

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of The Rumworth Morris of Bolton
held at St Basil's Church Hall, Bassaleg, near Newport, Gwent,
on Sunday 22nd September 2002

Those Present: Jim Fox, Geoff Hughes (chairman), Peter Bearon, Denise Bearon, Steve Armitage, Ian Lomas, Alison Whitaker, Norman Bearon, John Kelly, Haydn Thompson, John Green, Linda Green, Margaret Nicholson, Carol Birchmore, Graham Rollinson

Meeting Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Apologies: Howard Hartey (twice), Gary Young (although his clogs were present), Keith Taylor, Tony Dann, Dave Bennett

The minutes of the 2001 AGM were read out and accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- Norman had discovered that the red dye runs when wet – therefore dying is out!
- Jim had not followed up the Commonwealth Games. However, Peter thought that Manchester MM had sent a strong letter to the organisers about the lack of Morris in the cultural festival that ran alongside the games.
- Newspaper ads were not taken out for the workshops – they were far too expensive
- The AGM weekend had been moved from Suffolk to Cardiff at very short notice. This had been organised by Geoff with a lot of “on the ground” help from Jane (Penny) Sheard from City Clickers and Cobblers Awl. We need to send a huge thank you to her together with a suitable present. Also thank you Rumworth cards to Stephanie (the hall keeper) and the lady from The Cottage who'd organised breakfasts.
- Walter Hurst is back working in his mate's cobblers shop on Hallgate in Wigan.

Correspondence:

- We had received a letter of thanks from Sheila Mainwaring for appearing at Bridgnorth.
- A letter was circulated from Dave Bennett, the managing director of 'Garland Groffing & Morris Kit Manufacturing (UK) Ltd'
- Denise had met Antony Heywood from Helmond MM. Apparently we are still top of their list to invite to Holland in 2003 or 2004!

Conductor's Report:

Yet again this was short and to the point:

- We've been working on Boatman's and would probably have danced it out over the weekend if it hadn't been for Tony's illness. But we had danced out Garland Two again.
- It was good to see Gary at Bridgnorth
- It was good that Graham was able to come, even though he was suffering with cold
- We'd received lots of compliments at Bridgnorth
- We'd even received compliments from Earlsdon!
- We're still better than most of the crap out there!
- The musicians are doing a cracking job

Treasurer's Report:

The funds currently stand at:

Bank	£857.08
Cash in hand	£45.79
Outstanding cheques	(£70.21)
Total	£832.66

Election of Officers:

John Kelly was officially appointed as auditor.

As usual there were no one was stupid enough to stand for the posts of treasurer and secretary therefore the present incumbents were re-elected: Norman Bearon – treasurer, Peter Bearon – minutes secretary.

Rumworth the Future

Trying to summarise the discussions – I hope this is a fair summary:

- Norman had asked for this item to be put on the agenda as he felt it was time to review the way we had been working since we went over to the present regime a few years ago. In particular he felt that we were on a knife-edge with us struggling if we had one person being injured.
- Dave (by e-mail) felt that if we were to finish we should go out on a high point, but that we had still given a very good impression at Bridgnorth as the style, atmosphere, and impressiveness was still there. In his view there is still a few years left in the side.
- Jim felt that we need to bear in mind that we will have to finish at some point and we should therefore review the situation each year
- Geoff felt that although, inevitably, we may not be as good as we once were, he is still proud to put the kit on, and that it will be time to finish when this is no longer the case
- Tony had sent a letter. He said that he had had chance to compare us to other teams and thinks that it is difficult to find another team to match us. In particular Sunday at Bridgnorth was good, Roy Smith (the leader of Leyland) was very complimentary about us, we have years of experience amongst the dancers and we have very good support from our musicians. He was in no doubt that we should continue
- It was generally felt that we need to be more careful about the temporal and spatial dancing requirements when we are booked
- There was some discussion as to the format of our practices. The weekends out of season had not always been successful. It is a long way to come for Pete & Graham. It was thought that when we go away for a weekend we need to build in a practice for an hour or so on the Saturday morning before we go out in public. The Abram system of only practising immediately before an event was mooted, but it was thought that this would not work because we would still end up with only the people who come on Thursday nights, and on any particular dates people might not be able to make it
- One way round the problem of being short of dancers if someone drops out, is to have more dancers who can move around different positions
- Over the weekend it had helped that Geoff had dropped into the set for some dances
- John K thought that it would be useful to have copies of the video that Trevor made for all dancers to have as a revision aid! [we need to locate the video first – Linda thinks she might have it]
- There was some discussion as to whether we should or shouldn't do festivals. It was felt that we need to do a mixture of festivals and our own events as we had done this year to avoid the possibility of our becoming too insular. It is good to mix with other teams.

Decisions:

- We keep going
- We should be more judicious (and realistic) about what we do
- If anyone feels they can't carry on they shouldn't feel that there is pressure on them to continue
- We should try and balance the programme between festivals and our own events
- There will be a standing AGM agenda item entitled 'Review of Rumworth'

Programme for the Coming Year:

Linda and John had met two folk dancers from Paderborn at Bromyard FF. It was decided that they should correspond with them to see whether there is potential in the future for an exchange with the team.

We had been invited verbally to Fleetwood Folk Festival 2003. No one seemed to be keen on doing this festival.

