

**Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting of The Rumworth Morris of Bolton
held at 14 Church Street, Westhoughton on Sunday 18th September 2016**

Meeting opened 10:35

Those present: Geoff Hughes (chairman), Peter Bearon, Alison Whitaker, Ian Lomas, Jameson Wooders, Tony Dann, Andrew White, Steve Armitage, John Green, Linda Green, John Fox, Derek Wood, Andrew Kennedy, Emma Wooders, Pete Young, Robin Madge, Jeff Dent, Haydn Thompson

Apologies: Jim Fox, Gary Young, Anne Rawcliffe, Keith Taylor, Phil Trewinnard

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated shortly after the meeting. They were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- Peter went through the to-do list from the last AGM. Outstanding items were:
 - Steve had not asked Elaine if she could make some new Holme Chapel Mollies
 - Peter and Tony still need to check if they have any of the old committee minutes
 - Andrew W has still to pass the article on archiving on to Geoff, but part two of the article has only just been released
 - We've gained one new member from Sheffield – Mike Adamson
 - Brian from John of Gaunt has joined Wrigley Head
 - John F has produced some new practice garlands
 - Jeff Dent still needs to return the London practice kit (this will be done at the next Burton practice)
 - Pete Y reported that the business cards that he was going to arrange are no longer available
 - Geoff hasn't asked for any help yet on the archives, but will do as and when necessary
 - The on-line form for signing up for practices/emailing Geoff is sort of working
 - Musicians are sometimes letting Geoff know if anyone is available for practice
 - Ian has still to take over charge of the Posh Books from Andrew W

Correspondence:

- We had received two 40th birthday cards from Rivington & Magrat and Jo
- The MP for Bolton South East, Yasmin Qureshi, had tweeted congratulations to Rumworth Morris [full tweet said "Congratulations to Rumworth Morris, celebrating 40 years of dancing by performing all day in Bolton town centre today, with @RivingtonMorris"]

Conductor's Report:

- The conductor read out his report which can be found on page 7 of these minutes

Treasurer's Report:

- The treasurer circulated the financial statement which can found on page 8 of these minutes
- We made a profit of £134.50 during the year
- Jeff Dent queried why we didn't provide the previous night's buffet for free as we could have afforded it. This had been discussed at a Thursday night practice when it was decided to heavily subsidise, but not completely provide for free in case a lot of people wanted to attend
- Thanks to John Kelly for auditing the accounts

Election of Officers:

- This is a third year, so Geoff was re-elected as conductor
- Alison will remain treasurer and in the absence of other volunteers, Peter will remain as minutes' secretary

Review of Rumworth:

- Linda & John have retired and will become country members
- Peter had said that he had considered retiring at the end of the coming year. However, after a discussion with Pete Y, he now thought it would be good if the team could dance at Chippenham Folk Festival 2018. This would be 40 years since we first danced out. If we did this, he would stay on as a musician until then
- It was generally felt that dancing at Chippenham 2018 would be good thing to aim for
- It would still be good to get some more new members
- Individuals should not feel guilty if they have to give up
- Geoff still wants to get the new dance out

Kit:

- Thanks to John F for fettling the practice garlands
- We are short of 1 or 2 Royton Mollies
- The most pressing need is still the Holme Chapel mollies. However, Geoff pointed out that from outside they still look fine because it is the bit that is held that is worn. Steve will investigate to see if any of Elaine's crafty friends would be able to produce some new ones
- Geoff pointed out that there is now a lot of variation in the colour of the breeches
- Andrew K's sashes are too short. Andrew & Alison will look at whether he can get a longer sash. His current sashes may be suitable for Mike
- Geoff reminded everyone that the front of the hats should be 2 inches higher than the back. Everyone to take hats to the next Burton practice
- Any spare kit should also be taken to Burton

Music:

- We will miss John & Linda and we hope they enjoy their travels
- It was thought that it is now OK for dancers to step into the band wearing dancing kit
- Andrew K may be playing in the band more often. It would be best if he joined the music at practices some of the time
- Andy Wooles has asked whether we can send him the music so that he can join the band if he is available

Publicity:

- We had had some good publicity following last year's Bolton tour
- Bob West took a lot of photos yesterday
- We need to work on the Facebook page. Everyone should send items to put on the page
- It was thought that we should make the Facebook page a Facebook group so that other people can put things on directly without having to send everything to Derek
- There is a Celebrating Northwest Morris Facebook group. This might be useful to put information on to let people know that we still exist
- It was thought that we should have an article about Rumworth's 40th anniversary for the Morris Federation magazine (FedExtra). As we have just missed a deadline, we have a three months to produce this

Archives:

