

MINSTER STRAYS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 31ST AUGUST 2004

1.1 APOLOGIES

Judith Campey; Chris; Tony & Linda; Sue;

2.1 SQUIRE'S THOUGHTS

Bob thanked everybody for contributing to a new side which had gelled well with no major complaints or grumbles being mentioned. He asked that any problems should be aired. Regarding the dancing, he felt great progress had been made and the dancing out had been very good with a well known repertoire established. He confirmed that the coming winter would be for practising and improving technique with special attention given to yells in the border dances! He suggested everyone take turns in no.1 position and also calling dances, which aids when learning dances (especially when preparing for the role of Squire).

Bob confirmed he would like to continue as Squire for another year. This was unanimously agreed.

2.2 FOREMAN'S THOUGHTS

Juliette reported that she had enjoyed the whole year with positive and supportive commitment from everybody and in particular that members took the trouble to report when they were unable to attend a practice/dance out. She had enjoyed seeing beginners having a good time and making good progress. She thanked the musicians for their uncomplaining devotion and stressed how much they were appreciated. She confirmed that she would like to teach more Wheatley and Oddington traditions. Work would also be done on dancing as a team with awareness of others and emphasis on stepping and style. She requested that a special effort be made to attend as many of the September practices as possible.

2.3 BAGMAN'S THOUGHTS

Gez confirmed a regular attendance of 14 members. 31 practices had taken place with 9 events and 13 dance-outs at pubs. He was particularly pleased that members had turned up to all the planned danceouts, whatever the weather, establishing the tradition that events would not be cancelled because of the weather. Over £650 had been spent on kit but the side had still managed to break even, despite failing to gain sponsorship from the Arts Council. This was not disastrous as the side had raised the money itself. He requested that members should give full attendance at bagtime and bring along diaries and no loose change!

He thanked - Stella for distributing publicity; Pete for setting up the website; Chris and the two Wendy's for their help in suggesting suitable halls; the whole team for the dance-outs at pubs; Bob and Janet for their contribution to the social side of the team.

2.4 MUSICIANS' THOUGHTS

Stella said they had enjoyed playing, although occasionally the repetition could be monotonous! She felt the musicians should concentrate on being cohesive as a group. She suggested the possibility of playing music during the interval at dance-outs.

Mick remarked that the weather had been an issue! Gez thanked all the musicians.

3.1 BAG ACCOUNTS

Gez reported on the accounts, a copy of which had been circulated. He confirmed the sum of £121.95 in the giro account and £10.96 in the bag. The side still owed Bob/Janet and Gez/Juliette but they chose to leave the money for present as a float.

3.2 NEXT YEAR'S SUBS

Gez confirmed that weekly subs were still the main source of income, with the yearly sub a small proportion. He proposed that the subs should remain at £10 annual sub and £1.50 weekly sub. This was seconded by Wendy Williamson.

3.3 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Squire and Foreman (Bob and Juliette) would stand for another year. Gez confirmed he would stand down as Bagman. He proposed that Wendy Williamson and Chris take on the role. This was seconded by Jude and unanimously agreed.

4.1 POLICY ON COLLECTING/PAYMENT FOR EVENTS

Gez reported that other sides set a standard fee. Juliette felt the side should not demand a large fee for smaller, charity events and Bob agreed. Juliette proposed that a fee of £50, for example, be charged for an event but this would be subject to the Bagman's discretion. This was unanimously agreed.

Wendy Williamson encouraged car sharing between members.

4.2 EVENTS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Gez expressed a desire to return to Old Malton and to dance at the Ryedale Folk Museum and Temple Newsome. Janet felt it would be good to do weekends away. Bob thought an occasional weekend dance-out during the winter would be good. Stella felt an occasional Monday off would be good and Gez said the side should not rely on one particular musician.

Mick felt processional dancing should be better prepared and voiced concern that relations should be closer between the York based sides. Gez agreed that in the first year it had been important not to encroach on other sides' territories but that in future there would hopefully be closer relations. Wendy Bostock requested that locations for dance-outs be balanced. Janet stressed that not all responsibilities

should be on the Bagman's shoulders but that other members should chase up contacts, with the Bagman coordinating.

4.3 ASPIRATIONS FOR KIT/EQUIPMENT

Waistcoats and leg bells having been established, Gez also proposed that musical equipment might be bought.

- Janet felt the kit was very good.
- **Shirts:** Bob raised the issue of varied white shirts and felt a unanimous style should be agreed – perhaps collarless and long sleeved?
- **Armbells:** Wendy Bostock proposed *no* armbells. It was agreed to make up a set and then take a decision.
- **Hankies:** Gez felt the white ones were good. Wendy Bostock raised the issue of hankies in a matching colour. Janet proposed a white hankie with a coloured border. Hankies with the side's logo were also suggested. Gez proposed that sample hankies be brought to a bagtime during October. This was unanimously agreed.
- **Tatter jackets:** it was agreed to discuss this during October.

4.4 VOTE ON LOGO FOR POLO/SWEATSHIRTS

Several designs were looked at – one was chosen to be taken forward after some slight modifications have been made.

5.1 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Juliette mentioned organising a weekend away.
- Wendy Bostock mentioned a weekend of dance at the beginning of February.
- Bob mentioned the 25th September dancing event at Pickering.

6.1 THANKS TO LAST YEAR'S OFFICERS

Gez expressed thanks to last year's officers and also the kit assemblers. Applause was given.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Signed

Date