



Annual General Meeting 2022

Held remotely via Zoom Sunday 20th November 2022 at 2pm

Minutes

1. Opening of AGM, notices, & introduction by Chair

The meeting was opened at 2.05pm, with some brief housekeeping notes. Guests were introduced.

2. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendees:

Open Morris Officials

Jen Cox, Chair and Central Area Rep

Hetty Bevington, Secretary

John Scholey, Membership Secretary

Liz Scholey, Treasurer

Malcolm Hills, Web Officer

Chris Lamb, South East Area Rep

Clare Mach, South Central Area Rep

Nicki Pickering (Life Member), Wales and North West Area Rep

Robin James, East Anglia Area Rep

Sam Davey, South West Area Rep

Guests:

Jenny Everett -Treasurer of The Morris Federation – kindly acting as Vote Teller

Peter Austin, Bagman of The Morris Ring – kindly acting as Vote Teller

Ed Worrall, JMO Committee Member

Fee Lock, JMO Secretary

Michael Stimpson, JMO Insurance Officer

Nigel Strudwick, Squire Elect of The Morris Ring

Pauline Woods Wilson - President of The Morris Federation

Member Teams represented:

Beltane Border (Liz Wozniak)
Borderline Morris (Mary Ann Le May)
Brigantii Border Morris (David Carpenter)
Bury Fair Women's Morris (Gayle Wade)
Devil's Jumps Clog (Clare Mach)
Erstwhile Border Morris (Cindy Foster)
Fenstanton (Robin James)
Fowlers Molly (Chris Lamb)
Foxs Morris (Ian Hinksman)
Iron Spring Morris (Norm Warren, Liz Scholey, John Scholey)
Old School Rapper (Eammon Andrews)
Phoenix Morris (Sue Stimpson, Michael Stimpson)
Ragged Oak (Sam Davey)
Rattlejag Morris (Jayne Rose)
Tatters Morris (Hetty Bevington)
Theale Tattoo (Jen Cox)

Individual Members:

Nickie Dailly

Apologies were received from:

Chris Hall (Life Member)
Wendy Bostock (Life Member)
Sophie Watson (Individual Member)
Kim Woodward (Life Member)

And from the following Member Teams:

Bunnies From Hell
Buttercross Bells
Cadi Ha Morris
Corby Conspiracy
Earl of Stamford Morris
Flagcrackers of Craven
Lepton Morris
Roses are Red
Shinfield Shambles

3. Minutes of 2021 AGM

These were taken as read.

4. Adoption of Minutes of 2021 AGM

For	Against	Abstain
21	0	2

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

None arising.

6. Officers' Reports

- a) Chair
- b) Membership Secretary
- c) Secretary

These were taken as read.

d) Web Officer - No written report was submitted due to illness. Malcolm has however been working on the upkeep of our website which is working well, and has also put a lot of work into the voting system and online mechanics of the AGM. Malcolm would like to step down within the next two years and is looking to hand this role on to someone, if anyone would be interested in taking on this post please get in touch.

e) Treasurer's Report: Liz highlighted a couple of items from the treasurers written report:

- Our bank account was targeted by fraudsters on three occasions - we have not lost any money and the bank paid out £100 compensation.
- We have proposed to lower our subscription rates from £35.00 to £30.00, this is in line with other Morris Organisations, as this we are currently running a profit and want to pass this onto our members. Teams will need to change their standing order to reflect this. All the details will go out to members in their renewal notices.
- Mileage rate change from 25p to 45p in line with HMRC due to fuel costs increase. The need to pay travel expenses has declined due to zoom

meetings, while the cost of fuel has gone up so hopefully the actual cost will balance against past expenditure.

Adoption of the report will show agreement for these statements

f) Adoption of Treasurer's report

For	Against	Abstain
22	0	0

A vote of thanks was given to Liz Scholey for her hard work as Treasurer.

7. Other Officials' Reports

a. Archivist – Lally Macbeth Lally is stepping down from this role due to a change of circumstances. We'd like to thank her for the work she has done in this role. Please get in touch if you would be interested in this role.

b. Area Representatives:

Verbal reports were delivered by the following Area Reps

Wales & North West – Nicki Pickering - Had tried contacting teams to see how things were going but received no response, noted that lots of sides are dormant or staggering on with reduced numbers, but those in the area are looking forward to the Regional JMO DoD in Chester next year.

South West – Sam Davey – Visited Sidmouth and has helped out online, looking forward to getting out more next year.

South Central – Clare Mach - Due to limited dancing with own side, has not met many members this year, but Isle of Wight teams seem busy. Has also sent out emails out to member teams and not received responses.

Central – Jen Cox - our area is getting back to normal, almost to pre-pandemic levels. It's a busy area with lots of teams and things are healthy here.

South East – Chris Lamb – Likewise limited response to emails, but most teams in the area are getting back to being busy, and two teams have done very well recruiting, through word of mouth and dancing out locally.

East Anglia – Robin James – Fenstanton have been busy, enjoying the Liverpool JMO DoD and recruiting some new members, things are almost back to normal.

There was a group discussion around recruitment issues, highlighting the following points:

Mixed feelings about zoom practice some got on with it, others didn't

Social media has been a good way for some sides to communicate.

Beltane had 18 potential new recruits at taster days!

Erstwhile, a new team have tripled their membership in a year and are a lovely success story.

Dance locally be friendly – this has worked for many teams

Morris dancing can be used in Duke of Edinburgh awards, which can be a great way of engaging young people.

c) Magazine Editor: Conor Smith has taken on the role of magazine editor again, with which the OM team are delighted. Please send any content you would like to see in the magazine to dancingon@open-morris.org.

