

SWORD DANCE UNION

Annual General Meeting of the Sword Dance Union

Minutes of October 15. 2011

Minutes of 2010 were read and accepted.

In attendance 2011,

John Asher; Ivor Allsop, Ron Day, Jeff Lawson, A.O'Brien, Richard Bojanowski, Steve Mettam, Sally Wearing, Phil Heaton, Jenny Day, Alistair Bloomfield, Douglas Kell, Brian Kell, Ray Ellison, Garry Leigh, David Shaftoe, Mark Campey, Ricky Forster, Dave Burley
Aplologies: Chris Cartridge, Sallyport, Paul Davenport, Handsworth, Redcar

In the Chair: Sally Wearing

- Date of next meeting
Saturday October 6, The SAGE, Gateshead
- It was explained that the Sage had been offered for our Longsword Tournament and and that it would make an ideal combination day to include the N.E Rapper Championship.
- Ron Day was coopted on to the committee as a Technical Adviser.
- Linda Hewing has resigned her post on the Committee and we would like to thank her for all her valuable input and advice since the SDU was inaugurated.
- Chris Cartridge has also taken a step back from the committee due to pressure of work but has offered to remain at available to assist should the SDU need it. Thanks again for your help.
- *Newsletter.* Chris C. had suggested to the committee, that someone else would like to take it up. It was suggested that the Web site could provide the information on Xmas dance outings and other more general matters. Paul Davenport has opened a SDU Facebook account to provide similar information.
- *Publications.* It was noticed that the NUT relies on occasional outside support ie donors/ advertisers to keep it afloat. Ron Day declined an offer from the SDU to contribute continually. The situation would remain fluid. And should the need arise, the meeting felt that with the Treasurer's approval donations to keep the NUT operational would

be available. Jeff Lawson has taken up the reins of 'Rattle Up My Boys' from Andrew Kennedy and felt that with his wide subscription base he could continue to run it successfully. An offer of help was offered from the SDU.

- *Hire Swords*: The rappers have been out many times. And some of the Longsword sets have also been used. Now free to members. Postage/transport still paid by recipient.
- *Competition* : Longsword , DERT, Junior had worked in 2011 but was not being planned for next year. The DERT competition has been adopted by the SDU to help run the event and also to provide consistent rules and judging standards year on year. It was felt that some recent DERT events had suffered at the hands of different organisers. Dancers and teams felt that a more consistent approach was needed. To this end the SDU has offered to organize basic rules and judging and to help out in an advisory capacity. The Longsword Tournament now has a solid and consistent judging criteria and strong judges guidelines . These have been honed over a period of a few years and Redcar have formalized the deliberations. They will be used as a benchmark in future events. This would help to standardize the dances and encourage those wishing to be involved since the guidelines are now written. Any team is to be encouraged to come along and exhibit at the various SDU events and all teams whether members or not should be encouraged to attend. From the floor it was suggested that perhaps competing teams would be in the minority with competition becoming less important in the future.
- *Publications*: The Committee on the members behalf have decided to help support the EFDSS publication of the Rapper book and DVD which will carry the SDU logo when they are published.
- *Awards*: Ron Day volunteered to act as liaison and in a technical capacity after it was revealed that the Secretary and the Chairman had failed to produce a decent award. Secretary apologized to the meeting.
- *Rapper teams*: It was pointed out from the floor that there were not many rapper teams involved as members. In view of the increasing involvement with DERT, it was felt that a recruitment drive should take place. Secretary suggested the DERT 2013 (organisers not yet known) could offer some inducements in the form of reduced entry fees etc to members as is the custom with the Longsword Tournament.

- *Insurance:* Again, the question of whether the SDU would like to take on organising Sword Teams' Insurance has arisen. It was discussed but no resolution made. It would certainly help to 'tie' the sword teams into the Union.

3. Secretary's Report

1. It has been an odd year since I have been extremely busy with completing and now promoting the Rapper book.
2. The Sage event, now an all day Event running alongside the book launch and then followed by One Night in Gateshead, Clog and Rapper Show has taken up much time.
3. Organising the swords for loan and hire has been tricky but a system is developing and they have been in use at many festivals and events including Sidmouth, Whitby, Shrewsbury, Moseley and at smaller events and workshops around the country. Good networking through the SDU members helps to keep the swords moving around the country, hand to hand.. New teams have formed after workshops, namely Shropshire, RX Rapper and Tower Ravens.
5. Redcar gave us a brilliant weekend at Prior Pursglove College in Guisbrough, N.Yorks in October and set a high standard for similar events. The Sage event will of necessity be a different beast. 2013 will hopefully be held in the Ripon area.
4. DERT organized by Thrales in March was excellent and they have been able to repay the DERT loan in full despite it being the most expensive DERT ever! The DERT fund will now be administered by the SDU and a new account has been opened to that end.
5. DERT 2013 will be held in Burton on Trent, 17 years after its last visit there. Ryknild Rabble will host it and Adrienne and Nigel Moss will organize it with SDU help. They have offered to help recruit new rapper teams.
6. I have set about making a list of tutors and teachers with specialisms since I have again been asked for names to help teams and also to run workshops. Promised revision of CRB certificates etc has been suggested by the current Government and news of any revisions will become part of SDU policy
7. Following last year's discussions about Insurance I will again try and investigate possibilities.
8. Further SDU publications will receive more attention.

Treasurer's Report. 6/10/12

At the start of this year (November 2011) we had a balance of £1547. 76 in the bank. Memberships for 2010/11 were £300 and for 2011/12 £230.

Some teams have not renewed but we gained some new ones.

Expenses this year totaled £330: £30 towards The Nut publication costs, £100 towards train costs to help bring Papa Stour to Goathland for the Traditional Sword Teams weekend, and £200 sponsorship to EFDSS towards the publication of Phil's Rapper Book.

Income this year to date totals £461.00: £5 sword hire, £45 profit from the North East Rapper Competition, £230 memberships and £181.00 entry fees for the Longsword Competition. There are still outstanding amounts due for the competition and some costs will be involved.