

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of The Rumworth Morris of Bolton held at the Old English Gentleman, Hull on Sunday 24th September 2017

Meeting opened 10:05

Those present: Geoff Hughes (chairman), Peter Bearon, Alison Whitaker, Ian Lomas, Jameson Wooders, Andrew White, Steve Armitage, Derek Wood, Andrew Kennedy, Emma Wooders, Jeff Dent, Haydn Thompson, Mike Adamson

Apologies: Tony Dann, John Fox, Robin Madge, Anne Rawcliffe, Pete Young, Gary Young

The minutes of the 2016 AGM had been circulated shortly after the meeting. They were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- Geoff went through the to-do list from the last AGM:
 - Ian now has the Posh Books
 - Derek has set up the Facebook group
 - Jameson did an article for the FedExtra magazine
 - Derek & Mike organised a weekend in Sheffield for the 15th July w/e
 - Mike got us an invitation to Whitby which we did for the whole week
 - We did the Morris Fed Day of Dance in Hull (yesterday)
 - Steve arranged for Elaine to make up the Holme Chapel mollies
 - The web page was set up for nominations of annual awards

Correspondence:

- John Fox had sent a resignation email around the team
- Haydn had written to Geoff to say that he was hanging up his clogs
- Andrew Kennedy had also written to Geoff to say that he was hanging up his clogs, but that he would like to become one of the musicians
- A massive thank you was given to all three

Conductor's Report:

- The conductor read out his report which is attached below

Treasurer's Report:

- The treasurer circulated the financial statement which is attached below
- Westhoughton Conservative Club had never cashed the cheque given as deposit for the room for the 40th birthday function
- We made a small loss of £68.30 during the year
- Retiring members can pay £10 per year to remain as country members
- Thanks to John Kelly for auditing the accounts

Review of Rumworth:

- We need 11 or 12 active dancers to remain viable as a dance team so we definitely need new members if we are to continue
- The feeling of the meeting was that we should continue for at least another year and try and recruit some new members
- Realistically we are no longer a team that is based in the north west as we already have a number of members living in the south and Sheffield
- The way forward was felt to be to try and run some practices/workshops in other areas of the country

- The Inter Varsity Folk Dance Festival (IVFDF) is being held in Sheffield on the weekend of 23rd to 25th February. Mike and Derek will see if we can get an invite to run a workshop at it
- Mike and Derek will also sound out dancers that they know from other teams to see when might be good times and places to have practices/workshops. These could be on weekdays or at weekends
- Derek will try a targeted Facebook ad aimed at recruiting new members from the Sheffield area

Election of Officers:

- Alison will remain treasurer and in the absence of other volunteers, Peter will remain as minutes' secretary

Kit:

- If we do manage to get any new dancers and musicians they will need new kit
- All to check if they have any usable spare bits and pieces, especially the retiring dancing members
- Alison will make an inventory of all the kit she has
- Andrew K had found a bag containing 12 sets of practice Royton mollies & ropes giving a full set of practice kit
- Official musicians should be dressed in black and white, but it is now accepted that dancers can join in the music in dancing kit if appropriate
- Practice kit can be provided for Sheffield practices if required
- The kit suitcase has seen better days! Derek has a suitcase on wheels that can be used

Music:

- Peter said that he will stay on playing for another year
- Alison pointed out that any decision she makes about continuing to play the drum will be dictated by the state of her elbows rather than whether Peter continues or not
- Fran Wood has said that she would be interested in playing the side drum. Alison & Peter will try and locate the spare drum which may be living in their loft
- Melanie Barber has also expressed an interest in playing the bass drum
- The bass drum is currently residing in Sheffield

Publicity:

- Geoff had done a temporary change to the publicity leaflet so that it could be handed out at Whitby. It now says that practices are held across the country. This could do with changing in the proper leaflet which Linda created. Linda to be asked to make the changes

Archives:

