MORTIMER'S MORRIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 2021 AT 19:30 HOURS
AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, BILBOROUGH, NG8 4FD
MINUTES

1. Attendance

Apologies
Apologies were received from: Ed Marchewicz, Linda Sullivan, Adrian Pitt, Linsey Duncan-Pitt, Liz Fraser, Sheila Garner, Tanja Barwell, Charles Chambers, Sally Henderson, Jan Baker, Tim Hull.

Present
Present were: Fran Moore, Hannah Sutcliffe, Chloe Turner, Pat Clarke (Chair), Keith Baker, Helena Rockett, Jon Shepherd, Michelle Gillam-Hull, Denny Plowman, Trevor Webster, Hazel Old, Vicky Johnson, Andrew Simpson, Gill Simpson, Laurel Johnson, Chris Plant, Anthony Dudson, Peter Millington.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the AGM held on 18 October 2020 were approved.

3. Matters arising from minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Item 4e Band position during processions and 'freezing' at the end of a performance. Committee and band concluded that on processions the band would be on both sides of the dancers, or behind, depending on the space. Band 'freeze' position to be decided when we dance out.

Item 7 New website. Jon has started to update the website with recent photos from Haddon Hall, Shrewsbury festival and Southwell festival attended earlier this year. Jon reiterated that he is always happy to add new photos, and that larger files and videos could be sent via WeTransfer.

Item 8 Pat donated £50 to St. John's PCC on behalf of the side.

Item 9 Committee contacted Papplewick WI at the start of the year, and more recently now we are back to practicing at St. John's. Keith has recently sent an advert to NG5 magazine, which is published in 10 different areas in Nottingham, to try and recruit more members. Thanks were expressed in the meeting to Keith for doing this.

Item 9 Advertising for box players on melodeon.net. An advert was put out with one response, although on reflection lived too far away to commit. However, in the last few months, after chatting at Southwell festival, we have a new member who plays melodeon.

Item 9 Discussion about making recordings freely available. Some concerns were raised around Mortimer's losing some of their unique sound if the music was publicly available. However, no conclusion has been reached.

ACTION: Committee to discuss at their next meeting.

Item 10 Decision on gold or silver bells. Decision made to have silver bells. This was discussed in more detail in *Any Other Business (b)* later in the agenda.

Item 11 Learning new dances. Team to make a collective decision on what dances they'd like to learn in the coming year. This was discussed in more detail in *Dance Repertoire 2021-2022* later in the agenda.

4. Annual Reports

Annual reports were sent out in advance of the meeting to be read beforehand to save time. Comments on the reports were then taken in the meeting.

(a) Squire (Hazel Old)

See report at **Appendix A.**

(b) Treasurer (Pat Clarke)

See report at **Appendix B,** showing annual accounts for Mortimer's Morris.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

(c) Secretary (Chloe Turner)

See report at **Appendix C.**

No confirmed date yet for Braunston, usually last weekend of June.

(d) Practice Leader (Chris Plant)

See report at **Appendix D.**

Pat expressed strong thanks for all of Chris' hard work this year.

(e) Band Leader (Keith Baker)

See report from the Joint Band Leader at **Appendix E.**

(f) Publicity Officer (Jon Shepherd)

See report at **Appendix F.**

(g) Kit Officer (Chris Plant)

See report at **Appendix G.**

5. Election of Officers

(a) Squire

Hazel Old has been in post for one year. The Chair of the meeting formally asked if she was happy to continue for a second year. Hazel agreed to continue for 2021/2022.

(b) Treasurer

Jan Baker was proposed as Treasurer by Pat Clarke and seconded by Helena Rockett. No other nominations had been received. No objections were raised. Jan was therefore elected as Treasurer.

(c) Secretary

Chloe Turner has been in post for two years. No other nominations received. The Chair of the meeting formally asked if she was happy to continue. No objections were raised. Chloe agreed to continue for 2021/2022.

(d) Practice Leader

Chris Plant has been in post for one year. The Chair of the meeting formally asked if she was happy to continue for a second year. Chris agreed to continue for 2021/2022.

(e) Band Leader (Keith Baker)

Keith Baker has been in post for several years. No other nominations received. The Chair of the meeting formally asked if he was happy to continue. No objections were raised. Keith agreed to continue for 2021/2022.

(f) Publicity Officer

Jon Shepherd has been in post for two years. No other nominations received. The Chair of the meeting formally asked if he was happy to continue. No objections were raised. Jon agreed to continue for 2021/2022.

