

Raggle Taggle

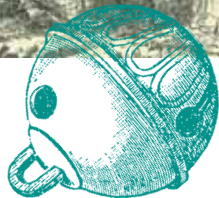
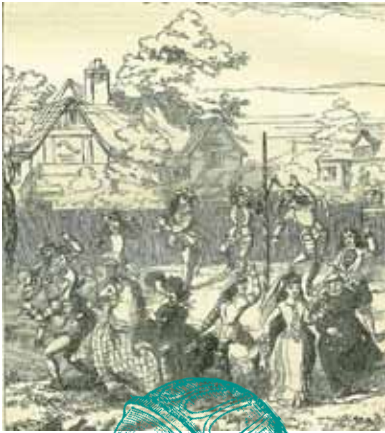
AUSTRALIAN MORRIS



June 2011

Contents

Squire's Report	2
Bagman's Report	3
Session Bar Review	4
Jig Comp	4
Longford Morris	5
In Defence of Morris Folly	6
2011 AGM Minutes	7
Hot For Joe	15
Side Reports	16
Back in the day	22
Massed Morris Notes	23



SQUIRE'S REPORT

SOMETHING MAGIC

The National Folk Festival and the English Ale are over, the sun has been danced up and Australian Morris is settling down for the winter cycle of teaching, training and planning.

Every folk festival is different every year. At this year's NFF, somewhere in between AGMs and massed events and fools and beasts and "what's the set list" and "can you dance Upton from three?" and "what are the calls?" some magic happened.

Firstly, those living or frequently visiting the Black Joak campsite (or Morris junta base camp, as one friend described it) got to witness a meeting of souls. It's not very common in our society for a nine year old and a near 50 year old to become best friends, especially outside of family groups, but there it was, right in front of us. Possibly nothing else put such consistent smiles on our faces.

Secondly, the Tantric Turtle chai tent, a family owned business, was robbed of \$200 of stock one night mostly delicious homebaked brownies. A concerted drive by Morris dancers to "Buy a Stolen Brownie" and a benefit concert organised by the Morris and supported by donations from the Stockman's Camp, Folklore and Morris performers and attendees raised over \$160!

And these were just my non-dancing highlights!

My congratulations to all the jig competition participants, and especially the winners! A clean sweep for Queensland dancers has only added to the excitement of seeing you all out in force at next year's NFF (Queensland is the featured state).

Thank you to Brandragon, Britannia and Ragged Band for your wonderful displays and workshops, especially Ragged Band who coordinated with the children's festival and beastified and foolafied many little monsters.

Thank you also to all the other Morris dancers, musos and friends of Morris. You know we couldn't do it without you.

I entreat you all to raise your glasses to Ian Redpath, who has always dreamed big for the Morris and the AMR. Without his help, work and support so much in the last year would not have happened. Thank you, Ian, and happy birthday!

I cannot possibly sum up the NFF, May Day or anything else for the Morris community all by myself, so for your delectation, here is the May edition of the newsletter, pumped full of your voices, your opinions and your silly photos (oh, and some minutes from some AGMs).

See you all soon

Stephanie
Squire, AMR

Editors • Stephanie Swanson, Squire in Chief • Natalie Rolfe, Bag and ALL THE THINGS • **Layout** • Kimbo Hedge Wizard • **Cover Image** • MYSTERIOUS PHOTOGRAPHER • **Cover Girl** • Ati Bryan, Hot For Joe • **Writers** • Kevan Walter Jones, Chap of the Week • Helen Wills, Dragonette • Sean Arthur, Foolish • Cherie Wilkinson, General Secretary • Ian Redpath, Baggins • Adrienne Piggott, Hot For Spirals • John Milce, Traditionalist • Lancashire Ducks • **Side Reports** • Angie McGowan and Di Davies, Jolley Hatters • Carissa Lee, Black Joak • Emma Grey, Albion Fair • Ian Redpath, Ragged Band • Justin Presser and Sean Jennings, Brandragon • Kevan Walter Jones, Belswagger • Kevan "Wrote Half This Newsletter" Jones, South East North West • Kim Brown, Hedgemonkey • Lindsay Hamilton, Red Raven • Mike James, Adelaide Morris Men • Rachael Neild, Hot For Joe • Steven Mansfield, Perth Morris Men •

BAGMAN'S REPORT

Hi All,

Greetings from a very cold Melbourne! Not much to report from this part of the world, having only been in the job for... a certain number of weeks I'm not counting. But after helping out with the newsletter and the application for the NFF next year, I'll be focusing my attention on the National Ale discussion that was started at the AGM this year. Please see the minutes to catch yourself up on what has already been discussed, and if you have any ideas, questions, nuggets of wisdom or anything else you'd like to share, please send them to the OzMorris yahoo group or post them on the AMR Facebook page - and if you can't do either,

I encourage you to join OzMorris! All kinds of interesting things are shared by the Morris community via the group, and all of the important announcements coming from myself or the Squire are posted there.

We're also in the market for a new bank account for the Ring - so if you have any information about community group/not-for-profit bank accounts to share, please email me at bag.amr@gmail.com!

Cheers,

Nat R,
AMR Bag.



Found by Neil Barker (Red Raven): Safety shoes for brewery workers.

Did You Know...?

The AMR has a mailing list and a facebook group! Keep up to date with news and gossip about Morris in Australia - you can join the mailing list on our website, <http://www.morris.org.au/mainpages/contact.html>, or search Facebook for 'Australian Morris Ring'.

SESSION BAR REVIEW

Where weary festivilians and sober Morris dancers go for succour, the session bar is the true heart and nexus of the National Folk Festival. By day, the bar is a fairly spartan affair with only the most basic aesthetics. But by night the bar is heaving with hundreds of people sharing warmth, music, cider and aerially-vectored diseases.

Where age, gender, political affiliation and Morris allegiance is meaningless and everyone mixes as equals. All people, artists and punters alike are drawn to the session bar. You can strike up a conversation with anyone without the usual social awkwardness. Swapping and trying new instruments is a commonplace event.

Where you enter by 7pm and never leave again because it is simply too cold outside. In the brisk Canberran dusk even a simple jaunt to the Budawang becomes a gruelling frost-bitten hike. Only the brave (or stupid) venture outside, including the occasional valiant souls who would strike forth to purchase and return salubrious cups of gravy for the hungry, inebriated masses.

Where sessions of all varieties flourish, from the traditional sour and dour Irish speedfests, to the raucous non-exactly-in-tune-old-time sing-a-longs, the bar most definitely lives up to its namesake. There were few dedicated Morris-only sessions throughout the festival, but many impromptu small sessions would pop up when needed, like mushrooms in a fairy ring.

Where, as I personally discovered, the floor is a mighty comfortable and inviting place. Seats and tables, while present, because a much vaunted luxury after 9pm when the bar approaches standing room only. Several solutions were available including: standing up, insidious chair theft, brute force or joining the group of harmonious stairwell-trolls (well known for their intoxicated hospitality and only occasional bludgeonings).

For me, the session bar is almost always the highlight of the festival. And this year was no exception.

Kevan

2011 JIG COMPETITION



Kevan, Daniel and Delia - 2011 Jig Competition Winners - National Folk Festival Canberra

Single Jig Winner - Kevan Jones. 'Old Tom of Oxford' Bledington. Muso: Daniel Townley

Double Jig Winners - Daniel Townley and Delia Hamwood. 'Go and List' Sherborne. Muso: Kevan Jones.

...a Belswagger coup?

