

DOLPHIN MORRIS
AGM 15th September 2016
Kingston Village Hall, 20:30



1. Apologies

Chris Gigg, Bob Hine, Matt Langley, Joe Oskiewicz, Steve Parker, John Whitelaw,
John Baxter

Present

Wil Walker (Chair) Steve Manning, Ian Ambrose, Clive Cowx, Dave Gough, Nick Murphy,
Andy Padmore, Ian Stewart, Dave Walters, Michael Wilkinson, Martin Morley

Meeting started at 20:30.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Two typo errors were noted:

Page 1, Minutes of last Meeting 1st line: "to" to be added

Page 4, 2015 Events, 9th line: delete "some"

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

Proposed: DW

Seconded: MW

3. Written 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:

Discussion raised idea of a "fixed" set of dances that could be well practised as a means of ensuring high standard of dance. To be discussed at the Traditions and Teachers Meeting.

Bagman:

Correction: Date of Chipperfield Ring Meeting was 8-10th July
The side was urged to use Where's Wally to record their interest in an event promptly. It was suggested from the floor that Dolphin offered to pay Ben Robinson, the webmaster of Where's Wally, for its use, to encourage him to maintain it.

Swagman:

SM said he would stand down from the roll of Swagman at the 2017 AGM.
Thanks were given for the excellent Bag collection in 2016.

Foreman:

Any "tweaks" to the established strategy to be discussed at the Traditions and Teachers Meeting.

In response to Squire's report it was acknowledged that the standard of dance does drop through the season, because of the lack of practice sessions.

Publicity:

Clarification to written report: Costs of leaflets and website exceeded sponsorship by £67. Website feeds for Events at £36 and for Social Media at £43 were possible areas to save money, if the side required it. The side did not.

It was asked if leaflets were of value to the side and if the quantity printed was correct.

Leaflets were considered important when “Bagging” and were distributed to Folk Clubs (DW) City Centre (WW), Library (MM). All but 150 were distributed during 2016 season.

All reports accepted by a single vote.

Proposed: IA, Seconded: MW

4. Election of Officers

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

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| Squire | Wil Walker |
| Swagman | Steve Manning (but gave notice he will be standing down in 2017) |
| Bagman: | Martin Morley |

5. Subscriptions

To stay at £30. Accepted without a vote.

Members’ subs reported to pay for the essentials: Hall hire, Ring membership & Insurance.

6. Archive

AP reported that he had found it “difficult to get back into the archive mode” since taking on the role again.

New material is being collected and ordered, and there are 2 boxes of material with DG, that need to be processed and put in a presentable format.

A 50th Anniversary Event could provide a focus for this work.

Of more pressing concern was the failure of the hard disc containing the digitised archive.

Copies of material need to be gathered to assess how much has been lost.

The side offered to support the purchase of a new hard disc.

7. Sticks

MW reported that he has some new hazel sticks seasoning.

It was considered that stripping the bark from the sticks caused them to “ring” better.

8. Publicity

Web Site:

There was discussion about the usefulness of a “Members Only” page on the web site. DW reported that on the old web site it was not greatly used and fell into disrepair, and suggested that Google Account space could provide a useful resource.

CC reported that the side address list and Plough Play script were already there and it could be used to share music files and AGM reports. MM will post future AGM documents via members page.

When asked, the side agreed that the “Members Only” page would be of value.

There was some discussion about improving SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) of the web site to improve its ranking within search engine results. MM said he would assist in this.

Social Media:

Twitter has 500 approx. followers and the total has shown steady growth.

The Tweets are not going “into the void” as people in pubs have referred to it.

MW happy to continue managing social media

Press:

It was considered that there is still a role for the Press Officer, although it was concluded there was a need for a significant event, and a “strap line” to go with it to be successful.

9. Sponsorship

CC reported that East Mids Airport should provide some cash to support the cost of the Tours Leaflet. The Nottingham Brewery has sponsored the side in the form of a barrel of beer which was "sold" to the Ring Jigs Instructional.

IS nominated CC for vote of thanks for his work on sponsorship. Seconded by MW and the side concurred.

10. Recruitment

This was fully discussed last year and the meeting had nothing to add.

11. 2017 Events

The meeting agreed that the side should only do "interesting" bookings and not just for fund raising.

The side will attend Greensleeves' Chipperfeld weekend and Michael & Judith have offered to host another Long Bennington weekend.

12. 2018 50th Anniversary Event

Suggestions of the form that the celebrations of Dolphins 50th anniversary should take included:

Something special just for us: Trip away for a weekend, or a week with or without partners. Cumbria was one suggested location. The "At Home" event could be used for sharing with other teams. (CG)

Visit 50 pubs in a weekend event/tour (AP)

A bus tour with other side(s), that are friends of Dolphin, possibly with an overnight stay for those from a distance. The objective being to keep it simple. (BH)

It was thought that an overnight stay would be required otherwise the tour would be truncated for people that have to travel home (AP)

A Weekend of Dance modelled on Chipperfield (IS)

If adopted it would **not** be a Ring Meeting, to avoid bureaucracy, cost and enforced format. Bad experience of previous event's organisers also a major factor.

Should be based locally

Cheapest way to do it

MW & DW supported IS's suggestion

IA also supported suggestion adding we should celebrate with our friends and local sides, catering for our guests.

There was concern expressed about not trying to do too much. Possibly use outside caterers?

MM summarised discussion as:

- We should hold an event to celebrate our 50th Anniversary
- Held locally
- With guests/friends from afar and locally
- Use Chipperfield weekend an exemplar.
- Separate meeting to be arranged after Tours & Events meeting discuss further.
 - IS suggested establish date promptly (this year) so our guests have the date in their diary.
 - AP suggested we pick a date early or late in the season (June or September)

13. Tours Planning Meeting

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

14. Dances and Traditions Meeting

To held during last 30 minutes of the practise of 29th Sept.

WW gave his apologies as he would not be available for the meeting.

15. Practice Season Pubs

The meeting agreed that the Sun Inn had gone “downhill” since the Pub Quiz had started. The Cuckoo Bush has been tried and seems “Morris Friendly”

IS suggested not to fully convert to Cuckoo Bush, keeping eye on the Sun

DW suggested we maintain relationship with all pubs (including Kings Head)

IA reminded side that the Kings Head remains useful to the side for events in Sutton Bonington.

It was decided to continue at the Kings Head on the 1st week of each month and trial the Cuckoo Bush for a few months.

16. Awards

WANKA: Traditionally this is awarded by JO, but he was not present. MW nominated Jon M for when speaking at the East Suffolk Ring Meeting, referring to Saddleworth Morris as “The Carnival Boys”. The side unanimously agreed.

MEDIAS TRAY: Dolphin awarded itself the Medias Tray for being “mobbed” by the female delegates at the Psychologists Ball clamouring for selfies with us. The side unanimously agreed.

SPIRACLE: CG and WW nominated Judith for her welcome and hosting the excellent Long Bennington weekend. The side unanimously agreed.

17. AOB

Go and get a pint; quick!

Meeting ended at 10:07pm.

18: Date of Next AGM

Thursday 21st September 2017 at Kingston Village Hall, 8:30 pm.