

Ebor Morris Annual General Meeting 2020 Minutes – Updated after 2021 AGM

Virtual AGM, Monday 5th October 2020.

Due to COVID19 restrictions any necessary votes were held by email prior to 5th October.

- 1. Minutes of 2019 AGM - Actions & Matters Arising** – No matters arising, Minutes accepted.
- 2. Squire’s Report for 2020** – Appendix 1
- 3. Bagmans Report for 2020 (including report on York Festival of Traditional Dance)** – Appendix 2
- 4. Treasurer’s Report for 2020** – Appendix 3
- 5. Foreman’s report for 2020** – Appendix 4
- 6. Election of Officers (Squire, Bagman, Foreman, Treasurer)**
 - The current Squire (Tony Fenech), Bagman (Pikey Holland), Foreman (Stuart Sellens) and Treasurer (Pete Walker) were all prepared to stand for re-election
 - As no other nominations were received, they were duly re-elected
- 7. Dancing (including longsword)**
 - No changes to current repertoire
- 8. Items already agreed pre-AGM**
 - We will re-commence practices when the law and government advice allow us to.
 - We will restart dance outs when the law, government advice, and Morris Federation advice allow us to.
 - There will be no more weekend trips for now. Even before COVID restrictions hit, there wasn’t enough take-up to make it viable. We’re not ruling out any future weekend trips away to somewhere, at any time of year.
 - Ebor Morris will not dance out at any events where there will be teams that use black face makeup where it covers more than half of the performers face.
 - There won’t be any more York Festivals of Traditional Dance
- 9. 2020/21 calendar. Items in Bold are our own events.**
 - **Xmas Curry 14th December** - highly unlikely that this will take place this year
 - **Xmas Carols 21st December** - highly unlikely that this will take place this year
 - **New Year 3rd January 2021** - only if COVID restrictions allow
 - Leicester Feast 6th Feb? TBC
 - Darlington, Black Diamond DoD 17th April? TBC
 - **Walls Tour 2nd May**
 - Poppleton 24th May TBC
 - Holgate Windmill 12th June TBC
 - **Ebor Morris Day of Dance 26th June**
 - Lincoln Big Morris Meet 4th September? TBC
 - York Beer festival 18th September? TBC
- 10. Financial matters**
 - No change to fees agreed at the 2019 AGM
- 11. AOB**
 - None

Appendix 1 – Squires report for 2020

Squire’s Report 2020

This year’s report is a bit of a formality. Not much has happened but there have been a few significant developments on which I will elaborate:

As you may recall, everything was running normally until about March: Practices; Christmas / New Year events; Leicester, then all stop, with the exception of a few virtual exchanges. Even the latter seem to have gone quiet – with one exception: wear your Ebor face mask with pride.

Paul Sanderson is optimistically claiming to have retired. We all know this actually means he becomes a country member, so the geographical “country” definition continues to shrink. Now the perimeter is at Poppleton. While not a founder member, Paul has been with Ebor a great many years. He has held office of Squire and Bagman but mostly will be appreciated for his unofficial roles of “Crowd Fleece” and “Event Organiser”. While not always appreciated at the time, his drive and enthusiasm has been a significant factor in Ebor’s development. Thank you, Paul.

The Dance Festival is no more. This year it could not have happened anyway because of Covid, but there are other reasons which I will leave for Mr. Pike on which to elaborate.

We have decided to fall into line with The Federation and other Morris organisations re: “Blacking Up”. Practically this means we cannot dance out with Flagrakers or Nutters. Personally I am saddened by the development but 100% behind it. The state of the world is that wrightly or wrongly, people are taking offence at blacked up sides. This is a current hot topic and we risk alienating ourselves and adverse publicity by not going along with it.

Finally the more observant of you will have noticed that the AGM is somewhat different this year. Zoom, or any other conferencing technology can be good when it works, but excludes people without the clicknology and cuts you off when it goes wrong. I speak from experience. Apart from that, with not much happened since the last AGM, my feeling was to “carry on regardless”. Write off the last year and continue, when we are able, from the 2019 position.

Thanks as usual to the other officers for their work. Let’s hope for better times ahead.