LONGFORD MORRIS TASMANIA

THE NEW HOBBY DRAGON

Liz and Chris Harris, Olive Phillips and Bill McIntosh founded the Longford Morris Dancers in 1979 soon after the Longford Folk Festival held in the January long weekend. It was the result of a superb traditional music workshop given by members of the Plenty Morris Dancers from Victoria whose infectious enthusiasm had them hooked.

Olive and Bill, formerly of Plenty Morris, settled near Cressy, our gate way to fly fishing heaven, and together with Liz and Chris, decided on bright apple green as one of the kit colours. At that time the slogan on Tassie number plates was 'The Apple Isle'. Chris successfully applied to the Longford Council for permission to use their coat of arms, as is the custom in England. As the Longford Council no longer exists as a separate entity we feel privileged to dance under this historic coat of arms.



In 1984 the first trip to Rutherglen Victoria prompted the side to create the hobby dragon. A finer apple green giant Celtic dragon was not to be found. Out from under a rustic Longford veranda from the creative hands of the late Peter Wayman using chicken wire and paper maché came 'Dewy'. A wonderfully arching neck clad in ruched green knit supported a dragonhead most fearsome. Tombola eyes, etched with scarlet road maps, bulged menacingly. Dewy was aptly named for those extraordinary eyes that pointed to much Morris' dragonising! Scarred and battle weary, but still triumphant, Dewy soldiers on, now with an apprentice at tail, the noble and elegant Ethelinda!

To continue our hob dragon story:

Longford dancers rare were heard wistfully singing from the hills high up in Trevallyn in a parody of "Puff":-

Verse: Dewy the Longford dragon is 30 long years on

His coat is dull and flaky now, he is so woebegone

He's gone to see the artist in whom we all do trust

For consultations fine and fair 'ere he slips away from us.

And some months later in 2010 the final verse rang out:

Ethelinda sparkles her scales before the sun

Adorned with flowers and tassels she leaps at quite a run.

Christmas crowds and Cygnet Folk behold
her in great awe,

And Eth looks forward to joining Horse,
and Dewy asks for more.

Ethelinda funded through a Launceston City Council Grant and created by Noel-jo Anglesey.

Footnote: 'Horse' being the Hobby of Jolly Hatters of our sister side in Hobart Town.



From the pen of
Helen Wills
18 Fairthorne Rd, Trevallyn, 7250

IN DEFENCE OF THE MORRIS FOLLY

We need more Morris Follies, and the more the better.

For those who don't already know, a "Morris Folly" is a recorded act of Morris which is absolutely pointless and make no sense in itself. Before you say that all Morris is pointless and doesn't make sense, allow me to point out that almost all Morris Dancing, at the very least, has context. One goes out to dance Morris, after all. One trains and one takes bookings, etc. A proper Morris Folly lacks even that, or perhaps it lurks just outside of a context. You may have already performed a multitude of MFs without the benefit of knowing that you have done so.

In the 1980s I understand that the Canberra Morris Men danced at a paid naturalist gig (or it could have been the Sydney Men - the two incestuous mobs were difficult to sort out in those days). They didn't dance totally naked, of course, bells, hats and baldrics remained out of a sense of decency. I believe that other sides in the world have also given the odd "nude" footup and admittedly, as follies go, that particular one is a stand out champion. There have been others.

About the same era, the Hong Kong Morris Men danced on a free swinging metal platform suspended several stories in the air by a crane. This was in the days before the joint was handed back to the Chinese Government and, after all, Occupational Health and Safety was never a particular concern in Hong Kong. I've seen a photo of that stunt that would make your skin crawl. It stands to reason that a proper Morris Folly should never go so far as to actually kill you.

A Morris Folly can be anything unusual. A Brisbane Border side, The Ragged Band (also England's Witchmen Morris) has started performing Terry Pratchett's "Dark Morris" a totally silent tradition of Morris dancing. No bells, no music, no loud stick clashes, just spooky quiet.

As far as I know, the earliest Morris Folly on record was also one of the most spectacular. In February and March of 1600, William Kempe undertook what he would later call his "Nine Days Wonder", in which he Morris danced from London to Norwich (a distance of over a hundred miles) in a journey which took him nine days spread over several weeks, often amid cheering crowds. Kempe was a contemporary of William Shakespeare and fellow member of the Chamberlain's Men. A hundred miles in those days was some doing, as the roads were shit and slime-covered

cobbles in the villages and potholed muddy tracks in the country. Suffice to say that Kemp earned his folly the hard way.

Just about every side as a Morris Folly or six tucked away. I would like to hear about them all. Even better, I would love to have them recorded in the future and placed on Youtube. They don't have to be spectacular, risky nor even arduous. It is important that a well-executed MF be a bit off-beat. You will know that you are on track if you hear even other morris dancers say that that they "don't get it". They are not supposed to get it, that's what makes it a MF.

At this point that I'll tell you about mine. I recently took advantage of a OS trip to dance a Morris jig in five different countries (Ladies Pleasure Bledington). When I got home I spliced the entire mess into a single jig for Youtube consumption. The result is a glorious mess. I wasn't in costume, I danced without music, I danced badly and I confused the crap out of the locals. I edited the entire bomb together and added a disjointed soundtrack (which also

doesn't sync very well between the audio and video). It doesn't matter, it doesn't make sense. A five country Morris Jig is my contribution to the Morris Folly continuum. In addition, to laying claim to be the first person to dance the same Morris Jig in so many countries, I also claim to be the first person to dance 400km north of the Arctic Circle (Kirkenes, Norway).

With all the brilliant, young and strange dancers out there in the morris world, I urge you to get out there and folly it up a bit. Use your

imagination, use subtlety, use obviousness, use props, use mime. William Kempe started this thing for us, let's keep it rolling.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5IIHEINL9E>

Sean Arthur

They didn't dance totally naked, of course, bells, hats and baldrics remained out of a sense of decency.



AMR AGM MINUTES 2011



Australasian Morris Ring Minutes: Annual General Meeting 2011

Location: National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park in Canberra, Canberra, ACT

Minutes: Nat Rolfe (Brandragon), Cherie Wilkinson (Hedgemonkey)

Date/Time: Sunday, 24th April 2011 18:10 – 19:12

Chair: Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR)

1. Squire's Welcome

General greeting.

Tribute to Elwin Jamison (Tussock Jumpers) and Syd "Tip" Perry (Plenty Morris), who both passed away since the last meeting.

2. Apologies

None

3. Call for Other Business

Lindsay Hamilton (Red Raven) Where is the Chivas Regal?
Thomas Grylls (Black Joak) wearing of bells outside of performances and between venues.
Stephanie Swanson (Black Joak) discussion of National Ale
Graeme Hamilton (Red Raven) NFF group application

4. Review of 2010 AGM Action Items

(a) Closed items

1. Attendance for 2009 AGM to be attached to minutes and distributed.

ACTION TAKEN: distributed via oz_morris and uploaded to the yahoo group files page.

2. The Ring should see what potential costs might come up during the year and put the balance in a long term deposit.

Proposed: Cameron Schraner (Black Joak). Seconded: Sean Jennings (Brandragon).

ACTION TAKEN: Ian Redpath (Bag, AMR) concluded that we do not have a large enough balance to make a long term deposit worthwhile (see bags report for further information).

3. Action items concerning the incorporation of the AMR under the WA act:

- a. Is the process/procedure for incorporation documented for the AMR? No, the AMR will document this.

ACTION TAKEN: AMR have created a document that has all of the relevant links to WA Incorporations website which has been saved in the AMR Squire's email address and will be passed on to the next Squire. The

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

rules change so it is better to check in with WA about how to do this.

b. If there is a change in the Act, will the WA Government inform the Ring? This needs to be investigated.

