

## Minster Strays AGM

02/09/2019 Thornton-le-Clay Village Hall

### Minutes

**Present:** Kirsty, Jo, Steve, Hazel, Gez, Brian, Jaynor, Terry, Ann, Cate, Sian, Wendy Williamson, Chris, Ania, Wendy Bostock, Ian, Juliette (17)

**Apologies:** Trish, Eleanor, John, Sabine, David, Nick (6)

**Before the meeting started Ian shared a comment from a previous member who had been upset by the confrontational nature of an AGM a few years ago and had subsequently decided to leave the team. He asked people to remember to be careful and considerate in the way they spoke at this meeting.**

**Minutes from AGM 2018:** were agreed (They had already been accepted at an ordinary practice)

**Matters arising:** Wendy W asked if officers had met to discuss travel expenses. Cate replied that they had met, but had agreed to keep expenses as they were. This currently remains at the discretion of the treasurer and the bag but can be up for discussion.

### Reports:

**Squire (Gez):** Gez reflected on events from the past year. He felt that we had done fewer events, but that maybe they had been better supported. He picked out the following as having been particularly enjoyable – a mild straw bear, a magical May day, Manchester (JMO) which was a good thing to support and a genuine pleasure to see so many different teams, Durham where the weather could have been more favourable but the atmosphere and dancing was excellent, Castle Howard both for Castle Howard Day and Country File. Gez stated that he was pleased to be the side asked to perform at Castle Howard for Howard Day, He commented on Country File stating that, despite the size and nature of the event this had worked well for us. He looked forward to Sowerby Bridge and Beamish still to come this year. He had also enjoyed some good pub dance outs. Gez stated that he had found it tricky being squire this year as physical problems have meant he has hardly danced and this had meant to him losing confidence in putting programmes together and in calling dances. He thanked the side for helping to be organised by looking at programmes and talking less experienced dancers through dances. He hopes to physically be fit enough to dance more this year, but is standing down as squire to enable him to learn all the dances with confidence. The side thanked Gez for his contribution this year.

**Foreman (Juliette):** Juliette reported that we currently had 30 dances in our repertoire. This dance season we had not learnt any new dances but had consolidated the dances that we already knew, and had re-introduced some “old” dances. Juliette stated that generally we put on a good show, we are beginning to interact with the audience more and be more aware of the quality of the overall performance that we give eg smiling, lines and coming off and on. She sympathised with the fact that people are very busy but asked people to remember that commitment to practice was still important so that we can dance as a cohesive team.

**Barker (Gez/Terry):** Terry had nothing new to add about this role. Gez said it was hard to combine barking, squiring and music but he was aware that everyone had pulled together to make events run smoothly.

**Publicity (David/ Terry):** Terry has left website/ facebook to others. He was unsure what the side wanted in terms of publicity from him. He had not been asked to provide flyers/ posters etc.

**Bagman (Brian):** Brian stated that he realised that he was fairly inexperienced when he took over as bagman but he feels that we've had a pretty good year overall. Events included Whittlesey, Slingsby (paid event), Liverpool ( a new events) JMO, Scarborough (enjoyable even though we had a small team). He said that we had taken on some events with fewer dancers which is sometimes difficult. Pub evenings had been positive particularly Stamford Bridge as a new venue. Country File at Castle Howard was successful even though organisation was a little lacking. Wendy B thanked Brian for pursuing refreshments and toilets at countryfile as Ebor had not received this! Brian repeated his intention to stand down as bagman but thanked the side for support over the past year.

**Treasurer (Cate):** Cate stated that we would look at figures in more detail when she presented accounts. In summary we have a healthy bank balance and can consider paying more travel expenses or subsidising a bigger event.

**Kit Officer (Wendy B):** Wendy stated that no money had been spent on kit this year but there may need to be some outlay soon as Kira and Ania do not have fleeces. She also said that she would try to update kit spreadsheet before she passed this on to new kit officer as this wasn't fully up to date. Juliette asked if we needed to get kit back from Nick (Absent until May) and Alison (absent indefinitely). It was agreed to allow Nick to keep kit as he has a definite return date and has expressed his intention to dance with us next summer. It was decided to ask Alison to return kit. Wendy B offered to do this.

