

SWORD DANCE UNION

Annual General Meeting of the Sword Dance Union

Minutes of October 16. 2010

Minutes of 2009 were read and accepted.

In attendance 2010,

John Asher; Ivor Allsop, Trish Bater, Chris Cartridge, Ron Day, Jeff Lawson, Stuart Higson, Mike Loftus, Brian Pearce, Adrienne Moss, Nigel Moss, Ricky Forster, A.O'Brien, Richard Bojanowski, Geoff Charlton, Steve Mettam, Sally Wearing, Phil Heaton, Jenny Day

1. 2010

In the Chair Sally Wearing

2. Date of next meeting

Saturday October 16 2011 Guisborough

3. Minutes of 2010

- *Newsletter.* Chris C. needs information for a GENERAL circulation and also a Xmas dance out Annual Special.
- *Hire Swords* have been out many times. Now free to members. Postage/transport still paid by recipient.
- *Competition* ~ Longsword, DERT, Junior working
- *C# Longswords.* Thanks to Geoff Charlton for sorting the C# longswords.
- *Funding.* Failure yet again. Olympics offer mentioned.
- *Haven Holiday homes* have been approached about having a junior Longsword/Rapper activity week to be run as a school project during term time.
- *Website:* Paul still needs team info. Would help if membership information was displayed.
- *SDU committee.* Jobs/tasks still need new members.
- *Committee.* Needs help with Skype or conference calling.
- *SDU Awards.* John Asher's proposals for a two level award were discussed but bypassed.
- *DERT.* SDU has taken bigger steps to integrate with DERT ensuring consistency.
- *JMO.* This was discussed but IA and SW still keen to pursue.
- *Archive.* IA still working to acquire as much as possible. RB to assist
- *Workshops.* Again we have been asked to provide tutors but no list exists.
- *Treasurer.* Discussions followed the excellent report. Can we support EFDSS rapper publication? Yes. Can SDU support the NUT? Yes. The future of Rattle Up MY Boys is under discussion. Could SDU financially support it? Yes.

Secretary's Report

1. Chris C needs information for the Newsletter...preferably different types.

A. General news to broadcast

B. Christmas time performances so they can be well advertised in plenty of time.

NB May need a replacement. CC busy at work.

2. Competitions are working fairly well. BUT, as Bryan Jackson from Monkseaton pointed out, it's a two edged sword. Lots of people avoid competitions but we can't really attract younger dancers unless there is some form of meeting, socializing and showing off. For many teams their only purpose is to practice to compete.

The other side of the blade is that there may be many dancers teams put off from forming because the standard they see is too high and they don't want to compete. I think providing the venue and the opportunity to Exhibit may be an answer.

DART was splendid....Thrales won, Sallyport Third and Mons Meg about fourth. Thrales wowed them with the unicycle business. It will take place with DERT/SDU rules next weekend in Boston. It's due to move to Baltimore in 2012.

The Junior Competition organized loosely by Damien Barber was a quieter affair than in other years but it was still excellent. SDU supported the Event with Rules, Judges and Rosettes.

The first reinstated N.E Rapper Championship since 1953 was held in Washington in September being more a social occasion. With five senior teams and two junior. Some of the older teams and dancers came and watched. SDU donated the Senior Trophy. High Spen donated the Junior. It's planned for October 6 next year in the Sage, Gateshead. Many thanks to Brenda Walker and her Northern Counties Clog Championship organisation

DERT was held in Oxford very successfully. SDU trophies and rules and regulations applied. It will be next held in Cecil Sharp House in March organized by Thrales.

The SDU Longsword Tournament at Grenoside was very well attended and the CJ Sharp event was highly praised. Many thanks to Grenoside.

3. Hire Swords have been very busy. All four of the rapper sets have been used over the year, mainly passed on by hand! They were used at various workshops around the country and at Ely, Sidmouth, Whitby and other festivals. They are currently being workshopped by the Iron Men and Severn Gilders. * Unknown tutor.

A set of Longswords, recently rejuvenated by Geoff Charlton of Southport has been borrowed by Claro Sword, Stone Monkey are keeping another set warm. More Longsword sets are available.

(An interesting point, the organizer of the One Day Rapper Workshops, has borrowed them. If she joins as an individual technically she can borrow them for free. She charges £25 per day to 'teach' individuals rapper. Discuss)

*I would like to see them being only used by SDU approved tutors so the list needs making and managing.

4. Attempts at gaining funding have failed again as has the connection with the Olympics.

5. The website is developing but, as always, Paul is still looking for teams' profiles and pictures. He requested that more information on the SDU membership be published.

6. There have been some moves to publish a small range of dances under an SDU banner, of dances currently being performed but not available to hand. Mike Jensen of Carlisle has agreed that, while his five man longsword dance is available on the Web, it would indeed be better as a well produced hard copy with some background information etc. Members can suggest other new dances which would benefit from a similar treatment. A recent publication from a morris team on the South coast of a four man sword dance has recently appeared.