ACTION TAKEN: No. There is a newsletter available that is published infrequently, and we have asked to be subscribed.

c. The AMR needs to identify two public officers and notify the WA offices of their contact details. For ease of contact, squire email address to be supplied (squire@morris.org.au)

ACTION TAKEN: There only seems to be the provision for one person to be the contact for the group, I have sent in my details to update their lists. As part of the handover of Squiredom each year, the new Squire should notify WA of their contact details (form on the WA Incorporations website).

4. Action items concerning changes to the AMR constitution:

a. Are these changes legal? Need to lodge any changes. Can we change the date of the financial years? Need to check the Western Australian incorporation rules.

ACTION TAKEN: Yes. Enough notice was given to the group, and changes to the constitution only need a two-thirds majority of the attendees of an AGM. We can change the date of the financial year. Changes have been lodged, presumably accepted as we have not heard otherwise.

b. Update constitution to reflect changes, inform everyone of changes.

ACTION TAKEN: Done, this was emailed to everyone, and the new constitution is available on the Oz Morris yahoo group and printed copies are here at the meeting.

5. Regarding the AMR application to the National Folk Festival: NFF executive to discuss with squires of all sides about a group NFF application.

ACTION TAKEN: This occurred over November-April 2010-2011, a comprehensive discussion and voting process happened in regards to this.

(b) In progress

6. Dance notes to be collected from the sides that put on workshops at the NFF.

ACTION TAKEN: Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) has contacted the squires of this year's NFF display sides in regards to being sent notes, received notes will be published in the AMR newsletter following the NFF.

5. Previous Minutes

MOTION: That the previous minutes be accepted.

Moved: Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR). **Seconded:** Daniel Townley (Belswagger).

PASSED: Previous minutes accepted.

6. Reports

(a) **Squire's Report** - Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR)

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

This year I have focused on the first ever AMR NFF application and the reborn newsletter.

After a fast decision and application to the NFF, I led a series of discussions with your Squires to start working out the knotty bits. The Ancient Greeks used to call those people who didn't participate in political debates *idiote*, and I can confirm that we have few, if any, of these in the AMR.

We reached agreement on the process for selecting sides each year and how to deal with the NFF income paid to the AMR. The decisions made by the Squires form the guiding principles for future AMR NFF applications and have been communicated to you all through the newsletter. I have copies of the decisions here if you would like to read them. The discussions are still continuing as we refine the process, and I encourage you all to talk with your Squires about this.

The first newsletter in a while (?) was released in November 2010 as an email with reports from the Squires. The next was a 24 page epic available for download on the website where it had over 130 unique downloads. Three hardcopy versions were distributed nationally to Squires at the extremely cheap cost of only \$70 for the whole shebang. As well as side reports from the Squires it featured movie, bar, and festival reviews; a comic; dance and singing session notes and much more. There are copies here for those who would like to read them. The next issue will be released in early May.

Unfortunately no work was able to progress on the archive, and our current archivist Bronny has asked to step down from the position. I am keen to have the archives in good working order as they are a valuable resource for us. Morris' 'shrouded in the mists of time' past shows us the vulnerability of a folk tradition to erosion if not well recorded.

For 2011, if I am re-elected, I intend to (in no particular order):

- continue working on the newsletter and finalising the AMR NFF application process;
- share articles between the AMR newsletter and the NZ Sphere;
- oversee the development of a National Morris Ale;
- put more content on the AMR website;
- conduct a Morris census;
- conduct a review of the AMR Constitution;
- reinvigorate the AMR archives;
- and in my spare time I may learn how to dance Sherborne.

Thank you to Ian for your hard work and guidance in my first year as AMR Squire. You are truly a force of nature.

Thank you to the Squires. Your participation and leadership made it possible for the voice of the community to come through in decision making and in fun.

Thank you to everyone who spoke with or emailed me, whether to contribute, congratulate or criticise. I am far from omniscient or omnipresent and any success I had this year was through the community.

Stephanie Swanson

Squire, AMR 2010/11
Squire, Brandragon 2008/09, 2009/10
Bag, Brandragon 2007/08

Statement from [Veronica Wagner \(Black Joak\)](#) regarding the proposed 2011 Morris census: The

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

census should provide information such as the average age of the Australian morris dancing community.

Reply from Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR): I will be emailing people prior to writing the census to get input on what people would like the census questions to be.

MOTION: That the squire's report be accepted.

Moved: Lindsay Hamilton (Red Raven). **Seconded:** Meg McLean (South-East North West)

PASSED: Report accepted.

(b) Bag's Report - Ian Redpath (Bag, AMR)

See attached financial report.

The AMR has received a cheque of \$2400 dollars from the NFF as our agreed upon fee for the 2011 NFF. This payment will be divided amongst the 2011 performance sides as discussed . The NFF is in favour of this new direction i.e a mass application by the AMR as opposed to applications by individual sides. It should be understood that the NFF will never pay the real cost of having the morris attend the festival (e.g. travel, food etc.), but morris is a hobby and mostly people pay for their hobbies.

Statement from David Purdue (Britannia): The fee paid by the NFF also no where near meets the cost of our time or the value the NFF gets from the morris.

The AMR took out Personal Accident Cover this year and has already had two claims (One from a member of Hot 4 Joe and one from a member of Belswagger). Assuming these claims are processed smoothly, it is suggested that we continue with this cover.

It was determined that a long term deposit account was not viable for the AMR because of account keeping fees. Instead it is suggested that the AMR account be moved to MEBank which has no fees on 'cheque and net' accounts with balances over \$5000.

Tania Siegemund (Brandragon) enquires about the bank fees if the balance drops below \$5000

Ian Redpath (Bag, AMR) replies that in that case the fees would be \$5 a month.

Meg McLean (South-East North-West) suggests a not for profit organisation bank account – which should not have fees.

ACTION ITEM: The Bag is to research better banking options.

ACTION ITEM: For the squires to canvas sides about bank account options

MOTION: That the bag's report be accepted.

Moved: Stephanie Swanson (Black Joak). **Seconded:** Pete Kneeshaw (Black Joak)

PASSED: Report accepted.

7. Elections

All positions were declared vacant.

(a) Position of Squire

- Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR). Nominated by Lindsay Hamilton (Red Raven), seconded Cimi Ross (Black Joak). Nomination accepted.

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) re-elected unopposed.

(b) Position of Bag

- Nat Rolfe (Brandragon). Nominated by Justin Presser (Brandragon), seconded by Thomas Grylls (Black Joak). Nomination accepted
- Ian Redpath (Ragged Band). Nominated by Joyce Simpson (Ragged Band), seconded Karina Redpath (Ragged Band). Nomination accepted.

A vote by members in attendance was held for the position of AMR Bag.

Votes were counted by Peter Bratby (Britannic Bedlam Morris Gentlemen), Andy Lawton (Britannic Bedlam Morris Gentlemen) and Duncan Grylls (Black Joak).

56 votes were received. 22 votes for Ian Redpath (Ragged Band); 32 votes for Nat Rolfe (Brandragon); 2 abstained.

Nat Rolfe (Brandragon) was elected as AMR Bag by majority vote.

8. Other business

1.

a. **National Ale**

A long discussion was had with regards to instigating a National Ale.

Following is the resulting motions and key points of the discussion:

- Suggestion from David Smith (Adelaide Morris Men): Setting up a AMR wiki page may help in the sharing of this information and ideas.

