



## **Annual General Meeting 2023**

Held remotely via Zoom on Sunday 19th November 2022 at 2pm

### **Minutes**

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

The meeting was opened at 2pm, with some brief housekeeping notes. Guests were introduced and thanked for attending.

#### **2. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

Attendees:

Open Morris Officials

Jen Cox, Chair and Central Area Representative

Hetty Bevington, Secretary

John Scholey, Membership Secretary

Liz Scholey, Treasurer

Malcolm Hills, Web Officer

Chris Lamb, South East Area Representative

Clare Mach, South Central Area Representative

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

Robin James, East Anglia Area Representative

Sam Davey, South West Area Representative

Guests:

Nigel Strudwick, Squire of The Morris Ring (kindly acting as vote teller)

Pauline Woods Wilson - President of The Morris Federation (kindly acting as vote teller)

Jess Searle, Membership Communications Officer of the Morris Federation

Fee Lock, JMO Secretary

Michael Stimpson, JMO Insurance Officer

Frank Lee

Member Teams represented:

Borderline Morris (Jen Cox)  
Brixton Tatterjacks (Chris Lamb)  
Cadi Ha (Gemma Hurst)  
Devil's Jumps Clog (Clare Mach)  
Fenstanton (Robin James)  
Flagcrackers of Craven (Julie Greenwood, Mandy Whitley)  
Foxs Morris (Ian Hinksman)  
The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts (Robert Chisholm)  
Iron Spring Morris (Liz Scholey, John Scholey)  
Lepton Morris (Charlotte Pascoe)  
Mayday Morris (Merry)  
Phoenix Morris (Michael Stimpson)  
Ragged Oak (Sam Davey)  
Tatters Morris (Hetty Bevington)  
Wharfedale Wayzgoose (Malcolm Hills)

Individual Members:

Nickie Dailly

Apologies were received from:

Chris Hall (Life Member)  
Sophie Watson (Individual Member)  
Kim Woodward (Life Member)  
Craig Simmonds (Open Morris West Midlands Area Representative)

And from the following Member Teams:

Allington Morris  
Bedcote Morris  
Bunnies From Hell  
Corby Conspiracy  
Crosskey Clog  
Flash Company  
Mr Hemmings Traditional Abingdon Morris  
Roses are Red  
Shinfield Shambles  
Steps in Time  
Styx of Stroud  
Theale Tattoo

### 3. Minutes of 2022 AGM

These were taken as read.

### 4. Adoption of Minutes of 2022 AGM

For	Against	Abstain
16	0	1

### 5. Matters arising from the Minutes

None arising.

### 6. Officers' Reports

a) Chair – taken as read.

b) Membership Secretary – taken as read with an additional welcome to our newest member team, Mr Hemmings Traditional Abingdon Morris.

c) Secretary - taken as read.

d) Web Officer – Malcolm Hills gave a verbal report, and discussed the requirements for running the website that his successor will need to be able to fulfil. Malcolm is happy to keep the site running until such time as someone else can fulfil these needs but has not stood for re-election at this AGM.

There was a brief discussion about a team having an issue with uploading pictures to the website, **ACTION MALCOLM HILLS** to publish the image size/resolution on the team details pages to make this easier for members.

e) Treasurer's Report: Liz discussed some items from the report:

- The JMO Day of Dance in Exeter cost us around £2,000, which is legitimate expenditure, but we feel we should be more disciplined in implementing financial protocols when underwriting such events in future.
- Our subscription rates will remain the same, to keep in line with The Morris Federation. All the details will go out to members in their renewal notices.
- We have added a rate for electric vehicles claiming mileage on expenses, this is set at 9p per mile in line with government guidance.

Adoption of the report will show agreement for these statements.

**f) Adoption of Treasurer's report**

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Nicki Pickering proposed a vote of thanks to Steven Archer for acting as Independent Reviewer of the accounts.

**7. Other Officials' Reports**

a. Archivist and Editor of Dancing On! – these posts are currently vacant, please get in touch if you would be interested in taking on either of these roles.

b. Area Representatives:

North East – Malcolm Hills

West Midlands – Craig Simmonds

Wales & North West – Nicki Pickering – taken as read (see appendices)

South West – Sam Davey – offered congratulations to Beltane, and to the organisers of the Bath regional JMO DoD for organising excellent events in the area.

Central – Jen Cox - taken as read (see appendices)

South Central – Clare Mach – taken as read (see appendices)

South East – Chris Lamb – reported an issue a team had with a local council surrounding facepaint use, but this was satisfactorily resolved.