Tony

Appendix 2 – Bagmans report for 2020 **Ebor Morris Bagmans report, incorporating festival report, 2019/20**

2020 will probably go down in history as the strangest year ever for Ebor Morris. Before the COVID19 restrictions stopped everything, we were looking forward to two new paid bookings – Holgate Windmill anniversary celebrations, and Bilbrough VE day celebrations. Countryfile Live at Castle Howard was already cancelled, I doubt it will come back north again for some time.

For the first time in many years we danced out in town in December, well organised by Wakefield Morris, including indoor spots at the Army Museum in Tower Street and Brew York in Walmgate. Because of Santa’s grotto in Kings Square the New Year dance out was again in Exhibition Square. The bag was pretty low, maybe we should use St. Sampson’s or Parliament St. for future New Year danceouts?

At the time of writing there are no definite dance outs in 2021, but we can hopefully expect a trip to Darlington in April, Escrick to do the sword dance sometime, Poppleton on the late May bank holiday, and Holgate Windmill in June – probably 12th.

We will also be holding our very own Ebor Morris Day of Dance in June – tentatively Saturday 26th subject to permissions (I know I said the 12th but I’d forgotten about the re-arranged Holgate Windmill). This isn’t intended to be a ‘festival of traditional dance’. There won’t be a ‘showcase’, or leaflets, or badges, and there will be six sides including us and Acorn, and it will be Saturday only.

Festival

COVID19 stopped the 2020 York Festival of Traditional Dance. Even before that, I was experiencing significant issues with getting permissions for our usual performance locations - St. Sampson's was already booked by the fairground roundabout, and 'other parties' wanted to rent the end of Parliament Street. Hence the 'showcase' was looking very doubtful as there would be nowhere big enough to host it. That made us officers review what we do from 2021 onwards.

The Festival has been a great success over the 32 years of its existence. We would like to thank all involved, especially Paul Sanderson and other members of the organising team through the years from both Ebor Morris and Acorn Morris.

Times have changed. The Council and their arms-length body MakeItYork no longer give us any support. These days we will always come second to anyone prepared to pay to use the squares. Hence we will face increasing difficulties getting permissions for our usual dance spots, and we can't see it getting any better. For example, St. Helens Square is going to have permanent security barriers and gates installed. The Minster entrance is changing to be where the Piazza is, so we will probably lose that as a performance venue. It's highly possible that the outdoor cafes that about to spring up in the squares will become permanent.

As we discovered last year, even if we do get permission for a location MakeItYork can withdraw it at the last minute, as they did with St. Sampson's Square. They did the same to Minster Strays when they organised the JMO day of dance, pulling permission for the big space in Parliament Street just weeks before the event.

With all this in mind, we decided that the 2019 York Festival of Traditional Dance was the final one. There won't be another.

Kevin 'Pikey' Holland, Ebor Morris Bagman

Appendix 3 – Treasurers report for 2020

Ebor Morris - Treasurer's Report 2019 - 2020.

Overview.

This will probably be the shortest Treasurer's report in Ebor's long and illustrious history ! Generally, most of Ebor's costs are incurred earlier in the year (eg the curry, Federation subs, Leicester feast & hut rent) whereas most of our income generally comes later in the year (eg Monday nights start in June, paid bookings over the summer and YFTD in September) Due to the timing of the covid-19 outbreak, this meant we had paid out for most of the above items, but have since had virtually no income. The net result of this is that for this financial year, we have a deficit of £642.55

INCOME:

Collections. None - apart from the £5 note found by TF on the floor in The Fox, and the collection at The New Year Danceout (£48.69 - see Appendix 1)

Paid Bookings. None.

Other Income. The only significant income we have had was the delayed receipt of the sponsorship for the 2019 YFTD from Red Cow Music. Despite several reminders, this was only finally received in December 2019. This should ideally have appeared in last year's accounts, boosting the income of the 2019 YFTD by £80.

There was some income from the previously agreed policy of charging men £5 for any food provided by the bag. It should be noted that this £5 is very unlikely to cover the actual cost of the food. It is merely a subsidy toward that cost. The full cost of any food is however charged to guests. I believe this policy should continue.

