

Annual General Meeting of The Taborers Society Held on Sunday 15th September 2019 in Stratford upon Avon

The meeting began at 10.25a.m.

Present

Andy Richards, Clive Du'Mont, Terry Carter, Gez Pegram, Donald Reid, Barry Lloyd, Chuck Wilcox, Allan Swales, Fiz Markham, Brad Chick, Mark Archer, Elizabeth Christina, Lynn Willson, Andrew Kelly, Viv Stamford, Henry Sauca, Chris Walker, Avery Gosfield, Peter Kanssen, Atsufumi Ujii, Sachi Yamaguchi, Michel Bellon, Carlès Mas, Rob Guest, Gillian Guest

Apologies

Rebecca Parris, Bob Tyson, Tony Pearson, Frances Tucker, Helen Richards, Karen Ellis, Ollie Simons, Matt Simons, Grace Williams

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and correct record. (Gez/Mark)

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report

Rob presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019

In response to a request for clarification, Rob pointed out that the cost per attendee for IPTAF 2018 was £30, much lower than IPTAF 2019. Also, TTS has purchased no Generation pipes this year: the expense of £53.75 only covers postage. Accepted (Lynn/Andrew)

The meeting expressed thanks to Rob for his work as treasurer.

Chairman's Report

Andy was very pleased to see the good turnout of members who have come to this festival, and the society continues to grow. He reported that in his third year as chairman he has again very much appreciated the support of and super work of members, especially Bill, Fiz, Helen, Clive, Steve, Ollie, Dennis, Terry, Atsu, Richard Sermon, Simon Pickard, Rob and Gillian. A highlight of the year was the Winter Warmer in Rotherhithe which was great fun and inspiring, with super organising by Bill, some lovely dancing to play for organised by Barbara and Bill, and very memorable Bill workshops including the Stage Jig one where he was forced to lurk in a chest. This gave rise to discussions about a possible Shakespearean Stage Jig Workshop for School. Andy had a lot of help from various people and delivered it to all 3 year 5 classes at Echelford Primary in Ashford, Middlesex. The Shakespearean Stage Jig Workshop was great fun with 6 pipe and tabor players, 6 actors and 16 singing, dancing and clapping audience in each of 3 sessions – enthusiastic musicians, actors and prop makers! 6 Susato G pipes have been purchased by TTS and will be bookable from Andy for workshop use and bookings will be tracked via a Google Calendar. It was great to see the competition bear fruit in 6 compositions - it's super that people are composing for pipe and tabor! Preliminary discussions have taken place about having the 2020 Festival in Lincoln 18th to 20th September, Rob and Gillian had a great idea of performing on the Saturday afternoon at the villages near Lincoln where there are church pipe and tabor carvings, and Ollie has kindly agreed to coordinate Morris for this. Steve is booked in the Symposium to give a paper "The Pipe and Tabor in the C20th Morris Dance Revival", he talked on this at Sidmouth 2019 and Steve, Andy, Ollie and Alex Merry delivered a Playing for Morris workshop there with much talk of and use of pipe and tabor.

Election of Officers

The present officers were willing to continue to serve, and were elected en bloc: (Andrew/Terry C)

Chair – Andy Richards

Treasurer – Rob Guest

Secretary – Gillian Guest

Director of Symposium – Bill Tuck

Archivist – Rebecca Parris

Youth liaison – Ollie Simons

The business of the AGM being completed, the meeting closed at 10.52a.m. and was immediately followed by a general meeting of TTS

General Meeting

Present – personnel as above.

A Winter Meet

It was proposed that the winter meet be held in Gloucester from Friday 31st January to Sunday 2nd February 2020. On the Friday evening we can take part in a Wassail at The National Perry Pear centre at Hartpury.

Future Festivals

The 2020 festival will be held in Lincoln. Rob has contacts and will investigate venues etc. Just south of Lincoln are a number of mediaeval representations of taborers and it is hoped to visit these sites. Olly has agreed to organise the local Morris with this tour in view.

Allan knows a symphonie and bagpipe player who lives in Lincolnshire who might be interested to participate.