(g) Kit Officer

Hannah Sutcliffe was proposed as Kit Officer by Chloe Turner and seconded by Trevor Webster. No other nominations had been received. No objections were raised. Hannah was therefore elected as Kit Officer.

Chris had been doing both roles – Practice Leader and Kit Officer for the last year. Thanks were expressed by everyone in the meeting. Linsey, Helena, and Gill all offered to assist Hannah with kit in the coming year.

6. Rehearsal/Dance practice schedule and times

a) Weekly, evening only. Do we still need regular monthly or just occasional daytime practices for longer sessions?

Sally felt it was easier to remember when practices are if they were always at the same time. Liz was in favour of more day/longer practices as it is a 2-hour round trip to travel to practice in the evening. Linsey echoed this and stated that it was better to travel long distances in the day. Some new members are coming a fair distance and day practices would allow us to crack on with learning new dances. Hazel and Chris felt it was easier to have it every week. Anthony preferred having a day practice once a month as for band members they can come and don't get to play very often in an evening practice. Hazel suggested that we consider having a day practice every other month? Hannah raised that we could reserve them for the week before a large dance-out with everyone knowing that they must attend these practices and use them strategically. Chris reiterated that the continuity of evening practices helps people remember but did take on board that it is a long way for some members to come. Chris suggested that we use day practices a couple of times a season for learning new dances – one in autumn, one in February and one in April. We could give lots of advance notice to people. Vicky raised that having day practices once a month wasn't a special event, and they weren't that well attended. Trevor echoed this. Chris went on to say that we have a lot of dances to catch up on, so we could learn half a dance one evening, and then half another week, rather than an evening practice being focused on one dance and boring for the musicians. Hazel said that we have upped the pace, doing 5-6 dances a week.

A vote was held on whether we should have day practices a couple of times a season used strategically before a large dance-out and to learn new dances. **Votes for 14; against 3; abstentions 3.** The proposal was approved.

ACTION: Chris to email the side with some dates for a day practice in November, and around Christmas time to look at a day practice date in February.

(b) Start dancing promptly at 7pm and finish at 9pm

Vicky stated that this will enable people to get back home at a reasonable time, especially if they are still working on Monday morning, and gives chance to run over if needed. Pat put forward that we're supposed to start at 7.15, but we have been starting at 7.30. We officially have the hall from 7.15-9.30. Vicky pointed out that the start/end time had changed a lot over the years, and no-one seemed to have noticed. Hazel put forward that she'd like to start at 7pm. Vicky then went on to point that you don't need to get there miles before 7pm, and that sometimes we might use the hall until 9.30 as a spill over time. Trevor echoed this and stated it's a lot easier to overrun from 9pm that 9.30. Hannah raised that for those using public transport, which is reduced on a Sunday, an earlier start time might be beneficial. Chris was worried that we might lose some time on practice by 30 minutes if we changed the times. Hazel said that we could start promptly at 7pm, and finish at 9.15. Helena pointed out that whatever time we start, some people will always be late.

A vote was held to trial practices taking place from 7-9.15pm. **Votes for 14; against 0; abstentions 3.** The proposal was approved.

ACTION: Chris to let the wider team know of the change in practice times via email.

(c) Making time for a sociable lunch break at day practices/short break mid practice at evening practices

Vicky put forward that recently people tended to be socialising at the beginning or end of practices. Having a defined time would make it easier to discuss upcoming bookings and for members to bring forward new ideas. This would also allow for the practice leader to take a break. Pat felt that this was a reintroduction of something that already happened when needed. Hannah suggested that it might be good to have a break for those with reduced fitness because of the pandemic. Hazel felt that having a defined break was a good social time to catch up. Pat reiterated that we would need to be disciplined and stick to the times.

ACTION: Chris to build in a defined break to practice.

ACTION: Everyone to make sure they are ready to start practice again at the stated time.

7. Dancing out earlier in the season

Vicky felt that June was too late to wait to dance out in the new season. Could we approach festivals such as Holmfirth and Chippenham rather waiting to be asked? We could also invent our own local tour, which makes us ready for the summer festivals. Could we consider joining other local teams for their tours? Hazel and Hannah suggested that this would be a good way to get the new dancers out and build their confidence. Vicky suggested that we've lost touch with local sides because we haven't gone out so therefore now don't get invited, and this has affected recruitment. Chris said she would be happy to organise a pub tour locally, and other people could do that for their respective areas. Pat put forward that in the past it has been tricky to get enough people to dance out mid-week. Hazel suggested we could use our usual Sunday evenings to organise local events and invite other sides. Denny pointed out that Dolphin Morris use their usual practice times on a Thursday to attend local events with other sides.

