subject to time limitations)

None submitted.

17. JMO National DOD 2018

Nicki Pickering read a report from Pete Stafford-Honeyball of Crosskey Clog who are JMO NDOD 2018 Hosts on behalf of OM (see [Appendix 2](#)).

Nicki stated that in addition to the allocation of 50 side places we are hoping to include some additional opportunities for sword dancing on the day.

Official invitations will go out to OM, and to the Morris Federation and Morris Ring shortly after this AGM, and we hope to draw allocations for places before Christmas.

Melanie Barber said that the Morris Federation would put out a closing date in January, and let sides know by the end of January.

Eddie Worrall said that the Morris Ring will let teams know as soon as invitations are live, and would hope to know by Christmas which sides will attend.

Tony Roberts said that last year's JMO NDOD in Leicester, organised by the Morris Ring and Charlie Corcoran, was superb, with many thanks offered to the organisers.

Tony would urge anyone to apply. Beorma Morris had a really good day out and found it a great side bonding experience.

18. Other JMO business

Nicki Pickering reported on the JMO AGM.

Currently, the main JMO initiative is to create a Foreman's Handbook which would be available to all JMO sides.

Eddie Worrall said that the Morris Ring have put general questions to all sides, and the MR AGM would address this in March.

Melanie Barber said that JMO had discussed identifying people who could help new teams, financially or with other aspects of starting up.

Nicki stated that the feeling from JMO is that everyone is gearing up to support and help new sides.

19. Sue Dyke Award

Nicki Pickering presented a piece about The Sue Dyke Award (see [Appendix 3](#)).

Sue was a past OM officer and dancer with Lady Bay Revellers who passed away suddenly earlier in the year. Ken Dyke, her widower, has donated £645.15 to Open Morris to fund a bursary or award in Sue's Name, and Lady Bay Revellers have donated a commemorative tankard in her memory.

To open the discussion, the Committee suggested that the tankard and award might be presented annually at AGM.

As Sue was concerned about the future of Morris, the Committee suggested an annual competition for OM members under 30, or those who work with those under 30. Winners are to make a display which could be used throughout the year, and compile a piece for inclusion in Dancing On!

Nicki Pickering suggested that the award consist of a cash prize of £100, with £40 and £20 for runners up, which the donation could fund for 4 years. OM could then take this up if funds allow. This was discussed and it was felt that the lesser prizes were too small. A first prize of £100 and one runner-up prize of £50 was settled upon.

A disclaimer will be built into the rules so that prizes are only awarded if entries are of suitably high calibre.

Nicki asked for discussion around confining eligibility to youth, or including those who work with them?

Barry Roland suggested keeping the remit as broad as possible so as not to struggle for entries, simply to promote dance in general, song, and youth involvement in Morris.

Sharon Dodd felt that including someone who acts as a mentor facilitates youth involvement in Morris, and Sheila Hill suggested that it may be difficult to judge young people of different ages alongside each other.

Engraving the tankard was discussed and generally felt to be a good idea, as was a certificate for recipients to keep.

It was suggested that a sub-committee should be set up to finalise the details.

Nicki proposed a vote of thanks to Lady Bay Revellers and Ken Dyke. A proposal will be drafted in time for the first Award to be made at the 2018 AGM.

ACTION POINT

Officers to set up a sub-committee and draft a viable proposal in time for the first Award to be made at the 2018 AGM. Members to contact chair@open-morris.org should they wish to join the sub-committee.

20. Items raised before start of the meeting:

Communications (Malcolm Hills)

Malcolm opened a discussion of OM email use policy. (see the discussion document issued with the Agenda, and available on the OM website):

He is concerned about the volume of emails sent by OM. Privacy and Data Protection policies are being looked at, but it's a minefield which is taking longer than anticipated. OM can only use the info we hold in certain ways – we can use your email address to tell you about OM and OM events only. We could either change the constitution to say that OM can email you further info, or try to limit our use of emails. Suggest an opt-in for those who wish to hear about events from other organisations. Malcolm asked for the Meeting's opinion, with a view to formulating policy for the 2018 AGM.

Melanie Barber stated that the Federation policy is to keep the email broadcast system only for Morris Federation Business, and use social media to send out anything more general.

Eddie Worrall stated that the Morris Ring had looked at this issue when he was treasurer. The Ring have a few different communication methods, an email list, a googlegroup online forum which anyone can opt into though they have to be approved, also a Newsletter which advertises events, usually within the Ring. The Morris Ring membership renewal states that they use info for Ring business, and they ask for reaffirmation every renewal.

General feeling from the Meeting was that items such as advertisements for events and opportunities are very welcome to sides.

Tony Roberts said that he uses discretion as a Bagman to filter emails a little, but is happy to receive things and do this for his side.

Liz Scholey reminded the meeting that new data protection legislation is on the way.

Jenny Cox said that marketing and event emails are very welcome but feels that multiple OM emails can get a bit too much for side members.

Malcolm said that this has hopefully been a one-off situation resulting from the Motions to amend the constitution.

It was decided that no change to the Constitution or to current practice was needed, but that we will in future include an 'opt in' to email communications on our membership renewal form.

ACTION POINT

Officers to update the membership renewal form in time for it to go out with the next renewals.

21. AOB

Tony Roberts of Beorma Morris reported an incident (see [Appendix 4a](#)) when Beorma had cause to use the blackface handout, and Julie Greenwood, Squire of Flagcrackers of Craven, reported a similar incident (see [Appendix 4b](#)).

