



Annual General Meeting 2024

Held in Redruth, Cornwall at 2pm on Sunday 17th November, with in person attendees and online attendees via Zoom.

Minutes

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

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked attendees for coming. Brief housekeeping notes.

2. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Attendees in person:

Jen Cox, Chair and Central Area Representative (Theale Tattoo)
Hetty Bevington, Secretary (Tatters Morris)
Chris Bevington, nominated as Membership Secretary (Tatters Morris)
Liz Woznak (Beltane)
Kim Woodward (Life Member)
Penny Macbeth (The WAD)
Robert Chisman (Illustrious Order of Fools and Beasts)

Attendees online:

John Scholey, Membership Secretary (Iron Spring)
Liz Scholey, Treasurer (Iron Spring)
Malcolm Hills, nominated as Web Officer (Wharfedale Wayzgoose)
Nicki Pickering (Life Member), Wales and North West Area Representative
Chris Lamb, South East Area Representative
Clare Mach, South Central Area Representative (Devils Jumps)
Robin James, East Anglia Area Representative (Fenstanton Morris)
Anne Marie Comber (Bunnies From Hell)
Ant Veal (Beltane)

Julie Greenwood (Flag Crackers of Craven)
Jess Searle (Bunnies From Hell)
Nickie Dailly (Individual Member)

Guests attending online:

Pauline Woods Wilson - President of The Morris Federation (kindly acting as vote teller)
Peter Austin, Bagman of The Morris Ring (kindly acting as vote teller)
Fee Lock, JMO Secretary and Individual Member
Michael Stimpson, JMO Insurance Officer (Phoenix Morris and Life Member)

Apologies were received from:

Chris Hall (Life Member)
Sophie Watson (Individual Member)
Allington Morris
Borderline Morris
Buttercross Belles
Cadi Ha
Camp Clog
Corby Conspiracy
Crosskey Clog
Earl of Stamford
Erstwhile Border Morris
Flash Company
Foxs Morris
Holt Ridge Morris
Lepton Morris
Meon Valley Morris

3. Minutes of 2023 AGM

These were taken as read.

4. Adoption of Minutes of 2023 AGM

For	Against	Abstain
18	0	1

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

Malcolm Hills had been unable to resolve the issue with the size of members' photo uploads, but we will be migrating the website to a new server soon which may effect this situation.

6. Officers' Reports

These were taken as read.

Liz Scholey discussed the Treasurer's report and drew attention to the declining trajectory of our assets, suggesting that the Committee discuss how to deal with this and be mindful of income vs expenditure.

Adoption of Treasurer's report

For	Against	Abstain
18	0	1

Area Representative Reports from Jen Cox (Central Area), Clare Mach (South Central Area), Robin James (East Anglia Area), Sam Davey-Jones (South West Area), Nicki Pickering (Wales and Northwest Area) and Craig Simmonds (West Midlands Area) were taken as read.

7. Election of Officers:

a) Chair – Jen Cox, proposed by Theale Tattoo and seconded by Tatters Morris.

For	Against	Abstain
21	0	0

b) Membership Secretary – Chris Bevington, proposed by Tatters Morris and seconded by Bunnies From Hell.

For	Against	Abstain
20	0	0

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

For	Against	Abstain
21	0	0

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

For	Against	Abstain
21	0	0

e) Web Officer – Malcolm Hills, proposed by Wharfedale Wayzgoose and seconded by Borderline Morris.

For	Against	Abstain
18	0	1

All nominated Officers were duly elected.

8. Appointment of Officials

- The committee announced the appointment of David Ball (Corby Conspiracy) to the position of East Midlands Area Representative which has been vacant for a number of years.
- The committee were also pleased to welcome to Liz Wozniak (Beltane), who will be replacing Sam Davey as South West Area Representative, as she is better placed geographically for this role. We would like to thank Sam very much for his work in the role.

9. Appointment of Independent Reviewer

Steven Archer was appointed by the committee to act as Independent Reviewer for one more year, and was thank by the committee for fulfilling the role this year.

10. Nominations for Honorary / Life Membership

None received.

11. Motions

None received.

12. Joint Morris Organisations Business:

- JMO Day of Dance 2025
Bookings are open for the 2025 JMO DoD, which will be hosted by Adlington Morris on behalf of The Morris Ring in Stockport on Saturday 26thth April.
- JMO Day of Dance 2026
In 2026 it will be Open Morris's turn to host, should anyone wish to volunteer to do so, please get in touch.
- The JMO have been attending consultations with the government regarding the UK's ratification of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention, which was paused by the 2024 general election, but we will be continuing to work with the civil servants who are attached to the project and will be consulting our membership as the process continues.

13. The Sue Dyke Award

This competition, previously run as a creative competition for young people within morris, will be rebooted in 2025 as an opportunity for young people to be nominated for recognition, and will remain open to all across the JMO who meet the age criteria of 25 or under, or who are being recognised for their work with those in this age category.

14. The Doug Pickering Memorial Fund

The Doug Pickering Memorial Fund is a fund for new Open Morris member teams who can apply for grants of up to £50 to purchase equipment and kit. No applications have been received this year. Please contact us via email if you are interested in applying to the fund.

15. The Doc Rowe Digitisation Project

Open Morris donated £1000 to the crowdfunder for this, to match donations offered by The Morris Federation and The Morris Ring.

16. Any Other Business

- Rob Chisman gave notice of the next Fools & Beasts Unconvention, to be hosted by Open Morris member team Wharfedale Wayzgoose in Yorkshire from 24th – 26th October 2025.
- The Committee proposed a vote of thanks to Hetty & Chris Bevington and Tatters Morris for their hospitality and excellent catering, and for hosting the workshop and AGM, our first hybrid event, which was held to be a success by all present.

17. Date and format of next AGM:

The proposed date of the next AGM is Sunday 16th November 2025. Please contact us if your team would be interested in hosting this event as a hybrid in person/online meeting.

18. Close of AGM

The meeting closed at 2.54pm

Appendices

1. Officer Candidate Statements
2. Officer and Officials Reports