ACTION: Hazel to contact Holmfirth and Chippenham to see if we could be invited.

ACTION: Hazel, Chloe, and Chris to agree some Sunday evening slots that could be used for organising pub tours and local events.

ACTION: Everyone to consider volunteering to help organise events in their local area.

8. Dance repertoire 2021/2022

Chris proposed to start teaching more non-socially distanced dances from our original repertoire, starting with those that can be adapted for 6 people, Horwich, Whitby, Carr Lodge, Walton's Parade and Mighty Oak. These would be added to Butterley and Portland (dropping the socially distanced versions) and probably Golborne too. Hopefully we can go on to dance Seven Up before the dance season starts as well. As it has already been agreed to have a day practice in autumn, we could teach a new dance (Hyde) to everyone. To start with though, target dances that can be danced with 6, so we can be more versatile with our repertoire. Hannah pointed out that these were all dances that have impressed and can be adapted easily. Chris reiterated that she would only go with what the new members would feel comfortable with. Hazel pointed out that limiting the repertoire has been good to help us concentrate on doing them well.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that this was a good approach to take.

9. 'Volunteer trainees'/Deputy for Mortimer's committee roles

Fran suggested the possibility that the holders of any office in Mortimer's Morris could have a 'volunteer trainee' with a view to taking on that responsibility when there is a vacancy. Mortimer's members would still vote for the candidate of their choice at the relevant AGM. The volunteer would not have any official authority. Some of the roles in the committee may seem daunting, the 'volunteer trainee' could shadow that position to help and share knowledge. Linsey supported this idea. Helena thought this was an excellent idea, and that taking on one of these roles can sound like a lot to take on just before an AGM. Hazel supported the idea and pointed out that it would be good not to feel obligated if the volunteer didn't want to take on the role. Fran put forward that she'd like to learn about the squire's role. Chris suggested that we should remind people earlier to consider volunteering for committee roles. Denny asked whether we had backup capacity for certain roles, and that this might be worth considering if any of the current incumbents needed to take some time away. Andrew asked if we had the role responsibilities defined anywhere. The role descriptions are in the Member's Handbook/constitution, but it might be an idea to review these to include more information about the daily responsibilities, and what's involved.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that the 'volunteer trainee'/deputy idea was a good one.

ACTION: Everyone to consider if they'd like to be a 'volunteer trainee'/deputy for any of the committee roles.

ACTION: Committee members to review their role descriptions and consider writing a crib sheet or handover document for anyone who may be interested in taking on the role.

10. Dance and music standards

Pat raised that we had put on a good show this year given the circumstances. Audiences were delighted, and organisers expected standards were tempered accordingly. Everyone

worked hard and given all the restrictions the performances were as good as they could be. Next year will be different, and the expectation will be as it was in 2019 and Mortimer's have been up there amongst the best. Mortimer's were started as a performance side. We've lost some of our longest serving and experienced dancers for various reasons, and we've got some new recruits with good potential to progress. Hazel felt that the level we started back at just after restrictions eased was 1.5, and in a short space of time we have got to 7.5. Some people felt that we couldn't go to Shrewsbury, but we got up to a good standard in 10 weeks. Now we've got 10 months to get to a 9.5 before some of our larger, prestigious events. Pat pointed out that we were reluctant to go to Shrewsbury with 6 people, but closer to time we found we then had 8, so it felt more viable. Keith pointed out that from the music side, he was very pleased with how the band had come together.

Hannah raised that she liked some of the things we did over lockdown, like the videos and recordings, and that we should keep doing those things going forward. They should be part of training to see greater picture of doing the dance to help move around positions. Chris said that by limiting the repertoire we had less to concentrate on, but enough to have a varied display. Video is crucial to practice, and lots of people have taken responsibility for practising themselves at home. Chris expressed thanks to everyone for making videos. Gill volunteered to bring a tripod with a camera on to make videos.