Nicki Pickering said that it's great to hear that when people have complained these things can be settled amicably.

b) Robin James of Fenstanton said, regarding talk of supporting younger Morris groups, that NYFTE have been showing themselves to good light this year and have been looking for support, and asked if OM would consider making a donation.

It was discovered that NYFTE are Morris Federation members, and Melanie Barber

confirmed that there is a bursary scheme to which they could apply, however NYFTE are believed to be looking for personnel support rather than financial assistance.

22. Date and venue of next AGM

Bedcote Morris have offered to host next year's AGM in Stourbridge on Sun 18th Nov 2018.

23. Close of AGM

Malcolm Hills proposed a vote of thanks to Norm Warren for his hard work on the Constitution and amendments, applauded by all present.

Meeting closed at 16.20 with thanks to hosts Fenstanton, and to all those who helped during the day.

Appendix 2 - Explanatory financial document

2015/16

The balance sheet presented at the 2016 AGM showed all income and expenditure accurately. However, all income was grouped together erroneously as subscription income.

In with this stated income were other receipts totalling £231.60:

Expenses refunded to OM:	£166.60
Insurance docs reissued :	£40
Bank goodwill payment :	£25

Subscriptions subsequently refunded to sides leaving or having paid twice: £140

£4557.60 was noted as total income.
Of this **£4326** should have been separated out as subs income
(£4557.60 - £231.60 as noted above)

£140 were also refunded to sides leaving or who had paid twice so
actual subs retained were: **£4186**

Subs income **2016/17 = £4356** ie £170 more subs in than in 2015/16

OM CHAIR'S REPORT 2018

The year since the 2017 AGM has probably been my most enjoyable as Chair, with much going on that's been positive.

Our revamped renewal process went smoothly and through the year we have gained several new member sides so that our numbers are gradually increasing, towards our previous highest level in 2015. It's always good to see new sides starting up and I wish them well and long-term success.

The renewal process should be even easier and more streamlined this year, aided by our new ability to bank online and view payments in, without having to wait for a bank statement. This is something I fought for in my days as Membership Secretary, when I first introduced some elements of an electronic system but was constantly thwarted by the non-electronic bits. Hoorah for advances!

Our two major projects this year were the JMO National Day of Dance in May and the competition for the Sue Dyke Award.

The JMO DOD went very well and better than we could have hoped after Prince Harry had announced his wedding date to clash, along with the FA Cup Final. The weather was glorious and there were enough crowds to give some reasonable audiences, although some areas were sparse. Lack of interest from Morris Federation sides meant that OM were able to take up almost double their allocated places and I was pleased to be able to see each of them in action during the day. Diligent collecting, sponsorship and prudent spending, along with a small top-up donation from OM, meant that Crosskey Clog were able to donate £750 to their chosen charity – Pancreatic Cancer Research. I am currently formulating a checklist as an aide memoire/ beginner's guide for sides and their umbrella organisations for future JMO DODs as I was aware that it would be, and was, very easy to overlook important aspects of organising the day. Our thanks again to Crosskey Clog.

After an initial total lack of entries for our competition, the deadline was extended and 5 entries were received and judged by our panel of 5 independent judges. The entries will be on display at the AGM and on the OM website, with the prize-winning entries published in the Autumn edition of Dancing On!. The prizes and trophy tankard will be presented at the AGM. Next year's concept will be announced before the end of the year so please pass it on to your younger members and encourage them to create an entry.

My official duties this year also included hosting the JMO AGM where, along with Officers from the Morris Ring and the Morris Federation various ideas and plans for collaboration were discussed. Our mutually cordial relations continue to the greater good of the entire Morris world.

Representing OM at the Morris Ring ARM in March along with Jen Cox and Morris Fed Reps Melanie Barber & Fee Lock, we were all delighted with the vote to reword their constitution and drop the stipulation that dancing members must be male. I'm sure this will revive the fortunes of the Morris Ring, revitalising failing male sides and encouraging young sides who would like to start up as mixed.

Our Annual Officials' Meeting in May was very well attended and covered many discussion topics, several of which will be touched upon elsewhere in the AGM. It is always useful to catch up as a larger group, with the Area Reps as well, to have the widest possible range of views and ideas. In future, this may be done remotely, though I must admit I would miss meeting up with everyone.

I attended Saddleworth Rushbearing in late August to witness Ed Worrall dancing out and Pete Simpson dancing in as Ring Squire. A colourful energetic event despite a very wet Sunday. Although Ed's hand on

the tiller will be missed, I have no doubt that Pete will prove to be a very worthy successor and look forward to working with him.

September saw the Morris Federation AGM, which Norm Warren and I attended as OM observers. Preceded by a Day of Dance along the South Bank, hosted by New Esperance, it was, to coin a phrase a "grand day out" despite the rain. I enjoyed watching a wide variety of sides, some of them truly excellent. The AGM passed uneventfully and, as one of the tellers, I even managed to agree on numbers of votes cast!

Although my intention was to step down at the forthcoming AGM, I have been persuaded to throw my hat into the ring for one more year for two very good reasons. Firstly, Norm Warren is retiring as Secretary this year, which would have meant bringing 2 completely new Officers in at the same time. Also we have had an approach from an excellent candidate for Chair, who is not available for another year. The plan is to let them shadow me to learn the ropes, before handing over the reins to them or any other candidate who may win the election next year. That has the added bonus of letting me take a step back during the year, encouraging my potential successor to attend official JMO events as an OM representative at times.

