

January 29, 1979

Dear Ring o' Bells,

At our meeting on January 20th, the following things were decided:

1. To put Royton aside for the time being and concentrate on our Cotswold morris.
2. To keep the 3-hour practice, with the middle hour being the "overlap" of the old and new dancers.
3. To make new vests for everyone (same color and fabric) when material is found. People should be on the lookout for hats similar to the old ones.
4. To attend the Marlboro Ale over the Memorial Day weekend.
5. To go to England the last two weeks in June.

There was much discussion of the England trip. Jody Evans, Beverly and Janis were chosen as a "triumvirate" that will select who will go on the trip. There was a concensus that the group should not be larger than twelve, because a larger group would be unwieldy and would not be able to travel in one vehicle. We also feel that, even if only twelve or fewer people want to go, there should be an evaluation (and selection) of those people to insure that the team that goes will be one we can all be proud of. The criteria for selection will be:

1. Individual dance ability, including stepping, use of hankies and sticks, and knowing the dances.
2. Team dance ability, including uniformity of style and ability to work with a partner and with the set as a whole.
3. Attendance at practices.
4. Ability to get along with others and willingness to take on responsibility.

Two other qualities which we will not try to evaluate but which we see as important are a sense of humor (!) and endurance.

We hope that this whole process will not cause any bad feelings among team members. We want this adventure to strengthen the team, not divide it.

Now, if you want to go, we ask (in fact, demand) that you fill out the enclosed "application" and give it to one of us three. You should also give Beverly a \$25 deposit by our rehearsal on February 15th so that she can make a reservation on a Laker Charter flight. (Total fare: \$352; we are checking into other fares too). This deposit holds a space on the plane, but it does not guarantee that you will go. That depends on the selection committee. The committee will make its decisions by March 29th, in time for those not chosen to get a refund on the deposit.

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On the same sheet with the application are questions on the two controversial areas that arose when we started to discuss the specifics of this trip. We hope that this confidential questionnaire will allow people to express their opinions without inhibition. Please be honest, thoughtful and fair. (Thanks to Chris for her help on this.)

One more word about rehearsals. "Old" dancers should not feel that they are automatically going to be chosen and do not need to come to practices. Even a great individual dancer will make a team look bad if she has not been dancing with the team enough to be working with it. Our practices over the next few months are really important if we are to look good and to do it consistently. Attendance will be taken at rehearsals. Jody and some of the older dancers will be making a special effort to make constructive individual comments during practices. A good supplement (although not a substitute!) to our practices would be the Tuesday night morris classes, either the beginning or the experienced session.

There will be meetings to discuss the England trip more or less monthly. Don't forget to turn in your application and deposit.

Jody, Beverly, Janis

Also - there will be a surprise baby shower for Margaret Ann on Sunday evening, February 11th, at the Nancy Morris/ Jessica Murrow pad at 610 West 110th St. The guest of honor is expected at 7:30, so arrive before that. We will give her the team quilt, but small individual gifts are welcome. (Consult with Betsy Blatchley to find out what is appropriate.) We will have potluck food and drink. Other New York friends will be invited as well as the Bells.

- June 15 depart from JFK, 11:00 pm
- 16 arrive Gatwick airport, 9:40 am  
drive to Cheltenham, camp with England's Glory
- 17 tour of Cotswold "beauty spots" with England's Glory  
and other teams
- 18 sightseeing, relaxation, drive to Birmingham, stay with  
Holden's Goldens
- 19 tour with Holden's Goldens, Birmingham area
- 20 pub crawl with Ladies of Green Willow, Nuneaton area  
(near Coventry)
- 21 tour with Phoenix Women's Morris, Coventry
- 22 tour with Derby Crown, Derby
- 23 tour in Hull with Middleton Garland and Sword teams  
watch massed dancing at Morris Ring meeting
- 24 dance at Belton House, Grantham, with Kesteven Morris  
and Mummers
- 25 rest, relaxation, sightseeing, swimming?  
stay with Ring O' Belles
- 26 tour with King's Morris and Ring O'Belles, King's Lynn
- 27 tour with Biffin Morris Women, Norwich
- 28 dancing, singing and boat trip with Geldeston Morris,  
Beccles (near Lowestoft)
- 29 sightseeing in Cambridge (or London?)
- 30 tour in London with New Esperance, Strand on the Green,  
and Hammersmith Morris Men
- July 1 tour with Greenwich Morris Men and Meridian Morris, Greenwich
- 2 tour with Royal Borough Morris, Tunbridge Wells
- 3 leave for U.S.