Chris raised that she had shared lots of videos in WhatsApp, but could we put them onto the website, too? Jon suggested that we could upload them to YouTube on a private link, keep some of them as good teaching videos and delete others after a few weeks. Vicky asked if we could still send them through WhatsApp as she wasn't likely to look at the website. Hannah pointed out that once the original poster deletes the videos on WhatsApp, then they disappear and don't take up memory on your phone. Pat suggested that we could continue to put them on the WhatsApp group, Jon could upload the good ones to the website, and then we can delete the ones we don't want to keep from WhatsApp after a few weeks.

ACTION: Committee to agree policy for videos.

11. Level of subs for 2021/2022

The Treasurer's report **Appendix B** lays out the rationale for why we need to raise subs to £50 for 2021/2022. Pat reiterated that there is a 50% reduction in this fee for unwaged individuals and students, and that if someone was in financial difficulty, they could discuss this informally and in confidence with the squire and treasurer. People can also pay in instalments if that helps. Trev asked how this amount compared to other teams? Hazel pointed out that Chinewrde pay £60.

Everyone at the meeting agreed that they were happy for the subs to be raised.

12. Social activities

Vicky pointed out that now we have some newer members, it would be good to have more social activities, like a Christmas party or a walk. Hazel liked the idea of a Sunday lunch. Hannah suggested a social picnic, which could also be a good recruiting tool. Pat pointed out that we need people to volunteer to arrange and organise these events. Everyone thought this was a good idea.

ACTION: Committee to discuss ideas at their next meeting.

13. Any Other Business

a) Recruitment

Keith has put out an advert in the NG5 magazine to help with recruitment. Jon suggested that we could also advertise in gyms, clubs, and exercise classes. Vicky suggested that we could dance out at ceilidhs.

b) Decision on gold or silver bells

Hannah said that silver bells worked better on a practical level if we're dancing out in fields. Silver and gold bells cost the same (£1 per bell). Everyone has gold bells up until now, but these quickly lost their colour and shininess. It was generally felt that it would be okay to have a mixture of gold and silver bells until they could be completely replaced with silver ones, being mindful that we should have a timeframe in mind for everyone's bells to be silver. The decision was made to proceed with silver bells.

c) WhatsApp group

Hazel asked if anybody was not happy to have access to the WhatsApp group? Some people don't use WhatsApp, and there had been some missed information at Shrewsbury about where and when we needed to be at a spot. What was the best way to communicate at festivals? Hannah pointed out that WhatsApp needs far less signal than an email and that you can mute WhatsApp messages. Pat pointed out that 2-3 people don't use WhatsApp, and we know who they are, so it needs to be the band leader or squire's responsibility to let them know through other channels. Jon suggested we could start a new Mortimer's practice group for 2022. Hazel asked if we wanted to set up a WhatsApp group for each event and just have the people attending in that group? We could then delete the group after each event. Everyone seemed to be in favour of this idea. Chris pointed out that if people didn't have WhatsApp it is their responsibility to make sure they know where we're going next. If there's ever any uncertainty, they need to find out.

(d) Address list

Keith asked if people could make sure their contact details were up to date on the address list.

ACTION: Chloe to send around the address list to make sure this is up to date and then upload to website.

ACTION: Chloe to send around password for the Member's Area on the new website.

(e) Festivals in Europe

Anthony asked where we were with contacting festivals in Europe for an invitation to dance?

ACTION: Jon to check and recontact to see if the festivals are running in 2022.

14. Date of next AGM - 16th October 2022

APPENDIX A

Squire's report 2020/2021

Well, what can I say!?!

After a very bumpy ride during the previous year, both in general and as a team, it was a daunting task to take up this role.

I wondered why I was so keen to do stuff and others were hesitant. But gradually everyone realised that dancing does not cause Covid-19!! It wasn't about confidence or lack of practice but FEAR that divided us.

The Zoom practices and socials held us together. Special thanks to Chris, Chloe, Liz and John. Once I'd convinced people that we needed socially distanced dances we were up and running. The commitment shown by everyone was extremely encouraging.

Practices in the past were poorly attended and this had been discouraging. Chris and I waited to see who would turn up when we returned to the Hall. The response was amazing and it was then that I realised we had SURVIVED!

A little encouragement meant that this season was in the Diary. Sidmouth, as Buskers, we could decline, but the chance to do both Shrewsbury and Southwell was not to be missed. With the added bonus of the invitations to Haddon Hall and with Greenwood Clog, we were on our way. I have talked of 'shovelling shit up a hill' a few times this year but once the shovelling was over you did not disappoint. A fantastic effort by everyone led to a huge success at Shrewsbury and Southwell. We excelled ourselves at the Morris Party, (and the Cocktail party!!) Not just survived but an IMPROVED Mortimer's with a real Team Spirit!!