Reply from Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR): This would serve the same purpose as the ozmorris yahoo group

- Rob Pilgram (Britannia) suggests the Ale should be held in a different state every year
Justin Presser (Brandragon) suggests a roster could be developed for states to take turns
- Ian Redpath (Ragged Band) points out that the New Zealand Ale tours the island, perhaps we could consider something like this.
- Mike James (Adelaide Morris Men) suggests running order of meet and greet Friday, tour during the day Saturday, ale (dinner, drinking, dancing) for Saturday night, wind down/recovery/relaxed tour Sunday morning.
- Sean Jennings (Brandragon) suggests we hold dance workshops as part of it.
- Cimi Ross (Black Joak) wonders how it will be financed?

Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) states that the AMR has \$7000 to work with.

Kenneth Smith (Black Joak) Thinks everyone should pay to attend and that we should "not blow the [AMR's] budget"

Sean Jennings (Brandragon) Suggests that we view the AMR's funds as a buffer but aim to break even. If the ale runs at a loss it could be covered by the AMR.

- Danika Hadgraft (Brandragon) Suggests holding a supplementary AMR general meeting as part of the National Ale. This may allow sides with a only a small (or no) contingent present at the NFF the opportunity to attend.
- Sean Jennings (Brandragon): Offering details, minutes and information about the organisation of The

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

Great Victorian Ale. Suggests communication between sides and sharing of ideas.

ACTION ITEM: Sean Jennings (Brandragon) to provide the ring with this information via ozmorriss

MOTION: To explore holding a National Ale.

Proposed: Justin Presser (Brandragon); **Seconded:** Nat Rolfe (Brandragon)

Action item: Squires are to email other side squires to discuss instigating a National Ale and share ideas and suggestions for such an ale. In 5 months a vote will be conducted about the final decision of holding a national ale; 10 votes will be allowed per side.

b. **Questions, Announcements and Thanks**

Lindsay Hamilton (Red Raven) expresses concern about communication issues between morris sides and email moderation.

It is suggested that people join the ozmorriss yahoo group and make sure their emails from this group are not moderated.

Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) expresses thanks to Ian Redpath (Ragged Band) as departing Bag. General applause and thanks.

Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) expresses thanks to Judy and Duncan Grylls (Black Joak) for their efforts in providing the morris encampment. General applause and thanks.

Multiple concerns were expressed with regards to the voting procedures

ACTION ITEM: Constitution to be reviewed

Question from Julie McKay (Brandragon): "Is it the Australasian Morris Ring or Australian Morris Ring?"

Reply from Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) "it is complicated"

ACTION ITEM: Stephanie Swanson (Squire, AMR) is to communicate with NZ morris with regards to this.

Justin Presser (Brandragon) announces that this year is Brandragon's 10th Birthday. Information about celebrations will be forthcoming.

Kevan Walter Jones (Belswagger) apologises to Justin Presser (Brandragon) then announces that it is Belswaggers 21st Birthday this year. It will be held in Toowoomba (the birth place of Belswagger) following the 'Carnival of Flowers' (mid to late September).

Question from Lindsay Hamilton (Red Raven): "Will there be strippers?"

Reply from Kevan Walter Jones (Belswagger): "Yes, they will all be me!"

David Purdue (Britannia) reminds attendees that they have the use of "morris.org.au" as a domain for AMR sides websites

A round of applause was given to Stephaine Swanson (Squire, AMR) for the production of the AMR newsletter

Stephaine Swanson (Squire, AMR) extends this thanks to Nat Rolfe (Brandragon), Danika Hadgraft (Brandragon), Vivien Lowe (Brandragon), for their efforts in producing the newsletter. General thanks and applause.

Cherie Wilkinson (Hedgemonkey) announces the English Ale held in the Adelaide Hills in mid-May and encourages people to see her for details and booking information.

Meeting Closed at 19:12 by Stephaine Swanson (Squire, AMR)

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

9. List of Attendees

NAME	PRIMARY SIDE
Aaron Bosch	Phoenix Morris (NZ)
Andy Lawton	Britannic Bedlam Morris Gentleman (NZ)
Angie Milce	Albion Fair Morris
Ati Bryan	Hot For Joe
Bill Grim	Port Pirie Morris
Bill Singleton	Adelaide Morris Men
Carissa Lee	Black Joak Morris
Cherie Wilkinson	Hedgemonkey Morris
Chris Hurford	Longford Morris
Cimi Ross	Black Joak Morris
Daniel Baxter	Black Joak Morris
Daniel Smith	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Daniel Townley	Belswagger Morris
Danika Hadgraft	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Dave Hughes	Ragged Band Border Morris
Dave Smith	Adelaide Morris Men
David Purdue	Britannia Morris Men
Di James	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Donald Barnes	Britannia Morris Men
Duncan Grylls	Black Joak Morris
Emma Grey	Albion Fair Morris
Emma Jones	South-East North West
Eric Simpson	Ragged Band Border Morris
Geoffrey Wark	Adelaide Morris Men
George Meirsou	Britannia Morris Men
Graeme Hamilton	Red Raven
Henry Sisley	Black Joak Morris
Holstein Wong	Black Joak Morris
Ian Redpath	Ragged Band Border Morris

Jayden Spillane	Black Joak Morris
Joyce Simpson	Ragged Band Border Morris
Julie McKay	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Justin Presser	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Karina Redpath	Ragged Band Border Morris
Kenneth Smith	Black Joak Morris
Kevan Walter Jones	Belswagger Morris
Lindsay Hamilton	Red Raven
Lisa Kenny	Belswagger Morris
Meg McLean	South-East North West
Michelle Jenkins	Albion Fair Morris
Mike James	Adelaide Morris Men
Nat James	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Natalie Rolfe	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Pam Davies	Albion Fair Morris
Peter Bratby	Britannic Bedlam Morris Gentleman (NZ)
Pete Kneeshaw	Black Joak Morris
Peter Durston	Britannia Morris Men
Reynard Poels	South-East North West
Robert Pilgrim	Britannia Morris Men
Sean Jennings	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Stephanie Swanson	Black Joak Morris
Steven Mansfield	Perth Morris Men
Tania Siegemund	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris
Tasha Erker	Belswagger Morris
Thomas Grylls	Black Joak Morris
Veronica Wagner	Black Joak Morris
Vivien Lowe	Brandragon North-West Clog Morris

AMR AGM MINUTES 2011

Attachment One: Financial Report March 1 2010 - March 1 2011 Income

Membership/insurance	Albion Fair 12/7/2010	320.00
	Red Raven 10/08/2010	320.00
	Longford 21/09	20.00
	Jolly Hatters 27/09/2010	320.00
	Ragged Band 06/10/2010	120.00
	Hedgemonkey 11/10/2010	320.00
	Black Joak 22/10/2010	320.00
	Hot for Joe 01/11/2010	320.00
	Perth Morris Men 25/11/2010	320.00
	Belswagger 25/11/2010	320.00
	Adelaide Morris Men 25/11/2010	320.00
	Brandragon 25/11/2010	320.00
	Britannia Morris Men 30/11/2010	320.00
	South East North-West 30/11/2010	320.00
TOTAL		3980.00

Expenses

Personal accident cover	Ch 75	Via Dancesurance	946.80
	Ch 76	Cancelled	
AGM refreshments	Ch 77	Reimbursement AGM	239.35
Website maintenance	Ch 78	Morris Org website	474.00
Public Liability Insurance	Ch 79	Via McKillops	2370.00
Bank fees			120.00
TOTAL			4150.15

Bank Balance as at 1 March 2010	7250.11
Plus income	3980.00
Less Expenses	4150.15
Bank balance as at 1 March 2011	7179.96
Note unrepresented ch 73?	164.27

* Ragged Band overpaid \$200 2009/10

HOT FOR JOE

AN INSPIRING MODERN INTERPRETATION OF AN ANCIENT DANCE TRADITION

A brief History of Border Morris: The style of Morris dancing known as 'border' originates mainly from four English counties - Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The origins of the tradition are lost in the mists of time, but it is quite probable that border Morris dancing predates the other styles of Morris dancing given that it is arguably more simplistic in its style than the Morris dances of the Cotswolds and North West of England.

