

THE MORRIS RING - A POSSIBLE VIEWPOINT

There should be concern over the antagonism of some men and clubs to the Morris Ring. This may be due to a misunderstanding of intention rather than a belief that the concept is wrong. There is no short statement summarising the purpose of any Morris Organisation and the following is offered to reflect what should be cared about.

"The RING is the fellowship of like minded dancers who care about the performance of the Morris. Application for association by a club is the affirmation of acceptance of the responsibility in presenting the Morris and the obligation towards all other performers, past, present and future. The elected representatives of the RING assure themselves and then recommend that a club is viable, that its dances are firmly rooted in the historical form and that its standards are consistent with the responsibility and the obligation. A club is said to remain in association while these conditions maintain. The gift of a staff of office to a club is a reciprocal acceptance by all the other associated clubs of a responsibility towards that club. A debt to the tradition is recognised and, in return, surviving and revived teams have a special place."

Justification:

- "fellowship" - to emphasise contact between dancers.
- "like minded" - to exclude disruptive elements.
- "dancers" - to include other traditional forms than the Cotswold Morris.
- "performance" - the Morris is more than a number of dances.
- "clubs" - to emphasise that it is more than a team or a side.
- "performers past" - the traditional dancers, collectors and revivalists who have given the material in trust.
- "performers present"- the traditional and other clubs whose standing within their own area is affected by the impression created by public performance of the Morris by any team.
- "performers future" - if the Morris is to survive.
- "representatives" - to remind clubs that the officials are chosen democratically.
- "assure" - by direct observation and consultation.
- "recommend" - to the assembled club representatives.
- "historical" - to say traditional would be inhibiting.
- "remain" - there must a mechanism for release.
- "special place"- traditional sides have a special place in our concern, but respect has to be earned.

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