Over the year Mortimer's became a TEAM – everyone contributed to this – new and old, experienced and less experienced. Mortimer's is a happy place now!

We look forward to an exciting year ahead, and with your support, I will do my best to maintain and improve the reputation Mortimer's has for dancing with energy, putting on great performances and, of course, having fun!

Big big thank you.

Hazel Old
Squire, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021

APPENDIX B
Treasurer's report 2020/2021 – Mortimer's Morris accounts 2020/2021 – 1/10/20-30/9/21

At the time of the 2020 AGM we had no idea when practices would recommence, meaning no hall rental costs were being incurred.
As the team held significant funds, it was decided to reduce the membership fees from the level held for many years previously of £40pa (50% rate for unwaged) to £5 each.

Fortunately, we were able to start indoor practices in June. The hall fees had been at £12.50 per session for many years. As we learned late in 2019, this had been an error by St John's so even before lockdown we knew fees were due to increase to £15/hour from April 2020, so £33.75pw for our normal practices 7.15-9.30pm.

A decision will be made at the AGM about the mix of evening/afternoon/day practices, which will affect costs.
We have approximately 30 practices a year so assuming all are evening practices, and there are no price rises in 2022, the cost would be £1012pa. Daytime practices will be longer & therefore at higher cost. Assuming 6pa at total 4 hours each, replacing evening practices, this would add £158pa.

Traditionally membership fees have been set to cover at least room hire & Morris Federation fees, which pre-pandemic were £120. The expectation was that dance out fees received would cover other costs: kit, website, publicity, parties etc. In recent years Braunston Boat show has often been the only paid booking.

With 25 members the subs would therefore be c£50pa, based on the above assumptions. This would mean all costs other than basic room hire & MF fees being covered by income or paid from our reserves, which remain at a healthy level. The fees could be paid by instalments if preferred

The level of subs for 2021/22 is to be discussed & agreed at the 2021 AGM.

Pat Clarke
Treasurer, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021

MORTIMER'S MORRIS

Income & Expenditure Account 2020/2021

1/10/20 - 30/9/21

		£	
B/F from 19/20	current a/c balance 1/10/20	2255.02	
	cash 1/10/20	332.96	
		2587.98	
Net Income 20/21	Subs	140.00	
	Kit deposit	0.00	
	Total income 19/20	**140.00**	*Outstanding Receipts: Subs £15*
Net Expenses 20/21	Room Hire	405.00	*Excludes September charge*
	Kit incl. clog rubbers	55.90	
	Morris Fed membership & Insurance	62.40	
	Donations to St John's	50.00	
	Publicity-leaflets	0.00	
	Website	210.90	*Refund awaited £86.99*
	Total expenditure 19/20	**784.20**	
Net income/expenditure		**-644.20**	
	Balance 30/9/20	**1943.78**	
Balance available	current a/c balance 30/9/21	1600.82	
	cash 30/9/21	342.96	
		1943.78	

Items relating to 2020/21 not paid/received at 30/9

Expenses	101.25
Receipts	101.99
Net available balance	**1944.52**

APPENDIX C

Secretary's report 2020/2021

In 'normal' times I might have been able to keep an accurate record of how many invitations we received and how many events we attended in a year. Alas, I didn't keep track of this, a) Because there was nothing to keep track of, and b) I'm not sure I would have wanted to count cancellations anyway!

Our last dance-out of 2020 was the Intervarsity Folk Dance Festival (IVFDF) in our local stomping ground in Nottingham, about 10 days before we went into lockdown. Who would have guessed then that the next time we would be all be together decked out in kit was July 2021?! We did all sorts of things to stay connected during that period, and although it wasn't quite the same as seeing each other in person, we tried our best to maintain team spirit and camaraderie.

We have danced out 4 times this year:

- Haddon Hall Artisan Market (thanks to Michelle for arranging!)
- Dance out with our friends, Greenwood Clog
- Shrewsbury Folk Festival
- Southwell Folk Festival

We have L2F Lichfield coming up soon on Saturday 23rd October, and Newark Christmas market on the evening of Sunday 12th December and the Victoria at Beeston on Saturday 18th December which are both looking promising in terms of numbers of dancers and musicians.