8. Election of Officers:

a) Chair – Jen Cox, nominated by Lepton Morris and seconded by Borderline Morris

For	Against	Abstain
23	0	0

b) Membership Secretary – John Scholey, proposed by Iron Spring Morris and seconded by Brixton Tatterjacks

For	Against	Abstain
23	0	0

c) Secretary – Hetty Bevington, proposed by Tatters Morris and seconded by Theale Tattoo

For	Against	Abstain
23	0	0

d) Treasurer – Liz Scholey, proposed by Iron Spring Morris and seconded by Brixton Tatterjacks

For	Against	Abstain
23	0	0

e) Web Officer – Malcolm Hills, proposed by Wharfedale Wayzgoose and seconded by Flash Company

For	Against	Abstain
23	0	0

All Officers are duly re-elected in their posts.

9. Appointment of Officials

Connor Smith is officially appointed as magazine editor

10. Appointment of Independent Reviewer

Liz Scholey proposed a vote of thanks to Steven Archer, who has been our Independent Reviewer for a few years and he has indicated he's willing to be reappointed again for the forthcoming year. This is by appointment of the committee, and no vote is required, but the meeting was very happy to support the appointment.

11. Nominations for Honorary / Life Membership

Michael Stimpson – nominated for Life Membership by the Open Morris Committee for his work towards the JMO insurance, and support of OM as a member through Phoenix Morris.

For	Against	Abstain
20	0	2

Mike thanked the membership for the honour of this award.

12. Constitution Motions (See Appendix 5)

Motion 1 – Brief clarification of definitions in preamble text.

For	Against	Abstain
24	0	1

Motion 2 – This motion was proposed due to the change to online meetings and online voting. Norm Warren, who was instrumental in the compilation of the current constitution, pointed out that the proposed wording contained an error in giving the Chair a casting vote on Constitution Motion votes, as these must be passed by a 2/3 majority. The meeting agreed to accept advance votes cast on this motion with the removal of the final sentence in the proposed 13. C). It was suggested we review the functionality of this system after next year's AGM.

For	Against	Abstain
24	0	1

Motion 3 – To bring the constitution into line with current practice regarding bank signatories, and to remove the inferred restriction on terms of service for officers. There was some discussion around this, and it was made clear that our current set-up (Jen Cox as Chair, Liz Scholey as Treasurer, and Nicki Pickering as Area Rep and ex-Chair are our current signatories) – when we looked into having a fourth signatory added we were told by the bank this amount of signatories would be irregular. **Action:** Should anything change with the bank account, or personnel, this would be subject to review.

For	Against	Abstain
19	0	1

13. Joint Morris Organisations Business:

Mike Stimpson reminded teams that whilst our insurance does cover dancing abroad, this is only valid if he receives advance notification.

Days of dance

- The 2023 JMO DOD will be hosted on behalf of Open Morris by Beltane Border in Exeter. Liz Wozniak spoke about plans for the day, which include some beautiful historical dance spots, evening events, and a Sunday tour for those interested. At the time of the meeting applications were not yet open, however you can now apply to attend by contacting chair@open-morris.org.
- The JMO are also planning Regional DoDs in the Autumn, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the first DoD in Trafalgar Square. There will hopefully be an event within easy travelling distance for most teams. We will send out information about these events as it becomes available.

14. The Sue Dyke Award

The competition, aimed at young people within Open Morris, has been going for 5 yrs now. The first competitions attracted good engagement, but since the pandemic there has been no interest. There is currently £1550.90 in the fund, after generous donations. The committee proposes that we open the competition up to members of all three Morris Organisations, to draw from a wider pool of potential entrants. Representatives of The Morris Ring and The Morris Federation received this suggestion well, and it will be discussed further at a JMO meeting.

15. The Doug Pickering Memorial Fund

This stands at £168.80. New teams can apply for grants of up to £50 to purchase equipment and kit. Please contact us via email if you are interested in applying to the fund.

16. Item for Discussion: Diversity in Morris and Wider Aims

Liz Scholey introduced the JMO working group (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, known as EDI) which was set up to address recruitment issues, and has concluded that the issues of recruitment, diversity and the public perception of morris are fundamentally linked. Whilst wishing to celebrate the diversity that does exist within the Morris world, the group is working to network with other organisations promoting traditional dance, with EFDSS as a starting point. Eammon Andrews of Old School Rapper spoke about encouraging diversity by broadening the range of dance styles within Open Morris and expressed interest in the project going forward.

EDI papers are not being publicly released but are available to anyone who wishes to see them, please contact Liz Scholey.

The discussion broadened to recruitment tactics in general, with some interesting points about how groups advertise to recruit. Advertising 'dance lessons' could be taken more seriously and suitable members may self select.

Cindy Forster of Erstwhile Border Morris reported an incident of racially motivated behaviour from a member of the public towards a non-white member of their team, and wanted to make teams aware of the possibility of this. The meeting agreed that it was good practice to have policies in place within any organisation to address these issues should they arise.

17. Any Other Business

Chair did not invite AOB items as the duration of the meeting was nearing 3 hours.

18. Date and format of next AGM:

The proposed date of the next AGM is 19th November 2023. The Committee feel that a zoom AGM has many benefits, and the meeting agreed with this, however steps must be taken to ensure the format is accessible to the majority of the membership.

19. Close of AGM

The meeting closed at 5.02pm, with many thanks to our Tellers for their help, and thanks to everyone who attended.

Appendices

Available on <https://open-morris.org/open-morris-agm-2022/>

1. Minutes of 2021 AGM
2. Officer Candidate Statements
3. Officer Reports
4. Life Membership Citation
5. Constitution Motions