- Geoff has started to transfer old VHS film to the website
- As said at the last AGM he will ask for help if he needs it
- All the notations of the dances are on the members website. Different versions have been produced for workshops
- Mike said that we can register the notations with the Morris Federation. These can be marked as private so that they cannot be accessed by others at this stage
- If anyone has anything that should go on the archive site, please let Geoff know

Programme for the Coming Year:

- Betty Lupton's had invited us to their day of dance. We are not in a position to accept this
- It was thought that we should have a Rumworth weekend in September, at which we should hopefully be able to dance out. This will be on 29th/30th September.
- Given that we do not have a viable dancing team at the moment, we cannot set a programme for the coming year. Invites will be considered as and when we receive them
- Until we know whether we have any new members, we cannot set weekend practices. However, we do not need the whole team for a weekend practice
- It was thought that we should have a weekend for everyone to get together. This will be 7th/8th April – probably in Sheffield
- Derek & Mike will try and organise a social weekend in Sheffield as soon as possible to try and attract new members
- Practices to be arranged in Sheffield (or anywhere else) as and when we have some potential new members. These can be weekdays or weekends as appropriate.
- At least until Christmas, we will continue to have a practice for northern members in Platt Bridge, but will aim for one practice a month. Two practices a month will be left on the web-site. Everyone should now indicate their availability as Yes or No, rather than the previous system where Yes was the presumption. Geoff will then decide which Thursdays are worthwhile meeting. **[subsequent to the meeting, the two dates a month will now be 2nd and 4th Thursdays]**

Any Other Business:

- If we do manage to get some new members, we may need to spend more on practice halls, so it was agreed to keep subs as they are even though we have a healthy surplus
- We will stay with the Morris Federation
- Thanks were given to Ben for playing at Whitby

Annual Awards:

Panic Monitor

Nominations: Tony for panicking at Horwich that Andrew White wasn't ready to dance when he was standing immediately behind him

Nominated on the web page by Peter

All in favour so Tony duly elected Panic Monitor

Disorientation Monitor

Nominations: Jeff Dent for going walkabout in Garland Number 2 at Whitby

Nominated: Emma Seconded: Jeff!

All in favour so Jeff was duly elected Disorientation Monitor

Wally of the Year

Nominations: No nomination so it remains with Haydn

Superior Accommodation Award

This rarely given award was given to Andrew Kennedy for arranging superior accommodation for the AGM, together with sandwiches and chips

Meeting closed at 12:35

Conductor's Report 2017

2017, despite some problems, was a successful and enjoyable year for the team. The Day for St George in Horwich was actually better than expected and gave Mike the opportunity to make his first appearance as a Rumworth dancer. Unfortunately he wasn't able to back this up in Suffolk as he'd damaged a wrist doing some other type of Morris. He missed an excellent weekend where we were able to dance for our own enjoyment without the pressure of timetabled dance spots with other teams. Many thanks to Pete and Sue for the organisation and hospitality.

Another highly enjoyable and excellently organised weekend was the trip to foreign parts in Sheffield. Thanks are due to Derek and his helpers for putting on a superb weekend. The only downside was the subsequent injury to Tony's knee which kept him out of the rest of the season.

As a result of Tony's injury and Pete Young's new job which kept them both from attending Whitby Folk Week I was worried that we might struggle to fulfil our commitments with a reduced team. However, we survived and actually put on a good show despite more than the usual number of small mistakes. Not up to our usual standard but good under the circumstances. We were able to dance all of our repertoire except No2 Polka. The dancing when it mattered for the showcases and the LNE was excellent and drew many compliments. The workshop was very successful although there was not much sign of potential members. I'd like to congratulate Mike for learning the dances so quickly and for doing them so well after such a short time with the team. I'd also like to thank all the musicians for the excellent music during the week.