As always, my thanks go to all the OM Officers and other Officials for their support and help in keeping the wheels of OM running smoothly. My particular thanks go to Norm Warren who is stepping down as Secretary after 2 years, plus the preceding year masterminding the new Constitution.

Nicki Pickering

Open Morris Chair

Appendix 4 - Membership Secretary's Report



Membership Secretary's Report to the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Note – Information in this report is to the end of the Open Morris Financial Year, i.e. 31st August 2018, to accord with the Treasurer's Report.

Statistics at Year End

Membership Category	
Adult sides	123
Junior sides	5
Individual Members	12
Non -UK sides	1
Total	141

Form of Payment	
Standing Order	31
Bank Transfer	32
Cheques	77
Cash	1
Total	141

Arrivals (11 No.)

We have welcomed:

Eken Morris (joined 22-Oct-17)

Cracken Morris (joined 1-Nov-17)

Meon Valley Morris (joined 23-Nov-17)

Brigantian Border Morris (joined 30-Nov-17)

Anglewitch Morris (joined 30-Nov-17)

Upton Occasional Morris (joined 29-Dec-17)

Kent Korkers & Pork Scratchings (joined 23-Jan-18)

Motley Morris (joined 23-Jan-18)

Ledbury Morris (joined 24-Jan-18)

Brixton Tatterjacks (joined 21-Feb-18)

Ragged Oak (joined 24-May-18)

PLUS (i.e. not in above table) Brooms, Bricks and Bowlers (joined 13-Sep-2018)



Departures (4 No.)

Those who have, sadly, departed are:

Wytchwood Morris (disbanded Nov. 2017)

Bootleggers Appalachian Dancers (disbanded 07-Dec-17)

Morris Mynahs (disbanded 12-Jan-18)

Lagabag Morris (disbanded 20-May-18)

Goodbye to Paper Forms

The big changes this year were the disappearance of the following pieces of paper:

- Side Record Sheet
- Statement of Insurance Cover (as hard copy)

The Side Record Sheet is no longer needed now that members can enter and edit their own database entries, using the link provided to them, which has worked very well.

That same link is also automatically emailed to all intending new members as soon as their contact details are added to the database by the Membership Secretary, another welcome improvement which people have found easy to use.

This year, all Statements of Insurance Cover were emailed out as PDFs (as agreed at last year's AGM); any feedback on this was favourable. The erstwhile £10 charge for a replacement Statement of Insurance Cover has been dropped this year as I wasn't prepared to charge anyone for simply re-sending an email.

A third form previously issued as hard copy is the Standing Order mandate form, which is now available under 'Forms' on the OM website. More payments by this method would be VERY welcome).

Last year everyone was emailed an attachment including the following:

- I / we agree to Open Morris using the contact data to contact me / us with relevant information
- I have read and understood the information below regarding licence requirements;
- I confirm that I / we accept the terms and conditions of The Open Morris Constitution

All paying members responded; OM still awaits a response from certain life and honorary members!

Somewhat annoyingly, one piece of paper has persisted; that being the cheque by which more than half of our members still choose to pay their subscription. May I remind our members that payment by bank Standing Order is easy to set up and requires no further action until there is a change in subscription rate. Alternatively, for those who don't want such a commitment, there is the simple option of one-off payments by direct bank transfer – the reminder email will include the OM account details for this.



Membership Secretary's Report to the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Emails that went astray

I did have a small number of alerts regarding non-receipt of emails that I had sent from membership@open-morris.org. These were very simply resolved by asking people to check their spam traps, where the missing emails had been erroneously caught.

Compiled by John Scholey, Open Morris Membership Secretary 14/10/2018



AGM 2018 Secretary's Report

As ever, I feel the morris year started in early December 2017 with Mike Salter's annual Madcap Border Weekend with its sparkling mix of Open Morris sides. It was so snowy that only a handful of brave young folk managed to plough their way over the Malverns to the Wyche Inn and back for the traditional Sunday walk.

Apart from the usual local stands through the year (including Boxing Day and May Morning), I played at several larger events where morris took a prominent place: Lewes Garland Day, Broadwood Day of Dance in Horsham, Evesham Festival, Sheringham Potty Festival, Broadstairs Folk Week, Aylsham Festival of Dance Music and Song, the Morris Federation Day of Dance, and Lewes Folk Festival.

We were blessed with such wonderful weather for the JMO NDoD in Peterborough ... as a Steward I got to see and photograph most of the OM sides there. Thanks again to Crosskey Clog for all their work organising it for us!

To business ...

Apart from my usual attendance at the Annual Officials' Meeting, I had two other official duties :

- At the JMO AGM, representatives of all three organisations discussed a wide range of matters around our joint work together. The role of secretary rotates on a 3-year cycle, and this year fell to me. For me, the most important joint issues were how to support sides (and in particular new sides) and how to manage the JMO NDOD in 2021, both of which will be raised at the coming AGM.

An ongoing task is to update the JMO Statement of Purpose to make it fit for purpose in the 21stC ... a job for my successor to complete.

