

Foresters Morris & Sword Dance Club

Minutes of the 2009 AGM held on Monday 23rd February

Started 8:15pm 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, Colin Higgins, Simon Hopper, Cecil Laughlin, Phil Mallard, Vic Martin, Dave Middleton, Steve Moore, William Pearse, Andy Sowter, Barrie Whittamore

1. Apologies for absence

Stewart Thompson (squire), Ciaran Laughlin, Mike Stevens

In the absence of the Squire, it was agreed that the bagman secretary would take the chair.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (4th February 2008)

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

Engraving the Squire's staff of office. This has not progressed.

4. Items for AOB

Items were invited for AOB, see below.

5. Squire's Report

Stewart's report (complete without the missing apostrophe) was put on-line beforehand, and copies were distributed at the meeting. He mentioned the Social Evening at Adams Restaurant organised by Joe. The Lenton Abbey show was our first competing with a flying gazebo. The appalling weather at the Swanage festival was somewhat relieved by the hospitality of Helen & Steve. Thanks to Ken for the Solstice concert. The Squire's suggestion that we should not attend ring meetings, festivals and the like without a full side was agreed unanimously. The Squire's report was accepted.

6. Bagman Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's accounts were presented and accepted. It was noted that interest received on the account was minimal, due to the prevailing financial situation.

The bagman treasurer thanked Eric & Stewart for not charging for services & cleaning.

A sharing of fees with Greenwood for events at which they had appeared was agreed.

Monday collections arise mainly from the continuing efforts of Ken; Ken's work in this was acclaimed.

7. Subscriptions for 2009

It was proposed and agreed that the present two-tier system be replaced by a standard subscriptions of £25 for all members whether wage-earning or not.

8. Charities for 2008 and 2009

Enquiries about donating for a "Water in Africa" project by Eric and Simon had not progressed. A suggestion from Cecil to put last year's collection for a water well in Africa to the charity "Pump Aid" was agreed. A donation of £500 was agreed to provide a village well and "Elephant pump" in probably either Malawi or Zimbabwe. See <http://www.pumpaid.org/home.shtml>.

For next year's charity the side chose "Rainbows Children's Hospice", a children's hospice in Loughborough. See <http://www.rainbowshospice.org.uk/> .
Eric is to print details of supported charities in the Foresters publicity handout.

9. Tours and shows for 2009

Member went through 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 for the JMO event on 28th March.

We could NOT raise a side for *Sawley Marina* or *Chalice weekend*. Other events were accepted, but we are generally thin on numbers.

10. Social Evening

It was agreed to organise a meal on Thursday 14th May at Paul's Restaurant, Bottesford.

11. Any other business

Regalia

Eric has edited the on-line copy of the club tradition to reflect the fact that we no longer wear black breeches.

Sticks

Steve Earwicker would be delivering some sticks when next in Nottingham.

Possible visit of a side from Adelaide

Colin reported that an Adelaide morris side he had danced with in Australia were planning to visit the UK in May 2010. The club agreed to entertain them for a weekend. A visit to Mallard brewery was proposed as essential.

Repertoire – Tossing the twig

Ken & Eric want to try "tossing the twig" again – but we must get it right in practice before attempting it out.

Film "Morris : a life with bells on"

Eric explained that he had seen the film, and thought it of interest to folkies, but not suitable for public release. There was a very critical article about it in the latest Ring Circular.

Musicians

It was suggested that all closet musicians should bring their instruments to practices, and experience playing for real dancing.

Musicians

The team's existing musicians were thanked for their contribution to the side's activities.

Eric

Dave thanked Eric for looking after the website, and for putting photos on the site soon after the events.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm. Members retired to the bar.

[Bagman secretary Eric Foxley]