Chippenham Folk Festival has invited us again, and this would be the 25th year since our first visit there. Bampton have also invited us down for the Bank Holiday Monday evening the same weekend.

The Dorset Buttons are having a weekend (the same weekend as Chippenham) where they are heading north to dance in the North West. They had approached both Geoff and Peter to ask for Rumworth's assistance and hoped to be able to dance with local teams. After some discussion it was decided that we should go to Chippenham FF & Bampton, but arrange a social (not a dance out) for the Buttons on the Thursday evening when they arrive. Graham said that he would need to consider which event he would attend as he had conflicting loyalties.

Peter suggested Sowerby Bridge Rushcart at the beginning of September. The problem with this is the demands that it puts on the musicians.

Carol said that she had a friend with a B&B in Matlock – could we arrange the AGM weekend in that area? This was thought to be a good idea. It is near enough to go over to arrange dance sites etc.

It was assumed that Horwich's 'Day for St George' would be on the weekend after Easter.

Therefore the proposed programme for 2002/2003 is:

7 December Christmas party at either John & Linda's, Carol's or Haydn's house (possibly with a dance during the afternoon)

17 January	Meal
26 April	Day for St George, Horwich [date to be checked]
27 April	Practice (in the morning)
24/25 May	Chippenham Folk Festival
26 May	Bampton
20/21 September	Weekend and AGM in Matlock

In addition to these dates practices will continue on third Thursdays.

Kit:

The garlands need ghrophing – Jim offered to do this

Jim had found some cord trousers from M&S. He wondered about the possibility of cutting them down for use as breeches. It was decided that this particular pair were not a good enough match, but that the idea was good. Jim & Alison to get together to see if they can find a better match.

Music:

Nothing much to report. They were all playing at the ceilidh - honest! Margaret is still doing a great job, especially the impressive echo at Bridgnorth.

Any Other Business:

- It was decided that it would be a good idea to put together a 'history of the team'. Haydn volunteered to start putting something together
- West Lancs EFDSS are putting on a ceilidh. Norman will arrange to put our leaflets out at it.
- Geoff has decided that if we do a workshop (we have been asked to do one at Chippenham), we should teach the Polka Dance, and how to dance it in the Rumworth style.

Annual Awards:

Wally of the Year

Nominations: Margaret for stopping John panicking (1 vote)
Norman for climbing over a locked gate to get to a toilet, only to find it was open (everyone else)

Norman was duly elected the Wally of the Year

Panic Monitor

Nominations: Margaret for sending a telephone message at Bridgnorth saying 'I am panicking' (11 votes)
Margaret for panicking when Joe and her drum went missing just before performing at the Bridgnorth ceilidh (4 votes)
Jim for panicking about his hat (2 votes)

Margaret was duly elected Panic Monitor

John Kelly proposed two new posts:

Keeper of the Rumworth Ale – Jim for leaving his bottle of Rumworth Mild behind

Disorientation monitor – Geoff for telling Norman to turn right instead of left while navigating him (followed by Joe) through Splott, necessitating two large, Rumworth-filled cars to do a 180° turn in a narrow street. By definition this award is always missing. [Subsequent to the meeting it was decided that this award should be passed on as and when appropriate. It was passed on to Steve only an hour or so later when he got lost getting to the lunchtime pub]

Meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

Programme for coming year in one easily pinned up piece of paper:

Thursday October 17 th	Practice
Thursday November 21 st	Practice
Saturday December 7 th	Christmas party at John & Linda's or Carol's or Haydn's with possible dance out during the afternoon [organisers J&L or Carol or Haydn!]
Thursday December 19 th	Practice
2003	
Thursday January 16 th	Practice
Friday January 17 th	Meal [organiser Peter?]
Thursday February 21 st	Practice
Thursday March 20 th	Practice
Thursday April 17 th	No Practice – Maundy Thursday [certain members of the team will be out raising funds for another team!]
Saturday April 26 th	Day for St George, Horwich [organiser Norman]
Sunday April 27 th	Practice (in the morning)
Thursday May 15 th	Practice
Thursday May 22 nd	Social with Dorset Buttons [volunteers to organise?]
Friday May 23 rd	
Saturday May 24 th	Chippenham Folk Festival [organiser Geoff]
Sunday May 25 th	
Monday May 26 th	Bampton [organiser Tony]
Thursday June 19 th	Practice
Thursday July 17 th	Practice
Thursday September 18 th	Practice
Friday September 19 th	
Saturday September 20 th	Weekend and AGM in Matlock
Sunday September 21 st	[organiser: Carol]

Peter Bearon
26 September 2002



The Rumworth Morris of Bolton - Accounts 2001/2002

INCOME

Subscriptions	360.00
Horwich	32.00
	<u>392.00</u>

EXPENDITURE

Horwich	30.00
Lancashire Folk	10.00
Mt. Carmel room hire	5.00
Bolton Hospice	10.00
Deane PCC (Hall hire)	146.00
Advertising	27.38
Drum Strap	84.00
Open Morris	24.00
Treasurer Expenses	8.16
Secretary Expenses	26.21

370.75

Profit / Loss on year	21.25
Balance Brought Forward	811.41
Carried Forward	<u>832.66</u>

Bank	857.08
Cash in hand	45.79
Uncleared cheques	-70.21
	<u>832.66</u>

Accounts prepared by:.....

date:.....

Audited by:.....

date:.....