- As OM Observer, I attended the Morris Federation AGM held in Cecil Sharp House. At the end, I was delighted to see my friend John Bacon receive the prestigious EFDSS Gold Badge for his services to the folk world. John is a longstanding OM Honorary Member and certainly deserves the accolade ... I applaud his (still ongoing) work to involve young people in the morris world, and his outstandingly successful battle with government in the early 2000's, to gain exemption under the Licensing Act for live morris music.

I became involved in OM committee work following the 2015 AGM to help introduce rigorous constitutional measures. Our Constitution is now robust and my services are no longer required. Now it's time to step back from all that paperwork ... I'm looking forward to more of the great outdoors, more family time, and of course, more morris.

But after nearly 40 years in OM, I feel I still have something to offer. I've been active for years in the morris world in SE England and I live on the Sussex/Kent border, so I've put myself forward to be considered for the role of SE Area Representative when John Scoley steps down.

Finally, it remains to bid farewell to the Committee, and to commend Jenny Cox to you as the next Secretary, because I know she will do an excellent job.

Best wishes
Norm Warren

Open Morris Web Officer Report

Web Site

1. Domain Names:

a. The domain name open-morris.org is registered to Open Morris with 123-reg.co.uk. The domain is currently registered until 3 Jan 2019

b. The domain name jmodayofdance.com is registered to Joint Morris Organisations with 123-reg.co.uk. The domain is currently registered until 20 Nov 2020. The domain is paid for on behalf of the three morris organisations.

2. Hosting: The website and email facilities are currently hosted by Hills Associates, the trading name of Malcolm Hills. The annual cost for hosting is £50 per year. This is invoiced annually on 1 January. There are no limitations to storage capacity, bandwidth or email facilities.

3. Web Site

a. The website is built on the Wordpress CMS platform using a premium professional theme (Enfold). Open Morris has purchased a lifetime single site licence for Enfold

b. The Web Site is designed to provide as much information as possible for members and the public. All of Open Morris Documents are available for viewing online and can be downloaded for offline viewing.

c. Membership Renewal will as far as possible this year be undertaken online. Each Member will be able to check the details we hold and amend where necessary. Membership Payment will still need to be done either by Cheque by post, Standing Order or Direct Bank Transfer. Full details will be included in the Renewal Emails.

4. Ongoing Problems

a. Email. Providing an email service that can be used by a small number of people i.e. the committee members and also providing mass mailing functions to our membership will always be difficult. Sending mail to a large number of recipients and forwarding to personal email addresses is always likely to attract attention and occasional blacklisting. This is an ongoing problem that is monitored closely.

For this reason we ask all members to provide an alternative email contact address in case the primary address can't be reached.

b. The site is large and complex and sometimes things don't quite work, particularly with the numerous varied devices and browsers now available. Often the only way to know that something is broken is to be told by the users. Please do not hesitate to let me know if anything is not behaving the way you think it should.

5. Side Details and Photos: Each member side has its own Side Page. A brief resumé and photographs can easily be added to this page. The page also includes details of your practice times and venue (where provided). It is important therefore to keep us up to date with any changes. If you would like a resumé and photographs added then please send them to me at web@open-morris.org

6. Events Calendar; The web site includes an Events Calendar which is currently used to highlight a small number of "national events". If you would like to use this space to advertise your events or dance-outs then please send the details to web@open-morris.org I will also look at publishing member events on the Side page as well as the Events Pages.

7. Finally, whilst I might be technically competent to maintain our web presence, I am not particularly creative; I am therefore more than happy to receive criticism and suggestions to make it easier to use.

Malcolm Hills

Web Officer

web@open-morris.org

Open Morris Treasurer's Report 2017-18

This is my first year as Treasurer and I have been learning on the job. It took me a while to get to grips with the information passed to me plus there were significant problems with access to the bank account. After some months of communicating with Barclays I was finally recognized by the bank as the Treasurer in February and gained on-line access in May. As a result of the problems, the bank paid Open Morris £100 in compensation in February and a further £50 in May.

This year I have included the full accounts in the papers for the AGM as they show more clearly the breakdown of income and expenditure; these form Appendix 1 to this report.

Expenditure

I have tried to break down the officers' expenses to show the reason for the expenditure and in particular the cost of various meetings and events.

It is therefore difficult in Appendix 1 to compare the 2016-17 expenditure with 2017-18 because most expenditure in 2016-17 was shown as officers' expenses.

The table below is an excerpt from the accounts showing comparable expenditure for the two financial years. The accounts for 2017-18 show a truer cost of the various meetings and activities and a small increase of £17.50 compared to the 2016-17 accounts.

Accounts item	2016-17	2017-18
Officers expenses	£1525.26	£443.83
AGM expenses	£100	£506.31
AOM expenses	£30.45	£419.25
JMO AGM expenses	£0	£213.55
Misc	£57.64	£147.91
Total of these items	£1713.35	£1730.85

It is also worth noting that the JMO day of dance cost Open Morris £386.40, mainly in expenses for officers who assisted with running the event. The street collection during the day was counted by Crosskey Clog and donated to charity.

Income

The donation of £645.15 shown in the 2016-17 accounts was in memory of Sue Dyke and is now shown as a separate item in the accounts because it is ring fenced and not available for general expenditure.

The income from subscriptions has increased by £358 as there has been an increase in membership.

We can now match the income with the number of members, please see Appendix 2 to this report.

