

## ***SDU Inaugural Meeting ~ Black Swan, York***

July 9 2005

### **Present;**

Ron Day, *Stone Monkey, Triskele*

Jenny Day, *Triskele, St Monday, Gift Rapper and Longsword*

Vin Wynn, *Kingsmen, Sallyport*

Nikki Wynn, *Pengwyn*

Aubrey O'Brien *Sallyport, Snark, Addison, Stone Monkey*

Vince Rutland, *Sallyport, Snark, Brompton Scorpers*

Sue Rutland, *Pengwyn*

John Asher, *Kingsmen, Sallyport*

Stuart Higson, *Sallyport, Snark, Brompton Scorpers*

Chris Cartridge, *Kingsmen, Sallyport, Snark*

Sally Wearing, *Insword, Mabel Gubbins*

Andy Smith, *Black Swan, Goathland Plough Stots, Snark*

Sally Atkinson, *Blackadder, Sharp Sword, Goathland*

Richard Bojanowski, *Castleford Longsword, Sallyport*

Don Ratcliffe, *Kingsmen, Sallyport, Snark*

Derek West, *Grenoside, Triskele*

Phil Heaton., *Stone Monkey, Snark, Sallyport, Redcar Swords ,ex High Spen, Black Cap, Murton, Beltane*

### **Apologies;**

Frank Lee, Andrew Kennedy, Becky Stockwell, Tom Laurenson, Andy Stevenson, Trish Bater, Stuart Bater, Paul Davenport, Keith Thompson, Kevern Stafford, Rebecca Grainger, Sue Coe, Brian Tasker, Alistair Bloomfield, Bob Schofield, Barry Evans. Spen Valley Longsword, Pete Milne, Melanie Barber, Ynys Crowston Boaler, Martin Hanley.

**1.** The meeting began with a discussion on the Aims and Objectives of a proposed union of sword dancers.

**1.1 Aim.** ~ To promote Sword Dancing

**1.2 Objectives.** ~

- To promote linked sword dancing in all its associated forms
- To encourage and maintain the Tradition and its development and to support the evolution of sword dancing
- To promote excellence of performance
- To provide a social network giving support for any interested parties
- To widen the public understanding of sword dancing
- To be a point of contact for a network of knowledge and resources
- To promote research relating to sword dance
- To develop and maintain an Archive
- To work with and support other organizations to achieve the objectives.

## 2. Name

*SDU* ~ The initials were accepted by the meeting. *Sword* and *Union* were straightforward but heated discussion failed to resolve the 'D'. Choices being '**Dancer's**' or the alternative '**Dance**'.

The issue to be resolved later.

## 3. Officers

The meeting felt that official positions should be temporary until an **Ordinary Meeting** was held at a later date.

- **Chair ~Phil Heaton**
- **Sally Wearing**
- **Andy Smith**
- **John Asher**
- **Sally Atkinson ~ Don Ratcliffe volunteered to act as Treasurer**

## 4. Constitution.

An item postponed until the first **Ordinary Meeting**.

Copies of a draft will be circulated on request.

## 5. Membership.

Open to:

- Foundation teams from those represented at the inaugural meeting
- Teams, organizations and individuals
- Membership is free initially. Subscriptions/donations after the first year
- Membership entitles access to Directory and expertise
- Further benefits to be developed

## 6. Future Activities

Discussion centered around some ideas for the future.....

- Longsword 'festival' involving the youth teams especially
- Longsword competition with an offer of trophies and financial support.
- Design of a Logo/ emblem
- Consideration of recognition by the SDU of those whose work and activities have kept the tradition alive
- Awards from the SDU to those considered to have promoted the SDU aim
- Sword Spectacular
- Wider involvement in DERT ~ Organiser's support
- Register of teachers available
- Buying/loaning/hiring swords
- Involvement with Festivals that promote workshops via individuals and teams to support their own programmes ~ Shooting Roots, Folkworks, Sidmouth, Whitby, etc
- Raising money for projects via grants awards etc
- International teams wishing to be involved.
- Advanced communication and networking
- Involvement with organizations such as CIOFF, Europeade, Exchange sans frontiers, CDSS, EFDSS, CID
- Liaison with Morris Ring, Federation and Open Morris
- International liaison

## Synopsis

SDU Inaugural Meeting at the Black Swan, York, July 9 2005.

A strong and argumentative contingent of rapper and longsword thinkers dancers and observers met to test the waters of a possible SDU.

The idea was carried and the organization was spawned.

A temporary committee of Sally Wearing, Andy Smith, John Asher, Don Ratcliffe, Sally Atkinson with Phil Heaton as the chair, was elected to begin the process of formalizing the Union and looking at the possible ways forward among the many discussed.

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