

**DOLPHIN MORRIS**  
**AGM 8 OCTOBER 2015**  
**SUN INN 20:30**



**Apologies**

Matt Langley, Steve Parker

**Present**

Wil Walker (Chair) Ian Ambrose, Clive Cowx, Chris Gigg, Dave Gough, Martin Morley, Nick Murphy, Andy Padmore, Ian Stewart, Dave Walters, Michael Wilkinson, John Whitelaw.

Meeting started at 20:32, when final beer glass charged.

The meeting was changed from the original planned date and held at the Sun Inn, so as to take advantage of an evening when Kingston Village Hall would not be available for practice. This change was agreed by the membership.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:**

It was noted that reference was not made the beer given by the Minster at the last Gate, and drunk at the AGM.

Otherwise minutes accepted as a true record with no matters arising.

Proposed: DW                      Seconded: NM

**Reports of Officers**

These were circulated before, and copies were available at the meeting. These were talked through by the reporter. Only additional points recorded below.

**Squire:**

Corrections: 19April was JMO at Bristol, St Georges day was spent with Anstey Morris and Steve Parkers Cotswold W/E was in June.

Thanks to support provided by Officers of the Side and Teachers re-iterated.

Side numbers: "super-annuation" and risk of injury means that getting a side up can be a challenge.

Concept of "Rag-Tag" Morris (an occasional side, made up of men from many sides) to do events introduced. Discussed more fully latter.

**Bagman:**

Correction: IA was omitted from list of attendees at Ring Jigs Instructional

**Swagman:**

The side funds were low, following 2 payments for Hall, Spanish subsidy, and absence of paid events in past year. Side funds are separate from "members funds", which are significant.

Side asked if feedback on members funds was adequate. NM said yes, CG suggested reporting every 2 months. This is to be implemented.

AP requested that side bank account details are circulated to the side for members to add funds.

**Foreman:**

This was discussed at the Traditions and Teachers Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Archive & Publicity :**

No written reports presented.

All reports accepted by a single vote.  
Proposed: IA, Seconded: CC

### **Election of Officers**

NM suggested, seconded by DW, that the existing officers of the side remain in post for the coming year. The meeting agreed.

Squire	Wil Walker
Swagman	Steve Manning
Bagman:	Martin Morley

DW proposed a Vote of thanks to the officers of the side, seconded NM, BH “thirded”

### **Subscriptions**

To stay at £30. Accepted without a vote.  
Members funds provided “headroom” and provide a buffer.

### **Archive**

AP reported he holds the collated Archive and all subsequent material collected.  
AP hasn't had the time or inclination to start the formal collation of newer material. He hopes to start on this process within the coming year.

Verbal report accepted with thanks.  
Proposed by MW, seconded by MM

### **Sticks**

The need for a Keeper of the Sticks was stated. The role is to ensure sticks are transported to vents. This task can and should be delegated to Tour Organisers, and only by the Keeper of the Sticks task on occasions.

- The stock of sticks are currently adequate, and all prepared for use.
- All members of the side should keep an eye open for new potential sticks.
- AP suggested that everybody should carry their own sticks to events.
- MW volunteered to take up the post of Keeper of the Sticks.

### **Publicity**

E-Media

Web Master had prepared a written report which was distributed before meeting.

Twitter: CG said that Twitter feed excellent, and thanked MW.  
The meeting concurred.  
The number of followers had grown over the year to nearly 400.

Web Site: The meeting thanked ML for his written report, his candour in describing where further work was required and for the work undertaken on the Web Site.  
The side understood ML's situation and supported his stated priority to get back to dancing.

General points made by meeting re web site/web sites in general:

- It was felt important to keep web site content “fresh”
- The front page should ideally be updated weekly. MW prepared to do this in parallel with his Twitter/Facebook work, if he were shown how to do this. MM prepared to support this, if helpful.
- MW made the point that disadvantage of a web site is that you need to go and look for it, compared to Twitter/Facebook that comes to you, (once signed up).

- That the most relevant / important content should be available very quickly,(on the first click, if possible) due short attention span of most browsers.
- Simple/clear/direct navigation of a site is an important feature.
- Site should direct viewers to the current Tour list/ leaflet.
- The possibility of playing a sound files automatically on opening of web page was rejected by the meeting. The availability of sound files on the site was accepted.
- NM made point it was possible to take actions to help get your web site to appear high up in the Google search result. eg repeating say, “Dolphin Morris” as much as is practical due to the way Google web crawlers work.
- CG: Requested removal of reference to Publicity Contact email address

#### “House Style”

- CC suggested that the “public face” of the side was important, and he considered a consistent appearance was an important part of this. The meeting agreed.
- CC while in no way criticising the current web site offered, if the side wanted it, to bring his skills to the web site. CC was aware that he did not have the technical skills to create/generate a web site having no relevant web software (coding) skills. He would need support from others.
- The meeting agreed that the web site would benefit from further work, to improve: content, its relevance through time and styling (house style)
- The meeting suggested that a sub-group of CC, ML, DW, MW, meet or have an email discussion on what can be done to further improve the web site and report back to the side.
- CC wondered whether the current design of Dolphin logo and Tour Leaflet were getting tired. The meeting did not agree, MW saying the Tour Leaflet was crisp, clean and attractive.