As may be seen the actual income expected from the membership is £4591.50 whereas the amount shown in the accounts is £4724.00, a difference of £132.50. This difference is accounted for by the refund of subscriptions and other payments made in error.

Open Morris Treasurer's Report 2017-18

One side paid for personal insurance of £27.50 which should have been paid to the insurer direct, so this amount was refunded to them.

Two sides paid twice, once by standing order and once by cheque in each case; the overpayments were refunded.

It was discovered that one former member had continued to pay the standing order for a side that had ceased membership in 2014 so we refunded 4 years of subscription, namely £140.

The total refunds amounted to £237.50, but £105 related to overpayments in previous financial years so the total for 2017-18 was £132.50. The accounts therefore match the income expected in Appendix 2.

Financial Outturn

The amount shown in the accounts at year end, £12,708.16, matches the amount in the bank on 31st August 2018 and the Independent Reviewer has signed off the accounts, See Appendices 3 and 4 to this report.

In the financial year to 31st August 2018 there was a loss of £27.11, which is less than the income from one member side and represents 0.2% of the bank balance.

Subscription Rates for 2018-19

Given the financial outturn above it is recommended the subscription levels for UK members remain the same. The rate for sides not requiring Public Liability Insurance (PLI), ie non-UK sides and the new category of Associate Member (assuming that is approved later in the meeting), should be £35, with a reduction to £25 for early payment. This is an increase for non-UK sides but takes into account the nonpayment of PLI and the extra cost of posting Dancing On overseas.

The recommended rate table is shown below:

Membership Category	Rate
Adult side 'Early Bird' rate	£35.00
Adult side full rate	£45.00
Junior side 'Early Bird' rate	£15.00
Junior side full rate	£25.00
Individual 'Early Bird' rate	£7.00
Individual full rate	£17.00
Non-UK side 'Early Bird' rate	£25.00
Associate side "Early Bird" rate	£25.00
Non-UK side full rate	£35.00
Associate side full rate	£35.00

Open Morris Treasurer's Report for AGM 2018 Appendix 1

OPEN MORRIS

YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31st 2018

TREASURERS REPORT

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
SUBSCRIPTIONS	4,366.00	4,724.00
PHIL WATSON	5,227.87	0.00
DONATION	645.15	10.00
OTHER	3.65	249.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£10,242.67</u>	<u>£ 4,983.00</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
OFFICERS EXPENSES	1,525.26	443.83
DANCING ON	904.64	1,023.36
INSURANCE	1,331.12	1,500.21
AGM EXPENSES	100.00	506.31
AOM EXPENSES	30.45	419.25
JMO AGM		213.55
JMO Day of Dance	0.00	386.40
PRS	35.19	35.96
SUBS REFUNDS	67.00	237.50
MISCELLANEOUS	57.64	147.91
WEBSITE	322.54	95.83
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£4,373.84</u>	<u>£5,010.11</u>
<u>Surplus / Deficit for the year</u>	<u>£5,868.83</u>	<u>-£27.11</u>
<u>BALANCE B/Fwd</u>	<u>£6,866.44</u>	<u>£12,735.27</u>
<u>BALANCE C/Fwd</u>	<u>£12,735.27</u>	<u>£12,708.16</u>
<u>Sue Dyke Donation</u>		<u>-£645.15</u>
<u>Open Morris Funds</u>		<u>£12,063.01</u>

OPEN MORRIS
YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31 2018
RECEIPTS

Date	DETAILS	SUBS	DONATION	OTHER	TOTAL
2-Oct-17	FENSTANTON ins Cert			£10.00	
18-Oct-17	EKEN (via Norm Warren)	£17.50			
30-Oct-17	A COOPER (Cracken Morris)	£35.00			
27-Nov-17	Meon Valley Morris	£35.00			
01-Dec-17	Brigantian Border Morris	£35.00			
01-Dec-17	Anglewitch Morris	£35.00			
22-Dec-17	Cheques in Transmittal #001	£561.00	£10.00		
5-Jan-18	Cheques in Transmittal #002	£532.00			
15-Jan-18	Cheques in Transmittal #003	£595.00			
22-Jan-18	Cheques in Transmittal #004	£204.00			
29-Jan-18	Cheques in Transmittal #005	£329.00			
26-Feb-18	Cheques in Transmittal 006	£135.00			
31-Dec-17	Standing Order subs received in Dec 2017	£35.00			
31-Dec-17	Direct transfer subs received in Dec. 2017	£470.00			
31-Jan-18	S O & transfer subs received in Jan. 2018	£1,303.50			
12-Feb-18	Compensation from the bank			£100.00	
26-Feb-18	Direct transfer subs received Feb 2018	£142.00			
1-Mar-18	Direct transfer subs received 1 Mar	£45.00			
6-Mar-18	Cheque in Transmittal 007	£45.00			
13-Mar-18	Morris Shop Ad			£65.00	
19-Mar-18	Transfer subs	£45.00			
9-May-18	Bank compensation			£50.00	
25-May-18	N Heinersdorff (Pickering) acc for JMO DD			£24.00	
18-May-18	Cheque subs	£45.00			
21-May-18	Transfer subs	£35.00			
24-Jul-18	Transfer Subs	£45.00			

TOTAL 2017-2018

£4,724.00	£10.00	£249.00	4,983.00
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OPEN MORRIS
YEAR END 31ST AUGUST 2018