- This was discussed earlier in the meeting

▪ **Programme for the Coming Year:**

- During the meeting Geoff had circulated a list for everyone to indicate which weekends they were not available. This meant that he could immediately see which weekends we could possibly have a team
- We are not able to do any of the following events:
 - Horwich Day for St George (22nd April) – standing invite
 - Oyster Morris w/e (Sat 29th April to Monday 1st May) - invited
 - JMO National Day of Dance in Leicester (13th May)
 - Moulton (20th/21st May) – standing invite
 - Ossett Beer Cart (3rd/4th June)
 - Rivington 40th celebrations (24th/25th June) – invited
 - Britannia Coconut dancers (weekend of 1st July)
 - Whitworth Rushcart (3rd September) – standing invite
- We have possible teams for the following events
 - National Morris w/e in Evesham (16th to 18th June)
 - Whitby Folk Festival (Saturday 19th to Friday 25th August) – invited this year; hopefully this still stands for 2017
 - Lancashire event at the Whitaker Museum, Rossendale (8th/9th July)
- Other dates for which we had a possible team were:
 - 15th July (a full team)
 - 23rd/24th September. This is expected to be the Morris Fed w/e, but the venue won't be known until after their AGM
- It was decided that the programme for next year would be:
 - 16th to 18th June National Morris w/e in Evesham (Jeff Dent to organise)
 - 15th July w/e We need to find somewhere to go (Derek to organise – if this is the Buxton w/e Haydn will organise)
 - Whitby week We aim to do part of the week as we are not strong enough to do the whole thing. Geoff to put out a sheet to show who is available on which days. We would want to do some workshops (Mike was volunteered to organise this in his absence)
 - 23rd/24th September Morris Fed w/e if possible (Mike to organise this as well), otherwise in Bolton (organiser to be decided). Weekend will include our AGM.
- All dates are fixed; events may change if we cannot get the appropriate invitations
- We have already fixed one weekend practice on 19th/20th November in Burton. After consulting diaries, the only other possible weekend for a practice is 8th/9th April. This will be in Burton if Brook House is available. If it is not, we will look at the possibility of having the practice in Sheffield.
- Twice monthly practices will continue on 1st and 3rd Thursdays in Platt Bridge
- Everyone is encouraged to use the signup sheets for the practices

Any Other Business:

- John & Linda asked Alison to convert them to country members

Annual Awards:**Panic Monitor**

Nominations: No nomination so it remains with Peter

Disorientation monitor

Nominations: No nomination so it remains with Robin

Wally of the Year

Nominations: No nomination so it remains with Haydn

- Because no-one can remember events worthy of a nomination by the time we reach the AGM, Geoff will set up a page in the members' website so that nominations can be submitted at the time

Meeting closed at 12:55

Thanks were given to Peter & Alison for hosting the AGM.

To do list:

Peter/Tony – check to see if they have the committee minutes

Andrew W – pass article re archiving to Geoff

Jeff – return the London practice kit to the north at Burton practice

Ian – look after Posh Books

Steve – ask Elaine if her crafty friends could make Holme Chapel mollies

Andrew K/Alison – sort out longer sashes

All – spare kit to Burton weekend

All dancers – hats to Burton

Peter – send music to Andy Wooles

All – send suitable material to Derek for Facebook page

Derek – look into setting up a Facebook group

Not sure who – article on 40th for FedExtra

All – assist Geoff with the archives as required

Jeff – look into getting invitation for Evesham w/e

Derek – organise whatever we decide for 15th July w/e (unless Buxton in which case Haydn to organise)

All - come up with ideas for 15th July w/e

Mike – see if we can get an invitation to Whitby week (part of)

Mike – see if we can go to Morris Fed w/e depending on date and venue (otherwise someone to organise a Bolton w/e)

Andrew K – book Burton for a practice w/e in April (if not available, Derek/Mike book venue in Sheffield)

All – let Geoff know if they cannot make a practice either by emailing him or filling in the on-line form

Geoff – set up web page for annual award nominations

Forthcoming dates

2016

**Saturday November 19th
Sunday November 20th**

**| Practice w/e
| Burton**

2017

**Saturday April 8th
Sunday April 9th**

**| Practice w/e
| Burton (subject to availability)**



The following dates are fixed – the events might change

**Saturday June 17th
Sunday June 18th**

**| National Morris w/e, Evesham
| (organiser – Jeff)**

**Saturday July 15th
Sunday July 16th**

**| Venue to be decided
| (organiser in first instance - Derek)**

**Saturday August 19th
Friday August 25th**

**| Whitby Folk Week (part of – exact dates to be decided)
| (organiser – Mike)**

**Saturday September 23rd
Sunday September 24th**

**| Morris Fed w/e or Bolton
| (organiser – see Mike, if Morris Fed w/e)**

2018

**Fri 25th May to
Monday 28th May**

**| Chippenham Folk Festival
| & possibly Bampton**

Practices

Practices

*1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month
(If you are not able to attend please fill in the sheet on the
members' website or email Geoff)*

