

TYLERS MEN - BORDER MORRIS TEAM

1. **TYLERS MEN** were originally formed in 1982 as a scratch Cotswold team for a one-off dance out. Membership was from teams around the London area. Six dances were performed, these being: Young Collins (Bledington), Shepherds Hey & Shooting (Adderbury), Valentines & Dearest Dickie (Fieldtown) and Bonny Green Garters (Bampton). The kit comprised mainly dancers own colours embellished with multi-coloured ribbons and music was provided by a melodeon player who was paid for the booking. At the conclusion of the event, the money was split between the dancers and its formal functioning ceased.
2. **TYLERS MEN** reformed in July 1988 as a scratch Border Morris team for a booking. It was decided by Andy Lamb and Mick McTiernan who took the booking, that the team should dance six Border dances - these being: Old Mans Morris, The Broom Dance, The Brimfield Morris Dance, The Bromsberrow Heath Morris Dance, The Dilwyn Stick Dance and the Upton on Severn Stick Dance. One of the Dancers acted as musician and the team kit consisted of: Light shirt, dark trousers, heavy shoes or boots, coloured waistcoat and cloth cap.
3. Following the booking, it was decided that the proceeds should be consumed in the form of liquid refreshment and the dancers met a fortnight later in the back room of the Dog & Bell, the pub in Deptford. At this time, it was felt by some of the dancers that the team should convene on a more regular basis and an inaugural meeting was arranged to be held three minutes later.
4. The following people attended the inaugural meeting and are held to be founder members:

Chris Partridge	-	Jorunalist
Mick McTiernan	-	Trades Union Officer
David Cook	-	Draughtsman
Byron Daniel	-	Bricklayer
Robert Wilton	-	Publican
Kevan Bumstead	-	Clerk
Andy Lamb	-	Student
Mark Bowerman	-	Computer Technician

5. Resolutions were considered concerning the constitution of the team and officerships were voted on: it being agreed that there should be four official posts within the team these being as follows:

Squire	- That the post of Squire be held as a team figurehead. The incumbent to behave at all times in a manner likely to reflect his elevated position and to formalise an official toast at each performance.
--------	--

Foreman	- The position being held as instructor of the dances and arbiter of matters pertaining to tradition and music.
---------	---

Eminence Grise	- That the individual thus decided be responsible as secretariat advisor to the team for communication and timetabling of events.
----------------	---

This being agreed the following persons were elected to post:

Squire	- Chris Partridge
--------	-------------------

Foreman	- Mick McTiernan
---------	------------------

Eminence Grise	- Andy Lamb
----------------	-------------

6. Further subjects of policy were considered and agreed as matters of principle. That proceeds of collections be consumed in the larger part in the form of refreshment and that whenever team funds exceed £50.00 a team meeting be

convened for the purpose of said consumption. That expenses be paid to individuals only in extreme or surprising circumstances, e.g. childbirth, wasp-sting to tongue, etc. That team membership be limited to dancers (musicians being bribed mercenaries) there being two levels of membership: Full membership being founder members with new dancers being invited and subsequently voted on, acceptance dependent on unanimous vote in favour and successful completion of task set at that time. Country membership being extended to acceptable individuals otherwise not eligible for full membership, e.g. living in distant parts, being unable to attend regularly, etc.

7. Purely as a matter of convenience, it was decided that the team not foregather on a weekly basis rather coming together for practice as a matter of necessity prior to formal public dancing. However, in the interests of continuity it was agreed to meet at least twice per calendar month.

8. On the subject of dancing costume it was felt that uniform colours may be a little contrived for the team style. Instead the existing kit was considered acceptable thus:

Footwear	- Heavy boots or shoes of a dark colour.
Trousers	- Dark, heavy material.
Shirts	- Light, collarless.
Waistcoats	- Coloured.
Jackets	- Tweed.
Headgear	- Cloth caps (Squire - Trilby, Foreman - Bowler).
Bells	- A single string of four or more bells per leg.
Face Colour	- Dark brown or black at the discretion of the foreman.

It was felt that extraneous decoration be limited to items of a personal nature, e.g. spectacles, trade badges, etc.

9. It was intended that the team continue a limited repertoire of Welsh Border Morris dances and that as source material the team employ the collected notation by Dave Jones.

10. Subsequent to the above meeting the team danced out on a number of occasions during the season 1988/89. A tour was held in Hampstead, two tours in London Bridge environs, Brockley area, Deptford area and the Richmond Arms. Dances out were held on invitation at Rochester Sweeps festival, Chippenham Folk Festival, Cecil Sharpe House, Coventry Mummers Ale and Dacre Morris Ale. Additional invitations were received from other sources which we ignored. In addition to these outings the team held four further general meetings during the course of which the post of sockman was adopted for the purposes of looking after team funds. Kevan Bumstead was elected.

11. At the conclusion of the 1988/89 season the team membership was thus:

Full Members

Chris Partridge	-	Squire
Mick McTiernan	-	Foreman
Kevan Bumstead	-	Sockman
Andy Lamb	-	Eminence Grise

Byron Daniel
Sean Cusak
Mark Bowerman
David Cook
Robert Wilton
Andrew Carter
Chris Pitt
Jacko Spira
Gavin Atkin
Steve Winter

Invited Dancers and Country Members

Jordan Raffle
Nick Walden
Stu Conney

Regular Musicians

Doug Adams
Bob Dunlop

12. The dancing repertoire is as follows:

The Brimfield Morris Dance
The Bromsberrow Heath Morris Dance
The Dilwyn Stick Dance
The Evesham Stick Dance
The Much Wenlock Stick Dance
The Upton on Severn Stick Dance
Not For Joe
(Learning Pershore)