Date	Details	Chq No.	Payment	Net Payment	1 Magazine	2 Insurance	3 Officers expenses	4 AGM expenses	5 AOM expenses	6 Subs Repayment	7 Miscellaneous	8 PRS	9 Website	JMO 00	JMO AGM		
26-Sep-17	ROBIN JAMES	4	337	£80.00				£80.00									
15-Nov-17	Norman Warren	3	338	£99.75				£55.75			£14.00						
15-Nov-17	ROBIN JAMES	3	339	£24.50			£24.50										
15-Nov-17	Rose Desmond	4	341	£10.31				£10.31									
15-Nov-17	Nicki Pickering	3	342	£346.50			£272.00	£121.00			£3.50						
17-Nov-17	Jenny Cox	3	343	£353.02	£150.85		£42.29	£49.94			£109.94						
17-Nov-17	E & J Scholey	3	344	£97.00			£53.00	£44.00									
17-Nov-17	Malcolm Hills	3	345	£80.00				£80.00									
26-Nov-17	Norman Warren	3	346	£21.28			£21.28										
1-Dec-17	P A Luty	4	347	£50.31				£50.31									
8-Nov-17	cutlery for agm Cotton VH	4	348	£15.00				£15.00									
13-Dec-17	Higgs & co	1	349	£369.00	£369.00												
17-Jan-18	JMO insurance	2	350	£1,500.21		£1,500.21											
31-Jan-18	Ey & Littleport refund	6	351	£27.50						£27.50							
1-Feb-18	PRS through the Fed	8	352	£35.98								£35.98					
12-Feb-18	C Walker refund 2015-18 WT	6	353	£140.00						£140.00							
5-Mar-18	E Carter Bill 108	6	354	£35.00						£35.00							
5-Mar-18	P Pt HEA 155	6	355	£35.00						£35.00							
5-Mar-18	N Pickering expenses	3	356	£30.00											£30		
28-Mar-18	N. Warren expenses	3	357	£183.55											£183.55		
29-Mar-18	J Cox	3	358	£40.75	£27.99		£12.76										
20-May-18	E Scholey	5	359	£529.00				£264.00							£264		
20-May-18	J Cox	3	360	£52.78	£1.70			£24.75			£1.58				£24.75		
20-May-18	M Hills	3	361	£182.83				£33.50					£95.83		£33.50		
20-May-18	Higgs & Co Printers	1	362	£369.00	£369.00												
20-May-18	N Heinersdorff (Pickering)	3	363	£183.50			£88.00		£57.75						£57.75		
20-May-18	N Warren	3	364	£6.40											£6.40		
20-May-18	R James	5	365	£20.25				£20.25									
20-May-18	J Scholey - AOM leas	5	366	£19.00				£19.00									
25-May-18	Crosskey Clog donation	7	367	£18.89									£18.89				
4-Jun-18	Jenny Cox postage for mag	1	Trans	£104.82	£104.82												
					£0.00	£5,010.11	£1,023.36	£1,500.21	£443.83	£506.31	£419.25	£237.50	£147.91	£35.98	£95.83	£386.40	£213.55

inc AOM 17
ARM

inc overnight

stationary
banners
Display boards

inc overnight

Sue Dyke Memorial Prize Account 2017-18

Date	Expenditure Item	Amount	Funds Available
31-Aug-18			£645.15



Open Morris Treasurer's Report for AGM 2018 Appendix 2

OM Memberships for Financial Year 2017-18

(i.e. for the 12 months to 31st August 2018)

Summary

Membership Category	
Adult	123
Junior	5
Individuals	12
Overseas	1
Total	141

Analysis of Payments

Membership Category	No.	Rate	Amount
Adult 'Early Bird' rate	113	£35.00	£3,955.00
Adult full rate	10	£45.00	£450.00
Junior 'Early Bird' rate	5	£15.00	£75.00
Junior full rate	0	£25.00	£0.00
Individual 'Early Bird' rate	11	£7.00	£77.00
Individual full rate	1	£17.00	£17.00
Overseas 'Early Bird' rate	1	£17.50	£17.50
Overseas full rate	0	£27.50	£0.00
	141		£4,591.50

Form of Payment

Standing Order	31
Bank Transfer	32
Cheques	77
Cash	1

Compiled by John Scholey, Open Morris Membership Secretary 08/10/2018



OPEN MORRIS

Sort Code 20-17-19

Account No 23963586

SWIFT/BIC BUK9GB22

IBAN GB90 8UKB 2017 1923 9635 86

Issued on 03 September 2018

MRS ELIZABETH CHRISTINE SCHOLEY
OPEN MORRIS
7 REDLEAF CLOSE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TN2 3UD

Your Community Account

At a glance

01 - 31 Aug 2018

Anything wrong? If you notice any incorrect or unusual transactions, see the next page for how to get in touch with us.

End balance	£12,708.16
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Your deposit is eligible for protection by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Barwick Green

28 The Glade
Fetcham
Surrey KT22 9TH

Tel 01372 454024
e-mail morris@Barwick-Green.co.uk

24th September 2018

INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S REPORT

As the Open Morris appointed Independent Reviewer, I attach my report on the accounts, as prepared for the 12 month period ended 31 August 2018.

The accounts reviewed consist of a Financial Statement and accompanying detailed records consisting of bank statements, spreadsheets and paper copies of expenses and claims.