Conductor's Report 2016

Our 40th year (although it's actually only our 38th year of dancing in public) has been very enjoyable. Todmorden Festival was a good first outing early in the season and although there were one or two minor mistakes over the weekend we still put on an impressive display and received a number of compliments, a potential festival invitation and a request to use one of our figures in a dance. I'm sorry that I had to miss what was from all accounts an excellent weekend in Windsor. At least I won't need to worry about losing my whistle as there seem to be plenty of replacements available. Beverley Festival was a superb weekend with great dancing sites and good teams to watch and socialise with. Once again we received a huge number of compliments and on more than one occasion people came to a spot just to watch us (or at least, that's what they said!)

The day of dance to celebrate our 40th Anniversary was very successful and highly enjoyable. The dance sites were excellent and the programme was very relaxing. It was pleasing to dance our entire repertoire including every figure of Royton although that is not something I intend to repeat as it was quite knackered but it had to be done on this occasion. Our 2 guest teams, Rivington and Mersey MM both said how much they'd enjoyed the day and we certainly enjoyed having them with us. The whole event was rounded off with an enjoyable evening celebration and it was pleasing that some of our ex-members were able to join us.

When the team started forty years ago we set ourselves high standards. We spent 18 months practising our 2 dances before appearing in public for the first time. We now have 9 (potentially 10) dances and each one was practised for a long time before being allowed out in public. As I keep saying every year, we're better than the rest of the crap out there and that's in large part because our dances are better than most of the crap out there too. You only have to look at videos of other teams on the internet. You can find good dances and teams if you look long enough but there aren't that many.

With such an extensive repertoire of dances, each with their own variations of stepping and figures and with the increasing age of the team it's not surprising that we're not quite as good as we used to be. No matter how much practising we do there will always be occasional mistakes in performance, mostly through lapses of concentration. This year there have been more than usual "senior moments" but most audiences won't have noticed them as for the most part they were well covered. They are only normally noticeable to us (and me in particular) because of their rarity!

One other thing that has become more noticeable this year in particular is the problem of the length of dance spots. Dancing consecutive dances is becoming harder and even turn and turn about with other teams can be difficult when their dances are shorter than ours. I've recently proposed to teams we share a spot with that we split the length of the spot into equal amounts and that we dance for that length of time in total regardless of how many dances it actually is. So, for example, a 30 minute spot with 2 other teams would mean that we would dance twice. I thought that the Beverley Festival arrangements were very sensible i.e. you don't need to keep dancing all the time in a 45 minute spot unless you want to - just make sure that spread the dancing throughout the programmed time slot.

We've managed a full set at quite a number of the Thursday practices which has helped a lot and the Burton weekend has also been very beneficial, not just in terms of the dancing but also from the social side of things which has always been one of the good things about Rumworth.

Our latest recruit, Mike, is making good progress and travelling over from Sheffield twice a month shows how keen and committed he is. I hope that he gets the chance to dance out next year, which I hope will be as enjoyable as 2016.

Rumworth Morris
Accounts 2015/2016

Income	2015/16	2014/15	Expenditure	2015/16	2014/15
Item	£ p	£ p	Item	£ p	£ p
Subs (15 x £35 + 2 x £10 + 1 x £40) (NB: 2 further subs paid by BACS after accounts closed)	585.00	625.00	Web domain	39.96	51.96
Joining fee	2.00	0.00	Morris Federation (Open Morris)	35.00	35.00
Cash surplus from Burton weekends	11.85	15.20	Hire of Hall (Holy Family)	342.50	245.00
From A Whitaker (deposit for Brook House)	0.00	20.00	Officers Expenses (postage)	1.89	1.89
Return of deposit for Brook House	0.00	20.00	Kit	0.00	62.40
Donation from K Taylor	0.00	5.00	Burton catering expenses	0.00	24.21
From John Fox – Ely Camping	0.00	8.00	Bolt for toilet door (Burton) – John Fox	0.00	4.03
From J Dent – Ely ticket	0.00	34.00	Deposit for Brook House – Feb 2015	0.00	20.00
Collections (Bolton Collection)	5.00	0.00	A Whitaker (deposit for Brook House)	0.00	20.00
			Ely Folk Festival	0.00	42.00
			Westhoughton Conservative Club bond	50.00	0.00
Total Income	603.85	727.20	Total Expenditure	469.35	506.49
Profit/loss on year	134.50	220.71	Bank statement 29.08.2016	944.94	
Balance brought forward	850.34		Less unrepresented cheque	(50.00)	
Carried forward	984.84		Cash in hand	89.90	
			Total	984.84	850.34

Accounts prepared by: Alison Whitaker Date: 31.08.2016

Audited by:  Date: 12. SEPT. 16