Border Morris dancing was at its height in the 1850's - 1860's and was always performed by men. Each village had its own style of dancing and costume, and dances were developed which were exclusive to a particular village. Border dancers often would black their faces with burnt cork to disguise their identity if they were busking, which was tantamount to begging in the nineteenth century. The dancers were sometimes referred to as 'Not For Joers' and the dancing as 'Not For Joeing' after the popular border dance and tune 'Not For Joe'.

As the twentieth century developed, the popularity of border Morris dancing faded. Its revival in the 1970's is mostly due to the influence of John Kirkpatrick and his team 'Shropshire Bedlams', providing the inspiration for modern-day border Morris dancing teams throughout the world.

Hot For Joe Women's Border, Adelaide, South Australia.

Hot For Joe came to life in 1993, originally set up to be just another Border Morris dance side doing the old faithful dances such as Not for Joe and The Evesham stick dance to name a few when two of the then recently recruited members decided to push the boundaries a little and do something a bit out of the ordinary in a morris climate where no one was doing anything different in the Australian scene.



We were tired of seeing the same old dances done from a variety of so called village traditions but all looking the same. We were tired of Jo Public having a good old laugh on behalf of Morris dancing and not taking this dance form seriously and we wanted to perform dances that were original and polished – Hot for Joe was born! We decided to develop a highly stylised, truly unique form of Morris dancing, which essentially emphasised the importance of precise and energetic dancing while at the same time presenting a mysterious, wild and dramatic performance. While still holding a healthy respect for the past and acknowledging many of the wonderful dance teams in the UK we decided it was time to create our own tradition.

All of HFJ's dance repertoire has been choreographed within the

team and many of the tunes used are also originals. We wanted our environment, the music we were listening to and our day to day lives to influence our creativity and form our dances as our Morris dancing ancestors would have been influenced by their village and town lives. Were we taking this all too seriously? Hell, we didn't care!! We chose Doc Marten boots, little black dresses and striped stockings but bells were still worn on the feet, and faces are painted black in a mask-like appearance, just as those of our border-dancing ancestors.



In the late 90's Hot for Joe was the recipient for two South Australian Folk Federation Awards and were also nominees for two SAMIA (South Australian Music Industry) Awards. These accolades reflected not only the groups growing popularity, but also a renewed respect for this ancient art form. The tradition was set!

Now eighteen years and many appearances at major events here in Adelaide and interstate later, Hot For Joe continues to prosper. New dances are written with the influence of new members coming through the side, we find new tunes that inspire us – more recently delving into the psyche of Paul Gooding our accordion player who writes many of our tunes we dance to.

So the seasons move on and our dancing calendar is filling up for the coming months. Like many of you we celebrated May morning by dancing up the dawn on Mount Lofty with our sister side Hedgemonkey and then of course the fantastic English Ale – an event we always look forward to and an important day on our seasonal calendar and we look forward to seeing some of you at the English Ale in 2012!

Adrienne



SIDE REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Albion Fair

Emma Gray

Albion Fair is currently enjoying a little resurgence in popularity. (Although I think it is fairly safe to say, that Albion has always been the most popular north west morris side in New South Wales.) After fairly static numbers of dancers for the past 5 years or so, we managed to attract three new dancers after the National Folk Festival in Canberra - Nadia, Fiona and Ella. It is great to have enough dancers for two sets of six - even if we can't fit two sets of six into the practice hall. We've recently performed at the inaugural Northern Beaches Folk Festival in Narrabeen. After a first set outside by Pittwater Road, we were the 'surprise' feature at the end of the Wheeze & Suck Band's gig. We had a tiny space to dance in - about 1 metre by 2 metres - and I think Pam ended up on the sound man's lap (due to lack of space, you

understand...) but it was a great set with an enthusiastic audience. The National Folk Festival in Canberra was a lot of fun, as usual. Albion was on as a busking side and we particularly enjoyed the 'What's in a tune' massed morris, mainly because we had paid no attention at all to the pre arranged length of the tunes, or As and Bs, and determined to dance on until we'd finished each dance. This meant that we were on stage for every tune, and were the last ones to finish every time. What a bunch of show ponies. We love it. We're now back to practising every week - Tuesday nights at 7.30 in the Rozelle Community Centre on Darling St. And, since we missed announcing our 30th birthday a few years ago, I hereby announce that Albion Fair is 32 this year. Or it might be 33 - nobody seems to be able to agree on a founding year. Whatever - it's pretty old. For a morris side.

Black Joak

Carissa Lee

Black Joak have had an eventful three months, and are coming up to our AGM at the end of May, after which the dreaded festival drought begins!

Luddenham Show: Despite the searing heat, we entertained cows, horses, and occasionally people.

Cobargo Festival: Led the festival procession through swarms of crickets, then discovered the power of teamwork, boredom, and lots of sand by creating rapids and a jacuzzi in the river

Ettalong Festival: Scored a new gig on the Central Coast in a little street festival where we danced through the drizzle.

St Albans Festival: Won the Chorus Cup with the song 'Wild Morris

Boys' to the tune of Wild Mountain Thyme, ran a successful workshop in a tennis court, and jived in the beer garden of a customer-hating publican's hotel

NFF: Went to EPIC the weekend before just to set up our own Tent City, kitchen, dining room, work area, etc...then had a great time at the festival (with ample photo evidence) dancing in the streets, singing in the session bar stairwell, and extending an open invitation for stray morrisers to party at our campsite. Thank you Duncan and Judi!

May Day: Saw the sun up over the Harbour Bridge and Opera House at 0530 atop Observatory Hill in the Rocks, then breakfasted before dancing some more outside a very tolerant Irish (gasp!) pub, where we had several alcoholic beverages.

QUEENSLAND

Belswagger

Kevan Walter Jones

From the trench warfare of Woodford to the freezing typhoid epidemics of the National, Belswagger has been busy. Firstly we welcome our two newest members: Brendan Hancock and Sophie Moore.

Woodford presented the usual challenges of heat and unsealed roads, with the added surprise (?) of near-torrential rain. Despite this, we survived intact and managed a stage performance coupled with a workshop and some intermittent street attached to the rushcart processional.

Our first harvest festival of the year took place at the Chinchilla Melon Festival, where we danced an epic processional in 35° degree heat in direct sunlight. On the plus side, we ended up on television for 1.5 seconds. A Purple Heart is to be awarded to Andrea for courageously exploding her knee during a spirited Queen's Delight outside the main pub. This year we

re-reignited the tradition of dancing the streets of Brisbane in a mini-Ale. Highlights included our expulsion from an unnamed Irish pub, for the crimes of playing authentic Irish/English folk music (the patrons preferred Metallica) and Delia Hamwood earning her Colours with a single jig in the tradition of Sherbourne.

Several Belswagger members engaged in the massed morris at the National, and were involved in some mixed Cotswold processions in the parade. Congratulations also go to the jig winners, Kevan Walter Jones, Daniel Townley and Delia Hamwood who combined won first prize in the single and double jig categories.

Finally Belswagger is celebrating its 21st birthday in the form of an ale, to take place on the weekend of 24th September 2011. More information will be forthcoming, but at this stage billeting is guaranteed for interstaters.