Next year, we already have invitations for:

- Evesham National Morris weekend, 10th-12th June
- Braunston Rally & Canal Festival, date tbc – usually end of June
- Newark Traditions Festival, 15th-17th July
- Sidmouth Folk Festival, 29th July – 5th August
- Morris Fed Day of Dance, Darlington, Saturday 24th September

Thanks for everyone's support this year!

Chloe Turner
Secretary, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021

APPENDIX D
Dance Practice Leader's report 2020/2021

Well it seems a while since our first Zoom practice, on the 25th of October 2020. Little did I realise, as I developed routines to practice left foot choruses and right foot figures, that they would turn into stage dances to perform at Shrewsbury and Southwell Folk Festivals.

Many thanks must go to everyone who doggedly attended the 11 fortnightly Zoom practices whenever possible, which kept our muscles practiced, and fitness levels up. A big thanks to Hazel for creating "Lockdown", not only for us, but to teach to the whole Morris Fed membership too. Thanks also to Anthony for recording the tunes for us to dance to (once I'd figured out what As and Bs we were dancing) and to Peter who turned up for the first few weeks playing tunes for us on Zoom until eventually the time delays defeated us and we changed to recorded tunes.

April saw us start weekly "6 in a garden" IPPs (informal practice preparations) with all the Covid risk assessments in place and routines gradually amended for socially distanced stage performances. Thanks for everyone's dedication, coming so often and working so hard. The tool of video and learning from replay proved extremely useful and I hope to continue using this wherever possible.

After 7 IPPs between 11th April and 16th May we could quickly transition to outdoor practices at St John's and Nuthall with our much-missed musicians back together with the dancers, and how wonderful that felt! The first one on the 6th of June was certainly an evening of celebration!

Practice became a weekly affair with dance outs at Haddon Hall (thanks Michelle!) and Ilkeston Spanish bar with Greenwood Clog, to work towards in July, giving us confidence to perform at Shrewsbury and Southwell Festivals in August. Massive thanks to Hazel for pushing us to go for it and get there, it all went really well, we had 5 dances ready to perform and the "black-and-white routine" at Shrewsbury's Morris Party which was a great achievement too.

The pressure of an event always seems to bring out the best in our performance, and we all love it when the compliments arrive. Thanks to everyone for working hard and performing well, such fun! Great to see everyone being so flexible on positions too, a great asset to the team.

I'm happy to continue as your Practice Leader for another year if I'm wanted.
I'm hoping to expand our repertoire over the next season, to include many more of our original non-socially distanced dances. I'd like to start with those that can be modified to be danced with 6 dancers for adaptability for 6, 8 and 12, but do let me know if you have any specific requests.
It's great to see 3 new dancers (Gill, Gill and Tanja) and a musician (Andrew) joining us so early in the practice season. New green shoots after such a difficult year - let's all look forward to going onwards and upwards!

Chris Plant
Dance Practice Leader, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021

APPENDIX E
Band Leader's report 2020/2021

[Band Leader position held jointly by Keith (band practicalities) and Ed (music)]

No idea how long I've been in office! Anyone else favoured, for a while? I'm happy to continue.
I was sceptical, after such an exodus of dancers, that the side could continue; but the great input of work in reducing / modifying the dances has enabled the new start on which we are now able to re-build. Our 4 gigs, though starting late this year, have been excellent; very rewarding and very encouraging for future successes. A big THANKYOU, from me, to the dancers.

<u>To the Band</u>

- Please make sure to stay close to the chosen assembly point at events: it's so much easier to communicate to everyone 1. the next dance choice 2. where the band will be placed this particular time 3. any last-minute changes.
- I used to chase after everyone, but it's very difficult to get through crowds whilst wearing my H-G., plus needing to tune it each time; so MANY THANKS to Ed for taking on the chasing-up role at events.
- Lining-up as a team from when the previous team start performing, so we know we have everyone present and so the Master-of-Ceremonies is confident that we are ready. Therefore, make sure you know who / which is the preceding team.
- Get used to one favourable specific line-up order: at practices as well as at events, to be next to recognised sounds / save wasting time jostling about before a dance. We used to be in one long curved line, more recently TWO concentric semi-circles, to hear each other better. It's important: with (fortunately) such a large band, for timing, and familiarity of sound.
- DRUM: thanks to Adrian the timing problem is much reduced, because everyone stays in time with the drum, even if only subconsciously. Though some people find it too loud when right next to it, the drum being next to me is absolutely fine, and useful, and should become the standardised position.
- Walking on / off in single file (or, more recently, in two lines side-by-side) at the larger, more prestigious events: therefore, lining up in correct order before going on is important.
- Decide if the Band or the Dancers are to lead on; the band often have to push through the team and crowds to get on first! So let us line up at the front if we're to go on first.
- Counting-In so the WHOLE band plays the Dance Intro's, is working well, and I believe has overcome the intro's being barely audible (in crowded places) when only one instrument playing.
- A's and B's personal cards essential for everyone to lead the tunes, without hesitating / faltering / following / putting off the other players around you.