As an Association and with a low income, Open Morris is not required to submit accounts for a full audit by an accountant. The Open Morris Constitution now uses the term "Independent Reviewer" to describe the role of the person who reviews the accounts for irregularities, on behalf of the membership.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWER'S STATEMENT 2018

This statement is based on my examination and review of the accounting records kept by Open Morris and a comparison with the Statement presented with those records.

My review also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations. The procedures undertaken do not cover all the original documentation that would be required in an 'Audit' and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" of the activities of Open Morris and the report is limited to the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Following my examination:

- a) No matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that the accounting records have not been kept in accordance with the requirements of Open Morris and UK accounting principles.
- b) No matters have come to my attention which would require further examination to enable a proper full understanding of Open Morris's Statement and Accounts.





AGM 2018 – Magazine Editor's Report

Two editions of Dancing On have been published since the last AGM, The Autumn 2017 edition shortly after the 2017 AGM, and the Spring 2018 edition was published successfully at JMO NDOD in Peterborough. On the day I distributed 54 of the parcelled-up magazine envelopes, and gave an additional 30 copies out to attending Federation and Ring teams. The remainder were posted out after the event, but distributing in this manner enabled us to save money on postage. Peterborough was a great occasion and it was a pleasure to be there representing OM. You can see some of the highlights in the Autumn 2018 edition, but I must use this opportunity to congratulate Crosskey Clog, along with Nicki and the rest of the Committee for all the hard work they put in to ensure the day was such a success.

The magazine has been well received in the time since the last AGM, and I've had lots of good quality submissions for the Autumn 2018 edition, so I hope everyone enjoys reading. This demonstrates that my community minded and inclusive approach is working, engaging members in OM and with the wider Morris world.

In March I was delighted to be able to represent OM at the historic Morris Ring ARM, at which the gender bar was removed from the Ring's constitution. This was an enjoyable occasion for many reasons, and the friendships between Morris organisations grow ever stronger, and herald a happy and exciting time in the Morris world.

I am standing for Secretary at this year's AGM, and I intend to continue to edit the magazine alongside the Secretary role if I am elected. I don't feel that this will be a problem, indeed some things may be logistically easier. I will be open to more involvement from others in the magazine. To this end I plan after the AGM to work with the committee to write a Dancing On! statement of purpose, incorporating a submission guideline for potential contributors, to facilitate editorial decisions, and hopefully encourage submissions from OM members.

Dancing On! is there for the members, so I'm always willing to hear from anyone who has submissions, suggestions for articles, feedback of any kind, or even just the silliest little piece they'd like to see printed!

My hearty thanks to Hilary Maidstone, our excellent proof reader, who makes each publication so smooth, and to the lovely OM Committee for a year full of camaraderie.

Jen



AGM 2018 – Central Area Rep's Report

As always it's been a busy year in the Central Area, with teams travelling far and wide to festivals, and lots of lovely ales and days of dance. Teams in our area continue to network effectively through regular meetings, and our pub night calendar is always full to bursting! It was great to have the area represented by Whitethorn at the JMO NDOD in Peterborough, and congratulations to Wicket Brood on leading the music for the Morris Dancing Guinness World Record!

I wish everyone a good practice season and I'm looking forward to 2019 already. Shinfield Shambles are celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a big DoD on April 27th which should kick off our season with a bang!

Jen

Open Morris Area Rep Report for South East, 2018

Another rather inactive year, I'm afraid, as this role has again taken a back seat to my other activities, but I was instrumental in getting one of the four new member sides in the region to join us this year.

However, my principal item to report is that I have decided to step down from the Area Rep role. This is therefore my final Area Rep report. My hope is that someone better placed to interface with our members in the region is prepared to take on the role.

John Scholey
South East Area Rep, 2016 - 2018

Area Rep Report – Wales & NorthWest

The NorthWest of England seems quiet and stable with one new Border side joining last November and no sides folding or leaving. I have also acquired Cracken who, being situated on the E Midlands/ NW area border, requested to be allied with the NW.

However the 2 sides in Wales are struggling for numbers and failing to recruit new members. Both in the West of North Wales, Eryri became a Border side some years ago and now find age, injury & lack of new members puts them on a very shaky footing, more or less having folded. Cadi Ha is having similar recruitment problems although extensive advertising brought 2 new musicians in October, keen to learn to play for morris. It's clear to see that English Morris Dancing is not highly rated in rural Wales and the small pockets of population and distances to travel add to the difficulties. Even the student population hasn't yielded any new dancers this year.

As the long defunct City of Bangor Morris Men recently convened in Bangor for their annual reunion, celebrating 52 years since their inception, I'm acutely aware that it would be a great shame if all morris dancing died out in North Wales, particularly as that would leave OM with only one member side West of the border.

Nicki Pickering

Wales & North West Area Rep

Appendix 9 - Motion Documents

CONSTITUTION MOTION 1

Submitted by the OM Committee to the AGM 2018

To amend the Constitution to allow the introduction of an Associate Membership category

- A. In the Open Morris Constitution header, add a new point f) to read
f) Member Sides include UK, non-UK, and Associate Member Sides
- B. Amend Constitution 3)e) to read:
3) MEMBERSHIP
e) OM welcomes non-UK and Associate Member Sides but those Member Sides are not covered by OM Public Liability Insurance and the published subscription rate reflects this.