SIDE REPORTS

Ragged Band

Ian

After a successful National tour, the Raggies slowly stumbled back over the border, with the last not reaching warmer climes until Wednesday 4 May. This left Dave pretty much on his own on May Day morning, which he reported was dark and cold and windy. After a little while it became just cold and windy, which proves that nothing's perfect (or something of that sort). If it wasn't enough being a brilliant and elusive border morris side, the Raggies will take two hurdy gurdies to shows at Brookfield and Ipswich this month. "We've found the hurdy gurdies make an interesting droning noise that complements the droning of our

spruiker. He will go on," advised the groups's musical director. "We have found it all works better if we are playing the same tune." This revelation will add a new dimension to the music of the group, even if it does nothing to improve their dancing. The side's Bag reports that he is as much in the dark as everyone else, "and we're staying that way!" Check the darksidemorris channel on youTube for film from the National Folk Festival. There's also news that the group may change practice night to Thursdays. "Our members were getting used to coming every Wednesday, so we thought that might shake them off." The Raggies can be contacted on 0418 630 693.

South East North-West

Kevan Walter Jones

Political wrangling and exciting general meetings resulted in the annual appointment of a new squire (Andrea), forepoisson [sic] (Kevan) and bag (Kerry). We are delighted to welcome an influx of new members including Sophie, Marcus, Rebecca and Portia. All four of them are well on the way to becoming excellent dancers. Only a handful of SENW dancers were able to attend the National, but we were still able to participate in a few massed Morris events. Sophie (one of our newest dancers) demonstrated great valour in dancing out for the first time on stage during the "What's in a tune" event. Many thanks

to Brandragon for inviting SENW to dance a processional with them during the Fools'n'Beasts parade. We have continued to maintain our usual repertoire, whilst resurrecting a few old dances. Many thanks go to Derek & Allison [check names...also don't put this in the newsletter, or this] from Leeds Morris Men/Briggate Morris for introducing two new Northwest garland dances to our collection. Our kit continues to evolve, from our initial allegedly Austro-Hungarian efforts to our now verdant/plum/sunburst waistcoats and sinuous skirts. While we still enjoy our garlands, we may adopt some (arguably) more fashionable hats in the future.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide Morris Men

Mike James

Its been an interesting year for the AMM. We have been fairly busy with a reasonable amount of dancing and travel and a fair amount of planning for future events. We have had two guests visit us from England, one from Winster MM and one from Foresters MM. Each occasion was an excellent excuse for a lot of drinking and dancing (not that we need much of an excuse). We have plans for another return trip to England and the guys have started saving their pennies in anticipation.

We held our AGM in May and re-elected Mike James as Squire, Geoff Wark as Foreman, and Matt Lowry as Bagman. Greg Bull has now resigned from financial duties and passed the baton to Matt. Dave Smith is still our archivist, and Paul Dare and Roger as our recruiting officers. If you want more information on the side or to find some details online you can visit www.adelaidemorrismen.com but remember that we are insanely slack about updating the site, much to our web guru's frustration. We have a facebook page but its even more smelly and fungal than the website. Now all we need is an untouched twitter account and we're all set.

Another thing that's been happening in the past year is a slight increase in general session music and interest in singing. Definitely a good thing

in my books, and there should be more of it. We are still very much a dancing side, but there is also time for a bit of music, and song.

Our numbers havent dropped off at all in the last year, and in fact we have seen some excellent attendance at both practice and footups. Its been good to see some new guys along to practice and good to see the return of some of the old ones.

Heres a list of our previous footups for the half year. (I'm bound to have forgotten a few)

BrewBoys day of dance
Weekend of dance for Cecil
All British Car day at Uraidla
Swan Hill weekend of dance
Day of dance in Handorf
National Folk Festival Easter weekend
MayDay
BBQ and Rob Roy pub practice night for Jeff
The English Ale
Day of Dance in the Port district.

We are looking forward to some excellent events in the next half of the year, eg the trip to Perth, and the Brandragon Ale. Also fun stuff like pub tours, stick cutting, video nights, music days, etc etc.

SIDE REPORTS

Hedgemonkey

Kimbo

Apologies first. We missed the last edition only due to the fact the Squire was up to her eyelids in uni assignments. The duty should've fallen to the Foreman ...he was just slack. That was made worse by the Hofers' humongously long wrap up. Thanks Rach for showing us up! Now he has his proverbial in a pile for this edition. I was going to use the 'Trapped in Toowoomba by rising flood waters' excuse, but... Excuse excuses. I had convinced the SA sides (and associated bands) over the previous 18 months that the tales of Mudford were a gross exaggeration and the sweaty slip slop slurp of the Queensland air was not far behind. They shouldn't fret, it would all be sunny, warm and wonderful. Oh, did I certainly cop it!

However, Morris Central was a huge success, and though convenient, it's not the best place to try and sleep. Thumping bass and drums ceased at about 2.30am and the garbage truck comes at 5 followed by the performers drop offs at 6.30. But didn't we have fun! A HUGE thankyou must go to all of the sides (you know who you are) that made the effort to process and dance in the somewhat lengthy Spirit of Albion Parade of Giants at Woodford. It was the intention to do two parades but the rain tinkled and the Guinness Bar called. The one parade was a huge success, even if the burning of the Wicker Man was somewhat scaled down ...there's a Spinal Tap joke in there somewhere. Between us all we made a huge spectacle, in a good way, which should be remembered for some time. There was lots of good feedback from the organisers. Thank you!

Our combined gig on New Year's Eve was also a huge success. 'Oak, Ash Thorn and Glitter - A Very English New Year' went down a treat. A show that lasted from 8.30pm till 1.30am consisting of Hot For Joe, Hedgemonkey, Bygone Error, The Fayre Guisers Mummies, Spiral Dance and Flange Desire. If nothing else I for one was totally stuffed by the end. The Morris highlight of the gig was the Hofers and Hedgies dancing the combined dance "Spirit of Albion" to the folk rock band Spiral Dance. Even on the 'challenging' dance floor we managed to

pull it off. Though in retrospect we shouldn't complain, the dance floor was under a half a metre of raging torrent a week later. Also a big thanks must go to the Queenslanders for being our hosts and organising the Rush Cart. Of course, the apres-morris in the Guinness Bar is always a hoot. The only major casualties from the festival, apart from worn ligaments, sore heads, drooping eyelids and some minor cases of mould in embarrassing places, were our white joggers. Everything else seemed to heal up.

The gang down here are still talking about it. And didn't we have fun! ...of course it won't rain.

The English Ale was another great weekend. We had dancers from Qld, Vic and Tassie along with the local SA sides. The dorm accommodation was brilliant and Cherie and Little Rach did a tremendous job of organising and cooking. Oh, the FOOD! ...mmmm. Meet and greet at Arbury Park on the Friday eve, dancing at the Bridgewater pub on Saturday morning then at Mylor in the afternoon, Giants Parade and Wicker Man/bonfire in the evening and a relaxing finish on Sunday at the Rob Roy pub. We all took turns in teaching/learning some new dances in varying traditions. I don't know that my brain works much on these Sundays. Oh, CRUNCH! ...THAT left!

Hope to see you all next year.

Fleurieu Folk Festival last year saw Matt's final Hedgemonkey dance before he and Pam went bush to pursue the 'Good Life'. Good luck guys. Woodford was Mel's last dance with us before leaving for 'sunny' Queensland but I hear she's prowling about up there somewhere. John and Jill have decided to call it a day after four years. Thanks for all your efforts guys. On an 'up' note, however, we have three very enthusiastic newbies who, after only six weeks training, had an informal un-kitted dance or two on Mt Lofty on May Day. Ati, Christian and Paul are coming along very nicely. AND they've lowered the average age of the side.