We also received £8.74 in interest on the Deposit Account.

COSTS:

Gratuities. We managed to spend £584.60 on gratuities (ROTB at the AGM, the curry & Leicester feast) prior to the lockdown occurring.

Other Costs. Federation subs, website and personal insurance again were all paid prior to the lockdown occurring.

The only known (i.e. expected) cost not paid was the hut rent. Despite several emails from both myself and The Bagman, we never received an invoice from The Scouts. Following the loss of a cheque some years ago, and the debacle last year, we agreed with them that we would pay when they send us an invoice. They agreed then that they would invoice us around October/November. To date, we have had no invoice.

As stated above, the overall outcome for the year was a deficit of £642.55 This same deficit could well have bankrupted many other teams. Ebor is indeed fortunate to be in the financial position that it is in. Because of our current financial position, I do not see any immediate need to change how we operate financially, nor to curtail the benefits we currently offer to the men - eg we charge no subs, curry, RsOTB, kit provision etc. We should however be prepared to consider doing so should the covid situation persist into a second or maybe even a third year.

The New Year Danceout. There was a good turnout from both Ebor (18 men + 10 guests) and Acorn (10), despite the rather damp weather. Food was provided for 38.

Income:

Deposits (Ebor men £5 & guests £6) 140.00 Total Collection 48.69 Food paid-for by Acorn 35.65 Total Income 224.34

Costs:

Food (38 @ £6) 228.00 Total Cost 228.00

> > Net cost to The Bag = £3.66 <<

Notes:

1) The collection of £48.69 was 'split' with Acorn. They received a notional £24.35, but as they owed Ebor £60.00 for their food (10 @ £6) they paid the nett difference of £35.65

2) As all men who attended Countryfile 2019 were due a £5 refund, it was decided to waive the usual £5 fee for the curry for those men. Any man due £5 who did not attend the curry, instead got £5 off the New Year Food. The only exception was JB who got £5 cash as he cannot eat with Ebor.

Pete Walker 18th August 2020

Appendix 4 – Foremans report for 2020 2019-20 Foreman's Report

Firstly a big thanks to all the men for the work they've put into practices over the past year, it's made my first year as foreman much easier, and it shows in the quality of our dancing over the summer. Particular mention goes to the men who have joined since last AGM: Bass and Phil who have brought their skills to the side, Ross who has made great strides in his dancing over the past year and Steve & Alfie who are picking up the Morris very well!

Practices:

Despite COVID-19 we almost had a full practice season. Again we've been following the same format for practices as introduced by the previous foreman: focussing on a single tradition, starting with stepping and building the figures, taking some time for the sword every week. This formula seems to work. I've encouraged more people to have a go at calling and dancing number one which will put us in good stead for the future.

Attendance this year was good and I was often able to stand out from the dancing more to watch from the sidelines and give objective feedback.

This year also saw the introduction of a monthly Jig workshop for 30mins before practice. Attendance was not compulsory, but we always had at least two men attend each time. The Jig we looked at was Princess Royal Belddington. I propose that when we return to practice we continue these occasional workshops with more jigs being looked at.

We spent some time looking at walking on/off. Lines can always be improved.

Repertoire:

This year saw the reintroduction of the 'Ascott-under-Wychwood' tradition, with two dances: Mrs Casey and Banks of the Dee. We had a couple of successful practices of these, but obviously we will need to refresh our memories before we dance them out.

The repertoire is otherwise been fairly stable. 'Tinsley Ring' used to present some difficulty with the hey, but after going back to the original Horsham notes then tweaking them we have finally got it down. Ducklington saw a small change to Old Tyler, with the introduction of 'cross over' and 'back to back' in place of two of the rounds in order to diversify the tradition.

Ebor Morris 'aide memoire':

At the last AGM it was decided that I, with input from the newer members, would compose a short document outlining our dances. Work began on this during lockdown and the document is nearing completion. I emailed an early draft of the Adderbury tradition to the newer members and feedback was positive. I aim to have the document finished before we get back to practice.

Overall an odd year and I'll be glad when we can get back to dancing.
I'm happy to stand as foreman again.

Stuart Sellens