Competition for a New Tune

There were six entries for the 2019 competition. The judges were Atsu, Simon Pickard and Richard Sermon, and the unanimous winner was Kathryn Wheeler's piece 'Fledgling Frustrations'. We held a workshop on this tune on Friday evening, and a video of part of it has been forwarded to Kathryn.

Morris Liaison

Clive reported on his progress in liaising with Morris organisations. A year ago he had 46 names, 52 by Christmas, and asked that members continue to send information. Elizabeth has a list of a number of American Morris taborers and will send it to Clive.

Clive appealed for more Morris music to be sent to him. Terry Carter has sent a large amount, with MP3, and Bob has also sent some, which is beginning to become a very good resource.

Gez wrote the article as requested and sent it in, but it seems to have disappeared. It was suggested that he send it to the Morris Ring.

Any Other Business

Music for festivals

Gez said that for IPATF in York we had a list of 7 or 8 tunes to work on beforehand. This year we have been swamped with tunes. It is great to have a long list of good tunes playable on p&t, but there needs to be a selection indicating the ones to be learnt beforehand. Terry offered to arrange tunes to ensure that they are indeed playable on the pipe, and to add MP3 versions, the tune being played several times over. Peter volunteered to create ABC versions.

Group- or part-playing

Following the success of the consort of tabor pipes at this year's festival, it was generally agreed it would be good to continue such playing. For members to be able to practise in advance, the members of the consort would need to communicate by email or similar. Terry has arranged a number of pieces for such a consort.

Promotion

Members are urged to promote the playing of p&t whenever and wherever possible. There are many festivals where a presence could be useful. Allan suggested giving a presentation to other music societies e.g. Bag Soc. There are also many mediaeval pageants and fairs around the country, where a stall could be usefully run for TTS. Andy asked that details be emailed to him so that they can be disseminated.

Invitations

Elizabeth hoped that some members could come to represent TTS in Portland in Oregon, where they would not only have an enjoyable time, but help to promote the playing of p&t in America.

Avery invited members to Assisi where she runs Italian Renaissance Dance workshops. Several members expressed interest.

Workshops

Terry suggested that a practical workshop on the tabor would be a good idea, dealing with the tuning and the use of the snare and perhaps inviting a drum maker.

Education

In the past year Andy has taken workshops in schools on Shakespearean stage jig. Brad is interested in fostering this in schools, especially at the end of the summer term.

Fiz said that the Morris Federation has funds which might be available for a weekend of workshops learning to dance Bucknell and learning to play the p&t for Bucknell. Olly and Matt are both keen to do this, and Grace dances Bucknell.

Concerts

Ways of increasing our audience off the street were discussed. As IPATF is held in September it is not appropriate to team up with a school choir or dance group. It might be possible to invite a local Morris group to participate.

A group of members gave a concert in St Helen's in York in August as part of the York Festival of Ideas. Members of the public were able to have a go at playing a pipe before the short concert. It was a great success, and St Helen's are keen to have us back. Gez said that he is happy to coordinate this.

You Tube channel

Elizabeth offered to upload Dick Bagwell's MP3s.

It was also suggested that instructional videos showing close-ups would be good to supplement those produced by Andy and Steve.

Making Music

TTS is a member of Making Music. It provides our Public Liability Insurance, and Rob urged members to check their own insurance, as the EFDSS insurers have changed their cover conditions. Making Music offers guidance on performing rights etc and gives an overview of issues. They have been extremely supportive of TTS (possibly because it is unusual), with articles online and in their magazine. Their representative, Sharon Malone, came especially from London and attended our concert on Saturday evening. She is a flautist and orchestral percussionist, so found our music particularly interesting.

Festival Notes and Videos

There was some discussion on sharing videos and photos taken at the festival and at the concert. Elizabeth said that Facebook Messenger can be used to send video which can be downloaded then erased. Symposium notes could also be disseminated by email via a link.

Future Festivals

Suggestions for venues for future festivals were sought. Places favoured were Worcester, Chester, Peterborough and Cambridge.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.21