Following our return from Whitby I've recently been finding and converting old VHS recordings of the team made over the years as well as looking at more recent recordings to put on the Team Archive website. It's interesting to see that although there have been many changes in personnel over the years the dances are still very much the same with only a few minor changes. The dances are no longer performed as slickly as they used to be and inevitably as time passes Rumworth are no longer as good as they used to be but over all I still think we're better than most, if not all, and we still faithfully uphold our stated aims of performing traditional NW Morris as closely as possible to traditional style. Someone has to do it!

3 members of the team have decided that now is the time to retire from active service so I'd like to express my thanks to John, Andrew and Haydn for what they've given to the team over the years – many years in Haydn's case. Hopefully this isn't the last we'll see of them – I believe that Andrew may well continue as a musician.

This is the point in my report when I usually say what my plans are for next season. I think it makes sense to leave that until we have decided what the future of the team is later in the meeting but I'm hopeful that Rumworth's dances will still be performed for many years to come and if at all possible by Rumworth.

Rumworth Morris
Accounts 2016/2017

Income	2016/17	2015/16	Expenditure	2016/17	2015/16
Item	£ p	£ p	Item	£ p	£ p
Subs (18 x £35 + 4 x £10) (incl 2 from previous year)	670.00	585.00	Web domain	51.96	39.96
Joining fee	1.00	2.00	Morris Federation	35.00	35.00
Cash surplus from Burton weekends	0.00	11.85	Hire of Hall (Holy Family)	420.00	342.50
Return of deposit for Brook House	20.00	0.00	Officers Expenses (postage & stationery)	2.78	1.89
Collections (Sheffield)	3.00	5.00	Kit (ties, garland tape, mollies)	83.66	0.00
Westhoughton Conservative Club Bond Cheque not cashed	50.00	0.00	Deposit for Brook House – Nov 2016	20.00	0.00
40 th Anniversary buffet	225.00	0.00	Westhoughton Conservative Club bond	0.00	50.00
			40 th Anniversary catering	360.00	0.00
			40 th Anniversary cake	25.00	0.00
			40 th Anniversary quiz prizes	20.98	0.00
			Photocopying for Whitby workshop	10.00	0.00
Total Income	969.00	603.85	Total Expenditure	1029.38	469.35
Profit/loss on year	(60.38)	134.50	Bank statement 29.05.2017	1135.32	
Balance brought forward	984.84		Less unrepresented cheque	(260.00)	
Carried forward	924.46		Cash in hand	49.14	
			Total	924.46	984.84

Accounts prepared by: Alison Whitaker Date: 04.09.2017

Audited by:

 (John Keady) Date: 17.9.17

Because Peter was heading off on holiday the day after the meeting, Steve agreed to provide some interim minutes so that those not able to attend knew the outcome. Steve's interim minutes are attached below. These were circulated on Sunday 24th September 2017

Steve's interim minutes - Where the two sets of minutes differ, make your own mind up.

Hello All,

I agreed to inform members of the important salient points from this year's meeting by email because Peter is going on holiday imminently so the official minutes won't be written and published for some weeks hence.

So here goes -

The big news is that The Rumworth Morris is still currently a viable team - but only just!

Three members have tendered their resignations (in no particular order) -

John Fox - see his email from a couple of weeks ago.

And dancers Haydn Thompson and Andrew Kennedy, although Andrew hopes to continue as a member playing in the band.

Alison gave the Treasurer's report - the financial statement had now been audited and was unchanged from that previously circulated. There had been a small loss on the year. Subscriptions for the forthcoming year would be dependent upon the future of the team as a result of the discussion that followed.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the future way forward. The unanimous feeling amongst those present at an early point was that Rumworth should continue, but the question was how and in what form? Especially after the losses in members - see above. Geoff stated that regular local Northwest practices were not now really viable and it was agreed that Rumworth should drop the pretence of being based in Bolton and adopt a more Nation wide profile.

The priority was now to attract new dancing members and practices may be held at locations that are more suitable e.g. Sheffield. Paradoxically, if new members are attracted, then more frequent practices become a necessity.

