

SWORD DANCE UNION

Annual General Meeting of the Sword Dance Union

Richmond

Saturday October 11, 2014

Minutes

In attendance

Sally Wearing *Mabel Gubbins*; Ron Day *Stone Monkey*; Jenny Day *Triskele*; Richard Bojanowski *Barnsley*; Phil Heaton *Stone Monkey*; Aubrey O'Brien *Sallyport*; Ed Dyson *Northgate*; IRK Davies *Mons Meg*; Moira Clarke *Redcar*; Brian Pearce *Redcar*; John Atkinson *Goathland*; Ashley Powell *Grenoside & 6 Jolly Miners*; Ray Ellison *Grenoside*; Jeff Lawson *Goathland*; Eilidh Brinsley *Whip the Cat*.

1. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

These were accepted.

2. Next year's events

Ed Dyson reported that DERT 2015 would be held in Bristol, 10th to 12th April. All was progressing well. They would be using an online booking system, which would be open from 1st November.

The next SDU AGM and Longsword Competition will be held in Goathland.

It was pointed out that the timing was not good for children's teams, as it was near the start of the autumn term when new dancers have not had enough time to get good enough to compete. Other options were discussed, including possibly adding the children's longsword competition into DERT or holding a separate competition just for children. It was pointed out that it was expensive for children to go travel for events.

Health and safety, and child safeguarding issues also needed to be considered, including whether police checks were needed for adults involved with children's teams. It was reported that checks were not needed if parents voluntarily allowed their children to be involved, but NYFTE made sure people had CRB checks and full risk assessments. There may now be a general CRB check available to cover all areas.

Ron Day offered to investigate what, if any, checks were required.

Ashley Powell was appointed as the Children's Coordinator for the SDU, to gather information from children's teams and to co-ordinate events.

3. Officers

The current officers were re-elected.

4. Officers' Reports

Secretary

Thanks to Black Swan for organising DERT and Edwin Dryson for dragging the SDU into the modern age.

Although both competitions were working well, the secretary questioned how morris teams who did rapper and/or longsword badly could be involved. Whether teams exhibited or competed was discussed, as seven teams had competed while five teams had exhibited this year. It was pointed out that it used to be like this in rapper, but that had naturally evolved and now there were only a few teams (e.g. new ones) who exhibited.

The SDU had been slightly involved in DART, which had used the judging criteria etc. from DERT, except that they had added choreography.

There had not been a NE competition this year, as too many teams were at a birthday party.

Ricky Foster had been awarded an EFDSS gold badge.

The SDU swords had been in use for most of the year.

The SDU's medals had at last been produced.

It was suggested that the SDU should look into organising our own insurance.

Treasurer

We had about £2,000 at the start of the year. £634 (£500 plus £134 from the raffle at DERT) had been donated to Goathland.

Membership subs were now due.

5. SDU Awards

Phil asked for suggestions for individuals and teams for SDU awards. An award was to be presented to Frank Lee at DERT.

6. Joint Morris Organisation

It was decided to approach Mel Barker (President of the Morris Federation) again to discuss this.

7. Archives and Filming

Phil reported that the SDU should try to get money from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Ricky pointed out that High Spen Blue Diamonds had approached them for money for swords and got a minibus.

8. Goathland Reading Room

John Atkinson gave a full report on the plans for building the new facility in Goathland, including showing the architect's drawings and schedules. The final plans were to be put in next week. They had enough money for the land. The aim was to include storing archives, i.e. Goathland's. The SDU could make use of it, at minimal cost.

9. SDU Website/Twitter/Facebook

Ed reported that he had revamped the website, moving it to a WordPress platform. This meant that more than one person could update the website. He was receiving a lot from rapper teams, but not from longsword, so he was trying to encourage longsword teams to contact him.

He distributed a document "Developing and maintaining your online team presence", which was intended to help teams. It was available on the SDU website.

10. Any other business

Ian Davis asked what had happened to Trevor Stone's archive. It had been given to the British Museum of Folklore.

Eilidh Brinsley pointed out that women often did longsword at workshops, but she didn't know which teams accepted women. She proposed a survey of who did what and where. Ed and Eilidh were asked to consider whether to organise a survey.