All in all Hedgemonkey is still chugging along nicely. After 11 years I think we are now at Hedgemonkey Version 3.1.

Hot For Joe

Rachael Neild

It's been a big few months for Hot For Joe and there have been some big changers.

As has become a May Day tradition we joined with Hedgemonkey to dance up the sun at Mt Lofty. Even though the sun was masked by cloud and there were a few light showers we had a fantastic turn out from both sides to celebrate Beltane. The next ticket on the HFJ calendar was

the English Ale. This was the first outing in which the side donned its new top hats. The English Ale is always one of HFJ favourite events and this year was particularly exciting as it gave us a chance to show Damh the Bard what his song 'The Spirit of Albion' had inspired.

As we had reached a gap in our festival scheduled it was time for our AGM. We had a big shake up with Adrienne Piggott (squire) stepping and Rachel Massy (secretary) stepping down due to band commitments. To fill these positions the side

SIDE REPORTS

elected Rachael Neild as their new squire and Ati Bryan and there new secretary. Louise Gooding continues as Bag.

HFJ is now focussed on writing some new dances to be debuted later in the year.



TASMANIA

Jolley Hatters

Angie and Di

Jolley Hatters celebrated autumn and mourned the end of daylight savings at the Derwent Valley Autumn Festival in New Norfolk. Joined by our friends from Longford Morris, we spent an enjoyable day at this favourite annual event.

Two Hatters went to the National Folk Festival in Canberra over Easter. The highlight for Trish and Angie was taking part in the Thirdest Ever Jig Competition, where they performed Princess Royal Bledington to the less commonly used minor-key tune.



Dancing up the dawn on May Day on top of Mt Wellington is always an adventure for the Hatters and friends. To quote the Foreman, we were wet but not miserable. The summit of Mt Wellington turned on uncharacteristic fine driving mist and rain but it was a case of “no summit, no badges” and it really wasn’t so cold, about 5 degrees. Stuart Graham provided a washing machine drum full of roaring fire, Mary toasted orange bread around the edge and Vera dished out the gluwein. Instrument cases stayed firmly closed against the damp but after singing the tunes for a bit and a shot at playing a tune on the emergency recorder, Deanna came to the rescue and played her piano accordion wrapped up in the garland bag. There was a



reluctance to stop dancing and head off for breakfast.

We didn’t see the sun. The mist and cloud parted for only a minute to give us a great view of south eastern Tasmania.

SIDE REPORTS

VICTORIA

Brandragon North-West Clog Morris

Sean (Foredragon) and Justin (Squire)

Marysville: 9th April Gallipoli Park in Marysville was re-opened with a reflective garden and amazing new kid's playground. The committee of the kindergarten requested Brandragon come along to dance in the space and liven up a potentially dull official day. We had a ball dancing about the paths of the playground, with a trail of children dancing along behind us. The kids then went on to plant a garden of reeds in the creek bed alongside the park, claiming the space as their own

Did I mention how amazing the playground is? It has a 'fort' with a hand-pump feeding an Archimedes screw which can be turned to raise water to a trough which feeds a mill wheel. This is kid's play equipment! I love it.

NFF: Easter weekend Brandragon performed a great set on the Piazza and met our first true Morris fan-girl at our workshop while teaching Ducks in the Privy. Tara was so keen that she jumped up to dance "Maid of the Mill" with Britannia and Adelaide Morris men and she even collected our signatures on her program when we met her at a Contra dance later in the festival!

May Day & Kellybrook Cider Festival: Brandragon had its traditional May Day foot-up at All Nations Park in Northcote. The beautiful crisp morning was punctuated by the wheeze of

melodeons, the tootle of recorders, the beating of drums, the jingle of bells and the stomp of feet as the dragons tried to get some warmth back into their bodies as well as the world. Once the sun had risen and their Morris duty was done, the dragons settled in for their traditional opulent breakfast. It was a great effort to sample all that was on offer, but well worth it since everything was delicious.

After scattering to attend to some morning obligations (like finding more coffee), the dragons reconvened at Kellybrook winery to dance with the Britannia Morris Men at the Kellybrook Cider Festival.

The weather was mild and perfect, the audience appreciative, and the scrumpy and apple juice flowed freely, guaranteeing an excellent time for all. Our thanks go to BMM for making us welcome to this lovely event.

Awesome discussion on music involving step-clogging: TEDxBrighton -- Sarah Angliss -- Loving the Machine "This dance was devised by women who were working in the mills and they were copying the machines around them... their rhythmic qualities and the fact that they were so bloody loud!"

Red Raven

Lindsay Hamilton

Red Raven have enjoyed several foot-ups and social engagements since February 2011. And no, we haven't got a helicopter licence between us, so we haven't been in Pakistan lately.

We have dined and frolicked at Melbourne Botanical gardens followed by a cleansing ale or two at the Belgian Beer cafe in February.

In March we processed in the Warrandyte festival parade and then proceeded to the local brewers tents and performed a few dances before retiring to the Hamilton's house for more social obligations. We did stop at the pub enroute and were paid to dance by a cheer-full (or at least 3/4 full) punter in the bar.

April found some Ravens at the NFF in the guise of other teams ie Brandragon and BMM. Most came home with a lurgy of some sort.

Britannia Morris Men hosted a weekend of dance at Kellybrook winery on the May Day weekend, attended by most Ravens in one guise or another. Yet again, a certain chicken hat was photographed ad nauseum. There was much pleasantry and cider aplenty.

May Day was celebrated by most with one or other of the local teams.

Practice continues once a month and we worked on Bitsa six and Rourke's Drift, Dillwyn and Lads of Buncham last night.

Next week end we are off to the Daylesford Cidery for a new dance site with great potential,

Later in May we have planned a tour of Geelong with it's splendid foreshore and pubs.

As you can see, we keep ourselves busy.



SIDE REPORTS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Perth Morris Men

Steven Mansfield

The Perth Morris Men have had a reasonable start to the year. We danced at the Perth Medieval Fayre (check out the Youtube video of the occasion on our web site!). We also danced at the Guildford Heritage Festival, Fairbridge Festival and a couple of private parties. Three of our number made it across to Canberra for the National Folk Festival. Terry Sweet, Lex Edmonds, & Steven Mansfield took part in various massed Morris events. Ex Perth Morris Squire Bill Singleton donned the Perth colours as well.

The recent May Day was well attended at Kings Park with twelve of us in attendance (see also attached). In Perth's case we actually celebrated a couple of days later (May the 3rd) due to the



Fairbridge Festival coinciding with May Day.

Our numbers have improved recently with the addition of ex Wyvern Jubilee (Somerset) dancer Dan Bowes, ex Adelaide Morris man Brian Smith and two enthusiastic Morris "virgins" Dave Arnold and Stephen Walters.

At the moment we are starting to plan for a visit to Perth by Adelaide Morris Men and others in the second weekend in August. It is all a bit exciting really - we don't get many visitors - tyranny of distance and all that! However, we did receive a visit recently of a couple of English Morris dancers, Alison & Derek Matthews. They helped out at a stand and also joined in the fun at Canberra.