A suggestion was made that IVFDF should be approached to hold a Rumworth dance workshop at the forthcoming meeting at Sheffield next February. **Mike is to investigate a possible IVFDF contact.**

Mike and Derek are to proposition young(ish) men in the Sheffield area!!

Derek agreed to post a Facebook advert for new members that concentrates recipients only in the Sheffield area.

Music

It was clarified that dancing members in kit are welcome to join the band in performance. However, it was stressed that the regular band members should continue to present a uniform and smart image.

Peter Bearon has deferred his intention, expressed earlier, to resign in the immediate future if the team continues in a 'workshop' and practice mode, especially given its current fragile condition, for another year at least.

Alison declared an intention to continue drumming for the present, good health permitting, and that any decision she makes in the future would not be linked to Peter's plans.

Fran (Derek's wife) has expressed an interest in playing drum (bass or side.)

Officers

Treasurer - Alison is happy to continue.

Minutes secretary - Peter is happy to continue.

Kit

There was a discussion on a possible pool of kit items to help future new members and possible financial help. Retiring members should contribute hand-me-downs.

Dancing kit

Andrew K had recently found extra practice mollies and ropes at home. Steve declared that there was now enough kit for a completely separate practice set which could be based at whatever location was decided upon. The current kit suitcase was now jiggered.

Derek is to donate a wheeled suitcase as a replacement.

Programme

A verbal invitation from Betty Lupton's Ladle Laikers to their DOD had been received at Whitby. The date clashed with other commitments for some members and so it would be declined when the written invitation arrives.

It was thought inadvisable to commit to any events in 2018 given the current team numbers and fitness. However, the following dates were decided upon for a workshop and practice weekends.

IVFDF workshop only - 24/25 February.

Practice weekend in Sheffield - 7/8 April - **Derek to organise a venue.**

Practice weekend - 29/30 September.

Regular practices

Based in Sheffield - frequency and venue to be decided.

Based in Platt Bridge - reduce frequency to 1 a month, depending on local member availability i.e. ad hoc.

Local Northern members to indicate Yes or No against dates on the team website.

I hope this all makes sense and sorry for the lack of brevity.

Cheers and best wishes,
Steve

To do list:

Mike/Derek – see if we can be invited to run a workshop at IVFDF - 24th/25th February

Mike/Derek (& anyone else?) – sound out potential new recruits and then arrange weekday or weekend practices at times when they may be available

Mike/Derek – arrange a social weekend for possible recruits

Mike/Derek (& anyone else) – arrange suitable practices for new members if we gain any

Mike/Derek (or someone else?) – arrange practice weekend probably in Sheffield – 7th/8th April

Derek – Targeted Facebook ad

All (including ex-members) – see what re-usable kit is available

Alison – make up a kit inventory

Derek – provided new (well, old actually) kit suitcase

Alison/Peter – look for the spare side drum

Linda – to be asked to update publicity leaflet

All – forward any suitable archive material to Geoff

Geoff – ask for help with archive site if required

Geoff – consider whether to register notations with Morris Federation (to be marked as private)

Geoff – update members site for practice sign up sheets

Forthcoming dates

2017

***Social weekend for possible new members in Sheffield
(date and venue(s) to be decided)***

2018

***Saturday February 24th
or Sunday February 25th***

***| IVFDF Workshop
| Sheffield (to be confirmed)***

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

***| Practice w/e & social
| Sheffield (to be confirmed)***

***Saturday September 29th
Sunday September 30th***

***| Dance out if possible
| Venue to be confirmed***



Practices

Practices in Platt Bridge

*One of either the 2nd or 4th Thursdays of each month (at least for the rest of 2017)
All northern members to indicate availability (Yes or No) & Geoff will decide which date will be the practice*

Other practices

To be arranged according to availability of new members – possibly weekday or weekend