Press: CG wishes the publicity mail address to be closed. It only attracts spam mail. CG said too much work for little reward. WW asked if the role should be scrapped? The consensus was no, as there was benefit to be had. CG said that need to have a topic to present to press, with a “hook”. The RSPCA model, producing a press pack twice a year with an “emotional hook” was described to the meeting as a model.

#### Sponsorship

CC reported that East Mids Airport should provide some cash to support the cost of the Tours Leaflet. However we need a total of 4 to 5 advertisers / sponsors to cover the cost of the Tours Leaflet.

The experience at the Crafty Crow was responsible for the failure of the relationship with the Magpie Brewery.

#### Recruitment

MM asked the meeting if advertising on the Tour Leaflet a couple of nights when newcomers would be welcome, would be a good idea, as seen on the Taunton Deane Morris Leaflet.

- The evenings before the AGM were suggested as possible dates.
- IS considered these important practises for the side to get back into the “swing of things”.
- There was much discussion covering the same ground, and coming to the same conclusion as last year’s meeting.
- The following positive points came out of discussions:
  - MW would support any newcomer to the Morris by providing extra tuition before the normal practise, from 7:30pm, if they were prepared to put the work in.

- Give experienced dancers new to Dolphin 2 or 3 weeks before pointing out their differences to Dolphin style.
- Hosting a workshop event for individuals and other sides on a Saturday was considered a good idea. The Horse Groom pub in Basford was suggested as a venue

### 2015 Events

The list of possible events for 2016 was reviewed. Principle points made/agreed:

**Xmas Party:** Agreed to be at the Sun Inn on 17<sup>th</sup> December – similar format. To invite Old men.

**Plough Play:** The side again wished to do the Plough play. It was agreed that it should be performed at the Jigs Instructional (if at SB). Some concern expressed about absence of audience on the Monday evening.

**Chipperfield:** The side was keen to attend, but recognised that as it was a Ring Meeting in 2016 that the Bagman should write to Greensleeves offering them the opportunity to invite some another side if this is what they wish, hoping that they will not!

**Ring Meetings:** MM to get full list of Ring Meetings from Ring Bagman. Some concern expressed about cost of Ring Meetings.

#### **Raising Side for Events:**

- Discussion suggested that there was too much choice and that the Bagman should “filter” events presented to the side, to simplify decision making. Doodle Polls may be a useful tool.
- Some felt there was a need for the side to attend some fresh events, rather than the same old that risk becoming stale.
- It was suggested that when the side decides to take part in an event then there was an element of duty on members of the side to take part; a quid pro quo.

**Come All Ye:** CG considered that the event getting stale. Suggested a Day of Dance be considered.

**Weekend at Long Bennington:** MW offered to host a mini bus tour around the many good pubs in his local, with overnight camping on his lawn

**Forward Planning 2018:** IS suggested that some thought should be given to a weekend event to mark Dolphin’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Consensus was that it should not be a Ring Meeting, but a gather of Dolphin’s friends.

### Tours Planning Meeting

A date is to be arranged at a latter, mutually convenient date. A Doodle Poll to be used to set date.

### Dances and Traditions Meeting.

Already held on 24<sup>th</sup> September and reported separately.

### Practice Season Pubs

Many of the side wished not to use the Kings Head, although the majority felt it was desirable to maintain some contact (use) of the pub for its usefulness as a Morris venue. After debate, it was agreed that the Kings Head would be the après Morris pub on the first week of each calendar month. The Sun Inn would be used all other weeks.

### Awards

**WANKA:** As this award is awarded by JO, and he was not present nor a nomination received, it was not awarded.

**MEDIAS TRAY:** WW nominated by MW for running into a dustbin when in Spain, while denying responsibility, and getting away with it with the hire company. The photo of a similar car proved useful evidence!!. The meeting agreed.

**SPIRACLE:** BH nominated by DW and the meeting agreed, for organising and hosting the 2015 trip to Spain. It was well planned reaching out across the continent to a parallel tradition.

## **AOB**

Looking to the future; if recruitment to Dolphin does not occur to make up for injury and other departures, then there may be merit in working with other local male Cotswold sides, to come together to form an "occasional" team to provide dancing opportunities/dance at events, based on a small, shared repertoire.

Such an occasional side would not replace member's main team, but be an adjunct in times of difficulty.

"Rag Tag" Morris which had been used as a semi-descriptive name was not well thought of.

BH suggested Bradmore Morris as a neutral name.

CG said that shortage of men for a side could be addressed by contacting the Bagmen of other local sides.

Meeting ended at 10-45pm. This was considered to be the longest ever AGM, probably due to the comfortable location and availability of refreshment, (and the breaks in the meeting to refill!).

## **Date of Next AGM**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Kingston Village Hall, 8:30 pm.