

Foresters Morris & Sword Dancing Club

Minutes of the 2011 AGM held on Monday 28th February 2010

Started 8:05pm at the Queen's Walk Community Centre, The Meadows

Present:

Ken Bramman, Arthur Dexter, Frank Earp, Joe Earp (Deputy Squire), Eric Foxley (Bagman secretary), Paul Gadsby (Bagman treasurer), Colin Higgins, Phil Mallard, Vic Martin, Dave Middleton, Steve Moore, William Pearse, Stewart Thompson (Squire, in the chair, trying to control the discussions).

1. Apologies for absence

Cecil Laughlin, Mike Stevens.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (8th February 2010)

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

3. Engraving the Squire's staff of office. We have a choice between adding names to the present silver plate (£10 + 75p a letter), or making a completely new one (probably cheaper). It was agreed that we adopt the latter. See an addendum at the end of this document.

8. New logo. Barrie had found 2 companies to produce our sweatshirts, but had no success with Stewart's suggestion that we create a new logo to better represent our youthfulness. Vic was to suggest some possible sweat shirt logos. Agreed that anyone could submit possible designs to be presented and discussed at the last Monday practice in March.

4. Items for AOB

Items were invited for AOB, see below.

5. Squire's Report

Stewart the Squire handed out copies of his report. It included: the visit of the Adelaide Morris from Australia. We must not default on bookings due to lack of men.

The Squire's report was accepted.

6. Bagman Treasurer's Report

Paul handed out copies of his report. We have 17 paid-up members. The treasurer's accounts were presented and accepted. A sharing of fees with Greenwood for events at which they had appeared was discussed, to be agreed with them on a booking-by-booking basis. It was agreed not to charge for Hoveringham if invited. It was agreed to donate the fees from Oak Field School back to the school, they are a good cause. The bagman treasurer thanked Eric Stewart Cecil etc for not charging for services & cleaning & barbecues. Most collections arise mainly from the continuing efforts of Ken.

The Bagman Treasurer's report was accepted.

7. Subscriptions for 2011

It was proposed and agreed that we continue with a standard subscription of £25 for all members.

8. Charity for 2011

We decided to donate £500 of last year's collections to the chosen charity "**Rainbows Children's Hospice**", a children's hospice in Loughborough. It was agreed to continue with them as our charity for 2011/12. In addition the fees we have charged to Oak Field School will be returned as a donation.

9. Tours and shows for 2011

Members read the list of bookings distributed by the bagman. Please inform the bagman of *Monday tour details* as soon as possible, in time for a handout on St George's day. If you want to change your Monday, agree with someone else and then tell Eric. So far only Eric, Stewart,

Steve and Joe have confirmed. The bagman emphasised that we are thin on numbers but **MUST HONOUR OUR PAID COMMITMENTS.**

10. Social Evening

It was agreed to organise a meal on Thursday 26th May at Paul's Restaurant, Bottesford.

11. Any other business

Regalia

We are happy with white trousers.

Sticks

We need a good supply of sticks, and are currently short of them; everyone to try to find some. Sticks should be 840 mm long, as determined by the ancient founders of the Foresters. (Oxford University morris archive says 1070 mm, much too long!)

New plough play script

Vic will work on a new plough play script to include two extra characters. As many as possible should learn more than one part in case of absences.

Bagman's musings

Eric summarized some of the Morris Ring goings on. The vast number of emails about sides having female musicians, and how terrible this might be for male bonding, and how an "inner ring" of male sides has been the only ones to maintain high standards, would not impress an outsider. Ring membership was down to approximately 150 (Open Morris 150, Federation 450). When the Ring was formed, the majority of sides had a female musician. The ARM vote to allow female musicians was a move in the correct direction.

Foresters 60th birthday and recruiting

Joe brought up the twin subjects of wanting to celebrate the Foresters 60th birthday next year, and combine it with possible recruiting of new members. Among points not heard by everyone (because they all talk at the same time without respecting the chair) were that a separate side of younger members might be a way forward, and that too few of us ever mix with other sides, and that contacts with the two local universities should be exploited. Agreed that we should all support Joe (1) to organize a day of dance with local sides and feast with outside caterers to celebrate and (2) to encourage Joe and others to try and recruit some younger members.

Payment of subscriptions

Phil suggested that everyone pay their subs within a month of the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm. Members retired to the bar.

[Bagman secretary Eric Foxley]

Addendum

At an extraordinary meeting following a practice it was agreed that the Squire's Staff (see item 3 above) have the names of the Bagmen Treasurers (starting with Mr Paul Gadsby) engraved from now on in addition to those of Squires and Bagmen Secretaries. This was agreed *nem com*.