L to R Terry, Bill, Steve & Lex



BACK IN THE DAY

SYDNEY MORRIS MEN

Minutes of A.G.M. dated 7th June 1988

1. Present

John Milce	Pete Kneeshaw
Terry Embling	Bill Scott
Ian Macintosh	John Warburton
Bill Singleton	Loll Osborne
Martin Brown	Gerry Fox
Carol	John McRae

2. Apologies for Absence

Soupy
Derek Brown

3. Minutes of 1985 A.G.M.

Taken as read, although the numerous spelling mistakes, particularly in relation to member's names, were drawn to the Bagman's attention.

4. Squires Report

The outgoing Squire gave a brief verbal report, spanning the two and a half years of his reign, which was accepted. He also indicated that he would not be available for re-election.

5. Bagmans Report

Once again, the Bagman stunned all present with his all-encompassing grasp of the fiscal aspect of running the side. His beautifully presented report was accepted with awe and slight suspicion by all present. The meeting wished it to be recorded that it particularly appreciated the way that the books managed to show that the recent National Folk Festival cost the side less than \$100.

6. Election of Office Bearers

a. Squire

Time (and available hard disk memory) preclude me from recording the full extent of the discussion which ensued to determine which of the two nominees (Martin and Bil TW) would best fill this semi important position. Suffice it to say that Bill Singleton was eventually elected.

b. Bagman

The outgoing Bagman offered himself for re-election. With that fateful year of 1983 still fresh in the minds of the more 'mature' members of the side he was very quickly re-elected before anyone else could get their nomination in.

c. Assistant to Squire

The incumbent (Ian Macintosh) indicated that he wished to adopt a lower profile this year (we should be so lucky), nobody else expressed any interest, and the position was therefore not filled.

d. Keeper of the records

This impressive sounding position was conjured up at an earlier juncture in the meeting. The only person who seemed vaguely interested in taking it on was the erstwhile

Ian Macintosh. He was duly elected to the position.

7. Any other business

a. Costume

The 'Squires Bull' on costume, as agreed at the previous AGM was attached to the agenda for information. The outgoing Squire (in a move he was later to regret) suggested that we review it. The best part of an hour was duly spent covering the same ground that was covered in 1985, with a net result of the 'Bull' being accepted as is. We did resolve to do one stand in black trousers to gauge opinion on whether or not we should adopt them as part of our uniform.

b. Publicity

In a thinly disguised attempt at holding on to some vestige of authority in the side the outgoing Squire offered his services as 'Publicity Officer'. His offer was accepted with gratitude, and some trepidation, inasmuch as valuable club documents which had been entrusted to his care had been carelessly deposited in the flood prone basement of his residence. These documents have, not unexpectedly, suffered considerable water damage. Mr Embling was placed on notice that the side expected him to store any publicity material with which he may be entrusted in his attic.

c. Wimps

During earlier discussion on the election of Squire Pete Kneeshaw requested that the Clubs policy in respect of performing unnatural acts with women be discussed during Any Other Business. Unfortunately, by the time we reached this item on the agenda Mr Kneeshaw had been summonsed away from the meeting by his good lady. The item therefore lapsed.

d. Overseas tour

John Warburton suggested that we undertake another overseas tour, in order that he can exact revenge by regaling future members of the side with HIS stories of lust and deprivation whilst serving Queen and country. The suggestion was met with resounding apathy by the veterans of 1982, and enthusiastic interest by the rookies. It was resolved that Mr Warburton conduct a feasibility study and report back to the Executive on it's completion.

e. Vote of thanks

The incoming (and by now well and truly inebriated) Squire moved a vote of thanks for the outgoing Squire and Bagman. This was carried by wildly enthusiastic acclamation.

There being no other business (thank Christ) the meeting closed at approx. 23.30 hrs.

John Milce
Bagman



MASSED MORRIS

NORTH WEST

Ducks in the Privy

Version: Apr 2011

From the Lancashire Witches

Set: 5 people, 4 in a circle, numbered 1 to 4 clockwise, the 5th (Duck) in the middle.

1 leads on & off

Music: Woodland Flowers

Figures: Start, Shuttle, Reel, Hey. With sticks

Stepping: Rounds; skipped, Shuttle; 1 2 3 kick, 1 2 3 caper; and step kick, L foot start

Start Duck 'cartwheels' into circle and catches sticks thrown by 1 and 3.

All clash sticks above head on 8 then into...

Rounds 1 - 4 skip clockwise round the circle, sticks held as candlesticks, returning to place, while Duck eccentrically skips anticlockwise round inside..

Shuttle 2 & 4 quarter turn to face 3, R 2 3 kick, back 2 3 caper (change feet), L 2 3 kick, back 2 3 turn, to face 1 (180 to face the other direction) and repeat.

3 does L 2 3 kick, back 2 3 caper (change feet), ready to do-si-do with 1.

While 2, 4 & 3 do this, 1 & Duck step kick and clash sticks:

Duck moves towards 1 at end of Rounds and both jump on last step of rounds (so both feet are together) to face each other and then start Step-Kick and clash.

1. Footing: Jump onto L, kicking R across body
Sticks: Clash R sticks together,

2. Footing: Hop off L, landing on both feet together
Sticks: Clash own sticks together,

3. Footing: Jump onto R, kicking L across body
Sticks: Clash L sticks together,

4. Footing: Hop off R, landing on both feet together
Sticks: Clash own sticks together,

Repeat 1 through 4.

Then 1 & 3 do a long do-si-do by the R across set.

Duck joins in as if to do a R shoulder reel with 1, but

turns to chase 1 back across the set, into position to repeat step kick and clash with 3.

1 and 3 repeat do-si-do then lead straight into:

Reel 1, Duck and 3 do a L shoulder reel of three while 2 and 4 stand still facing into centre, candlesticks.

All clash sticks above head on count 8 of reel then into:

Rounds

Shuttle 2 Repeat Shuttle and Reel with Duck facing 4 first and 1 & 3 facing 2.

Rounds

Hey All take 4 skips into straight line across set (3 4 Duck 2 1), with 2 & 4 facing up and 1, Duck & 3 facing down. Left shoulder Hey, maintaining straight line at each turn (4 skips per position change, on beat 2 clash sticks together, beat 4 clash sticks in line with the two people next to you), with 1 turning 360 on their own for first turn (1 turns 360 while others change places with person on L - eg 2 & Duck, 4 & 3),

On beat 4 the line is (4 3 2 duck 1), 1 having taken 4 beats to turn on the spot. The line is now inversed.

Repeat with turns to the right, and duck 4 turning on the spot. ie 1 and duck, 3 and 2.

After the next 4 beats the line is (4 2 3 1 duck)

Repeat until back to place. 4 skips per turn, clashing own sticks together on 2 and to each side, in straight line, on 4.

All take 4 skips out of line, back to place. On 8, clash sticks above head, then into:

Rounds

Dance Off 1 leads off. Duck follows 3 dancing wildly.

MASSED MORRIS

WOODLAND FLOWERS

www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

The first system of musical notation for 'Woodland Flowers' consists of a treble clef staff in G major and 6/8 time. The melody begins with a repeat sign. Below the staff are rhythmic notation and a guitar-style chord chart. The chord chart shows a 6/8 time signature and uses numbers 0, 2, and 1 to indicate fret positions on the strings.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and includes first and second endings. The first ending is marked with a '1' and a repeat sign, leading to a double bar line. The second ending is marked with a '2' and a repeat sign. Below the staff are rhythmic notation and a guitar-style chord chart.

The third system of musical notation continues the melody. Below the staff are rhythmic notation and a guitar-style chord chart.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece with first and second endings. The first ending is marked with a '1' and a repeat sign, leading to a double bar line. The second ending is marked with a '2' and a repeat sign. Below the staff are rhythmic notation and a guitar-style chord chart.



MORRIS