**ACTION:** Wendy B ask for return of Alison's kit.

**ACTION:** Wendy B update kit list

**Music Co-ordinator (Terry/David):** Terry reported that we were blessed and lucky to have so many confident and competent musicians who sound brilliant playing together. But he stated that this sometimes reduces to 2 musicians as so many people want to dance so the music fluctuates between very good and only just there. Terry has been happy to help anyone who wants to practise particularly on a Wednesday night, and has looked at arrangements with Brian and drumming with Trish. Terry stated that we have a good variety of tunes that contrast well and he looks forward to playing next year. The tunes are not up to date on the website but he will leave this to someone with website competence to sort out. He sang an entire dance at countryfile before most of the team turned up!

**Statement of bag accounts (Cate):** See attachment. In summary

**Opening balance:** £2251.33

**Closing balance:** £2635.23 (Does not include £200 from countryfile)

Cate proposed leaving annual subs at £50, Gez seconded this. Juliette proposed reducing subs but the motion to leave subs at £50 was carried.

There was a discussion about travel subsidy. Ian suggested increasing the subsidy per person. Gez pointed out that £5 for a train ticket where a car of 4 would receive a £20 subsidy may sometimes not be the best way to subsidise travel. Ian also pointed out that there were hidden costs in car driving eg wear and tear and parking.

The following was proposed by Sian and seconded by Ian and was accepted unanimously.

**Proposal – Overall travel subsidy for the year should increase by approximately 100%. The way this should be spent should be flexible, event by event and decided by officers.**

**ACTION: Increase travel subsidies by 100% over year. All officers.**

**General business – Stamford Bridge Day of Dance (Raised by Juliette):** Juliette asked for the sides feelings on this. Gez was not inspired by Stamford Bridge as a dance venue and felt that we were being asked to organise something for the pub’s benefit. After much discussion the following was agreed.

- To suggest 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May
- To suggest asking 4/5 teams and looking for 3 or 4 dance spots (Terry/ Ian to look at dance spots)
- To try and combine with a ceilidh (In village hall)
- To ask publican to provide cheap buffet for tea
- Juliette to liaise with publican about the above and also find dates of carol singing.

**ACTIONS: Juliette to contact landlord. Terry/ Ian to investigate dance spots.**

#### **Election of officers:**

Gez said that although he was standing down as squire he felt he could take on distinct “jobs”. He wanted to update music book and get website up to date again. Ian asked if Terry would still support musicians musically and Terry agreed if there was a call for this.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Agreed</b>
<b>Squire</b>	<b>Wendy B</b>	<b>Cate</b>	<b>Ian</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Foreman</b>	<b>Juliette</b>	<b>Jo</b>	<b>Sian</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Barker</b>	<b>Gez</b>	<b>Cate</b>	<b>Ian</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bagman</b>	<b>Sian</b>	<b>Jo</b>	<b>Wendy B</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Cate</b>	<b>Sian</b>	<b>Brian</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Kit Officer</b>	<b>Kirsty</b>	<b>Hazel</b>	<b>Wendy W</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Music coordinator</b>	<b>Gez</b>	<b>Ian</b>	<b>Wendy W</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Gez</b>	<b>Wendy W</b>	<b>Ania</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

There was a brief discussion involving publicity. Ian stressed that social media could be an important way of reaching younger people. Gez said that his expertise lay in website not facebook etc. Juliette suggested that there was some way of linking posts on website to appear on facebook. Wendy suggested asking Alison to put permanent post on facebook directing to website.

Ania suggested having business cards to give out at events.

Ann raised whether it was ethical having one person hold 3 officers roles. Gez stated that the team had originally operated with 3 officers and more roles had been added to increase involvement. Brian stated that there were still 6 people acting as officers.

**ACTIONS: Gez to produce tune book, Gez to source business cards**

**Date next years AGM:** It was decided to talk about this in officers meeting. There were advantages to holding earlier in season and to keeping as first Monday in September.

**ACTION: Officers to call AGM at latest first Monday in September.**

Ian thanked all exiting and new officers.

Meeting closed at 21:38