<u>Planning a few Band-only practices</u>

- We need to know which dances, and which modifications, are planned for The Vic at Xmas 2021 so we can practise / re-vitalise the Christmas Carols arrangements.
- New Tunes for proposed new dance/s, OR maybe to add in alongside already established tunes. We need to do this, as many of our tunes have now been taken up by other sides! and are not new / different any longer.
- The intention is to try out any New Tunes for the Warm-Up Dancing at the start of practice evenings.

Modified from previous Band Report, Oct, 2019:
New Processional Banner! (Many Thanks to Michelle, and Ed)
New Campsite Banner! (Many Thanks to Helena and Jon)
New tunes! (working on them!)
NEW Mortimer's! (Thanks to combined efforts of all associated with the team).

Keith Baker and Ed Marchewicz
Band Leaders, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021

APPENDIX F
Publicity Officer's report 2020/2021

Website
As many of you are aware, the website moved hosting company as of 3rd August this year. Mainly due to high hosting annual costs by the last company. I have been able to halve that cost.

The website is fully up and running and has been updated with photos from this year. I have yet to load up videos from Shrewsbury but will do that before the AGM.

I have designed the site to be fully responsive on either desktop PC, tablet or mobile phone as most browsing is done initially by smart phones these days.

We need to check how many leaflets we have in stock and take them to Litchfield. I/we also need to look through them to see if the current info is still relevant.

Not a great deal to report otherwise. I am thinking of emailing festivals again in the EU shortly unless people feel that I should delay another year. I have no idea what festivals will be running over there next year. Some UK festivals ran but nowhere near up to full capacity this year.

Emailing for new members
Whilst it is great that we have new members join us, I expect we could still do with more new members. How does the team feel if I were to send out the leaflet as a PDF to various women's groups around Nottingham?

Targeted at exercise and dance classes. If allowed, we could also put up posters in local gym and fitness clubs. If you have other ideas for groups, please let me know and I will search out suitable groups around the area.

Jon Shepherd
Publicity Officer, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021

APPENDIX G
Kit Officer's report 2020/2021

Kit hasn't had a big prominence this year with lockdown, but we have had kits returned from Cindy, Dawn and Katie and Claire, who have all left the side this year. Deposits have been refunded.

This has enabled us to sort Jan out with kit ready for her debut, hopefully at Lichfield, and also allowed the rest of us to have a massive "waistcoat swop" on 27th June at Nuthall to get better fitting ones after our "Lockdown weight changes"!

We still have a few waistcoats and skirts spare, and materials to make new ones, depending on needs. Resting members still have their kits too, so if they decide not to return these mustn't be forgotten.

We have a reasonable number of pairs of clogs available to loan too, Jan is sorted and Tanja has borrowed some size 9's to try for comfort before deciding whether to purchase made to measure.

We have some purple flat 1m laces for clogs which are now in store too.

We haven't yet purchased any new nickel or brass bells for the clogs, which normally are sourced from the Morris Federation. An action from last year's AGM, to decide what is needed - nickel or brass once dancing restarted is still outstanding. We do need to purchase some soon as we have no spares left in stock.
Michelle did source some much cheaper non-musical bells which can be used on sticks etc in the future.

The sticks - both the long ones and Whitby's need tidying up. I believe we have materials to do this, just need volunteers with time to help!

Sorry I've not had an enormous amount of time to devote to kit this year, thanks to everyone that has helped with alterations etc.

Hopefully there will be a volunteer for a new kit officer this AGM to give more time and attention to the post than I've managed this year. I'm more than happy to help anyone that volunteers in any way I can.

Chris Plant,
Kit Officer, Mortimer's Morris
2020/2021