East Anglia – Robin James – teams enjoyed dancing out in Exeter and the local JMO event in Norwich, all seems well.

**8. Election of Officers:**

a) Chair – Jen Cox, nominated by Shinfield Shambles and seconded by Chris Hall.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

b) Membership Secretary – John Scholey, proposed by Iron Spring Morris and seconded by Theale Tattoo.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

c) Secretary – Hetty Bevington, proposed by Tatters Morris and seconded by The WAD.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

d) Treasurer – Liz Scholey, proposed by Iron Spring Morris and seconded by Borderline Morris.

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

e) Web Officer – no nominations.

All standing Officers are duly re-elected to their posts.

## **9. Appointment of Officials**

No change to appointments.

## **10. Appointment of Independent Reviewer**

Steven Archer had indicated prior to the meeting that he is happy to continue in this role for the forthcoming year. This is by appointment of the committee, and no vote is required, but the meeting was happy to support the appointment.

## **11. Nominations for Honorary / Life Membership**

Frank Lee – nominated for Honorary Membership by Wharfedale Wayzgoose for his work as a rapper sword maker, musician and influential figure throughout his long career.

For	Against	Abstain
17	0	1

This award was duly confirmed, and Frank gave a short speech of thanks.

**12. Joint Morris Organisations Business:**

- Days of Dance  
The very successful 2023 JMO DOD was hosted by Beltane Border Morris on behalf of OM, in Exeter on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, Autumn regional events took place in Belper, Norwich, Chester, Bath, Newcastle and finally London, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the exemption to the licencing act that made a significant impact on the course of morris history. Reports on these events will be made in the upcoming magazine edition. OM would like to extend hearty thanks and congratulations to the organisers of all the 2023 JMO events.

Bookings are now open for the 2024 JMO DoD, which will be hosted by Trentside Holmes on behalf of The Morris Federation in Newark on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

- Insurance: the JMO insurance policy for 2024 will be modified from previous years and will include Personal Accident Insurance for all team members alongside the usual Public Liability Insurance. This will mean a significant overall saving and less admin work and was received positively by the meeting. Michael Stimpson was thanked for his hard work in administrating the JMO Insurance policies.
- The JMO EDI panel has recently delivered a paper to the Vaughan Williams Memorial Conference on the subject of the use of songs as part of morris performances. This was well received, and will be the subject of magazine articles and website posts in the new year. The panel, which consists of representatives of all 3 JMOs, would like to invite people to get in touch via [edi@thejmo.org](mailto:edi@thejmo.org) if they have any suggestions, comments or issues to discuss surrounding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in morris.
- Trust Registration Service requirements: Ed Worrall, JMO Legal Adviser, has prepared a document detailing a requirement for any organisation that holds funds to register with HMRC. This advice is being issued by each organisation in the JMO as the law does affect morris teams as things stand. See appendices for this document, which is also on the Open Morris website.

### **13. The Sue Dyke Award**

After opening up the 2023 competition across the whole JMO, we're pleased to report that two young people have been named as joint winners, receiving £75 each and a 6 month custodianship of the tankard engraved with their names. Both entries had video elements that were shown during the meeting, and these will be posted on the OM website in due course. The theme was 'From Rags to Ritual', and the winning entries were a broom dance and accompanying poem, and a piece of artwork depicting different kits. Despite the success of this year's entrants, it seems that the current format of the competition may have run its course, and there has been some interest in a nomination/recognition style competition which was discussed as a potential avenue for the competition in the future. It was resolved to keep the competition open to all those in the JMO who meet the age criteria.

### **14. The Doug Pickering Memorial Fund**

This has received no applications this year, and 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.

### **15. Any Other Business**

Notice was given of some events:

DETR 2024 will be held in Whitby on April 13<sup>th</sup>

The Morris Ring's Jigs Instructional workshop weekend, open to all, will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2024.

The Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts will be holding their Unconvention on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October in Birmingham.

Congratulations were offered to Jen Cox on her new appointment to EFDSS as Dance Development Manager.

### **16. Date and format of next AGM:**

The proposed date of the next AGM is 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024, with an offer from Tatters Morris to host a hybrid style event in Redruth, Cornwall. This would encompass opportunities for dancing and other activities across a weekend, and will be confirmed in due course.

## **17. Close of AGM**

The meeting closed at 3.33pm, with a vote of thanks to our tellers and guests, and to all who attended.

## **Appendices**

1. Minutes of 2022 AGM
2. Officer Candidate Statements
3. Officer and Officials Reports
4. Honorary Membership Citation
5. HMRC reporting requirements re: Trust arrangements in Morris clubs (Eddie Worrall)