Explanatory Note

At the Annual Officials' Meeting in May 2018 it was agreed to propose the introduction of an additional category of OM membership which would allow Sides to join who already had PLI with other Organisations or who did not require PLI and therefore did not wish to pay a higher subscription for an unnecessary benefit. In all other respects they would be treated in the same way as other Member Sides.

This decision followed a number of enquiries from Sides interested in such a membership and who subsequently joined either the Morris Federation (who have a non-voting Associate Membership category) or the Morris Ring (who have recently introduced a Joint Membership category) at a lower than usual subscription rate. It was therefore felt that there was an unmet need.

If this Motion is accepted, the proposed subscription rate can be found in the Treasurer's Report and would be the same as that for Non-UK Sides.

Current texts

Constitution header paragraph

In Open Morris documents:

- a. **OM** means Open Morris;
- b. **OM Members** means Individual Members, Life Members, and Member Sides;
- c. **All of OM** means Individual Members, Life Members, Honorary Members, Member Sides, and OM Officials;
- d. **member** means any person who is an **OM Member** or who belongs to a Member Side;
- e. **Member Eligible to Vote** means Individual Members after five years of continuous Individual Membership, Life Members, Member Sides, and Nominated Representatives;

3) MEMBERSHIP

- 3.e) OM welcomes non-UK Sides but a non-UK Member Side cannot be covered by OM Public Liability Insurance, and the published subscription rate reflects this.

CONSTITUTION MOTION 2

Submitted by the OM Committee to the AGM 2018

To amend paragraph 25 to comply with current data protection regulations

Amend Constitution paragraph 25 to read:

25) DATA PROTECTION

The Open Morris policy regarding the collection and processing of personal and other data is set out in the "OM Privacy Statement for Members", which is available in the documents section of the Open Morris website to read and download.

Explanatory Note

Para 25 of the Constitution no longer meets the requirements of current legislation.

This Motion amends Para 25 of the Constitution and makes clear how members may find full details of how Open Morris processes and handles members' personal data.

Current text

25) DATA PROTECTION

A person holding any category of membership of OM agrees to any processing by OM of such personal data maintained and collected by OM concerning that person (including the fact of membership), for the purpose of directly or indirectly furthering any of OM's aims and principles under this Constitution, and in this matter, 'processing by OM' includes processing by its Officers and any of its contractors and other service providers.

Appendix 10 – Discussion Points

JMO National DOD 2021

2021 may seem a ridiculously long way off but vague plans are already being made.

It has been suggested that the JMO make use of 2021 being Coventry's year as City of Culture to showcase Morris Dancing & demonstrate the true meaning of culture. The concept is to hold an even bigger event than usual, hosted by sides from all 3 Morris Organisations. This proposal has been put forward by the Morris Ring.

Whilst this is a great plan, there are some drawbacks for OM:

- 1) The 2021 JMO NDOD would normally fall to OM as the host Organisation. The responsibility rotates on a 3 yearly basis so OM could offer to miss their turn entirely, take the next year followed by the rota continuing in turn, or instead, offer to swap 2020 with the Morris Ring.
 - Would the membership be happy with a situation that saw OM missing out on our turn to host a JMO NDOD?
- 2) We do not have any sides local to Coventry, our nearest being Beorma, Birmingham Rapper, The Acid and Moseley in Birmingham; Bedcote, Castle Clog & Itchy Feet in Stourbridge and Braybrooke near Market Harborough. That could easily result in OM not being involved in the "fun" bits of the organisation such as choosing dance spots & pubs or deciding on the format of the day. We may find our nearest sides barely involved, or consigned to distance work such as compiling timetables & lists without a good knowledge of the City.
 - I'm interested in hearing the views of these most "local" sides. Do they feel they could be fully involved in the arrangements and would they want to be?

My preference would be for all 3 Organisations to pull together to make a fantastic show in 2021 but under the overall responsibility of the Morris Ring. In return for missing "our turn", we would host the 2020 DOD ie a direct swap with the Morris Ring.

I would welcome input from the sides represented at the AGM. There will be representatives of both the Morris Ring and the Morris Federation in attendance which will allow for a useful discussion. It would be helpful to know how many sides would be interested in attending such an event, over and above a 'normal' JMO NDOD.

Nicki Pickering
OM Chair

Morris Dance Database

Colin Andrews of the Morris Ring has been working for some years on a database of morris dance sides, their location and their repertoire. In conjunction with Anahata, this database is now up and running in an early phase. It can be found at:

<https://morrisdancedatabase.org.uk>

Currently the database contains information on as many morris sides of all types that Colin could find across the three UK Morris Organisations. He has taken contact and location information from the sides' websites and listed names of dances performed where that information is available.

The long-term plan is that side officials and designated officials from the three Morris Organisations could access and edit the data, updating it and adding more comprehensive details such as dance notation and music if wished. There is the potential to expand to include links to videos, photographs and archive material.

Colin's idea is to produce the only comprehensive all-inclusive database of morris, pulling together the wide range of material available elsewhere. He has an agreement from Anahata to maintain the website going forward. However this will incur some costs for which Colin is asking for sponsorship from the three Morris Organisations. I believe that the Morris Federation have already made a donation to help set up the website. Each Organisation is also being asked to contribute £80 annually to pay Anahata a total of £240 pa (ie funding an hour per month at £20 per hour).

I would ask the members present at this AGM to help the Committee formulate a decision.

Nicki Pickering

OM Chair