Attending: Ffion (FD), Hannah (HN), Jo (JS), Katherine (KR), Laura S (LS), Laura W (LW), Rachel (RS), Rachel-Anne (RAS), Sue (SC), Sinéad (SB)

1. Apologies: Becky (BS), Reesha (RD), Hannorah (HL) and Kate (KC)
2. RS elected Chair
3. 2016 AGM Minutes and actions read! We did all the things in the Action Points email.

*Outstanding items from full minutes (think this is all):*

*1. Day of Dance 2017*

*2. Hannah to research SDU – what this would mean/cost? JDO. Morris dancers organise festivals, would it help. (Started, but never completed)*

1. LW read BS Statement: Huge well done, we smashed it! Hoping we get more invites and maybe members. Next focus is getting everyone up to speed with Piccadilly and Westerhope (keep as part of repertoire) – can only be done through continued high attendance, though appreciate this can be difficult in the summer.

HN –Slipped a bit on signups in the run-up to DERT (appreciate probably my fault), but generally been getting better. Keep it up so we can keep dancing out and show the world our awesome-ness.

SC - £1116.74 in the account as of today. Subs = £144. Hall hire the same as always - £120/£150 for 4/5 Mondays per month. OM £35, DERT Reg £400. Crawls since November have raised £1559.15, average of £173.23 per crawl. Amazing! Tankards and the speed of getting them out has been good, thanks to all collectors. Assets have stayed the same. Kendal expenses, not all reclaimed. Leeds decided not to. Islington tour was our 50th, now done 52 crawls. Collected >£200 9 times.

Crawl Organisers – we organised them. Been good doing different places. Raised lots of money. Failed Strand twice. FD slowly updating the crawl map from the Dilks notes

Committee works. West is shit – too posh. Any ideas of new places/repeats let the tour organisers know. All happy continuing to organise

Pub Off – if anyone wants to do extra tweets/FB posts Ffion can give the logins out, but happy to continue as is

Assumed Kate happy with being Kit officer… (please shout if not Kate!)

1. **Kendal** – Refund all Ravens in full. Non-Ravens to pay for their own trains.

Suggestions of covering guest’s accommodation and evening ticket (SC), or just the evening ticket (FD). LW had always assumed that she would be paying for Paul. BS suggests happy to cover 50% to full – not a precedent. All happy to cover guests evening tickets.

At last AGM – agreed to subsidise all costs for Ravens up to DERT and then review it. Post DERT we should go back to aiming to cover half.

Vote on guest accommodation – majority yes, Ravens will cover it.

Summary – Ravens paying for all DERT costs except for the guest’s train tickets. Noted that this does not set a precedent!

**Bath** – SC – 4 people subsidised 3 not. FD – suggests that those that were covered pay £15 (half the ticket costs) in, those that weren’t to receive £15. Half/half subsidy Sue to action

5.2 subs ok

5.3 xmas ok, RAS “I hate Charity”

1. DERT – Many comments about awesomeness of all three dances. Did what Becky said – work hard before, then enjoy the day. Support was amazing – smiles and encouragement. Drinking appropriately was good – taking edge off, but not getting pissed. All happy! Judges comment on smiles being genuine – having a good time! We know that some things weren’t perfect, but others don’t know what our dance should be, so didn’t matter. Dance now looks smoother and more impressive with the changes. HL and KC emails read out – our epic-ness and magnificence.

Kate was phenomenal! Top solo Whoo!

Official thanks to Crook including for brooches – HN to check if done/email them

1. BS email: As well as learning Westerhope/Piccadilly wants people learning more numbers to increase flexibility on dance outs. Please let Becky know if there is anything anyone would specifically like to learn/not learn. (and injuries)

All happy with no changes to Piccadilly or Westerhope for now – and to get everyone up to speed.

Jubilee: revisit removing walk the dog - could do something else like egg whisk, the Westerhope sweeps in single guard etc. Session to try out some alternatives circle based figures. SC – popcorn! Lol. Lost drive in jubilee as we all think we know it. Maybe take a couple of weeks to work hard on the details like we did for the others.

Crown – lol! Would love to see, but prob not able to do… LW intrigued about triple tumble. Rachel-Anne has tumbled in the past – put tumbling on the agenda to see who wants a go/let people try it out.

Sue “Hannorah is very fit”

General consensus – swap knowledge/tighten stuff up/learn new positions.

1. Crawls…Whitby and Sidders added to sign-up sheet. Any other festivals? (Warwick?)

Keep crawling / dance out regularly. Crawls should be the last Thursday as per the website. June crawl moved back to 29th.

Crawl times – meet at 7 dance at 7.30, supposed to end at 1030 not 11. Have been going on late – causes stress for people thinking they are leaving early (even though it isn’t) for those that have further to travel.

Paul for Betty! Paul willing to make a tit of himself if we want him to betty. Betty’s could be classy! At DERT he wanted to wear feathers and fishnets – he was drunk at the time, so we won’t hold him to that…Tommying potentially too much commitment. Doesn’t matter about having a story for the character. Vaughan and Clive happy to lead character workshop, would involve team to dance, Sue in normal capacity. If anyone else would like a go, please let Becky know.

Becky to find a date…

BREAK!!!

The vegan cupcakes are epic. Vote RA the Cake Queen/Monitor…Katherine admits to destroying cake monitor

1. Put open practice in the Sep/Oct edition of Folk London. Will be 1st Monday in October, publicise over summer. LW – could get non-folkies. E.g. advertise in other places like Time Out – but may need more space for the practice then... (share space with Thrales? / booked space limit thing)

SB – UCL ceilidhs. Katherine will be a student there! Lauren Ward runs EFDSS youth ceilidhs and wants to start a UEL Folk Soc - Might be a good person to talk to about ceilidh spots/recruitment.

Take a general flyer to festivals - people always welcome – don’t want to sound desperate!!

Ffion will make a flyer and LS will make it pretty. Ideally for Chippenham, otherwise the summer

Kate email read – In summary - would like a second team musician to be available as sometimes can’t make things (and feels bad about it) and would be good for them to know dance/tunes. Can’t always make every week and sometimes finds crawls stressful as worried about trains.

General – we love Kate; you definitely haven’t let us down.

Nikki? RS happened to speak to Nikki – totally unofficial, she might be interested in coming to the odd crawls probably wouldn’t do Mondays.

LS – People might not want to play on own, but could bring and play on Mondays sometimes

Martin happy to formally be a dep muso, but doesn’t think he wants it to be a full time

Recruitment – risk of getting a crap one. Do we know of any brill musicians? Invite others to practices and Kate teaches them our tunes/style. Everyone to think about musical friends.

Recorded music? Maybe we’d need a track with extra bars!

Decided to ask Nikki and Martin if they would like to fill in the sign-up sheet (would need to be on mailing list) – effectively be zone 9ers, but don’t have to come if we have Kate. Rachel to speak to Nikki.

Carol and Patrick can then be the “We’re desperate crew!”

No male dancers, but male betty ok

Non-binary person – If happy to wear kit and dance with swishy hips (feminine style) then that’s fine. Don’t want to discriminate based on what someone looks like! No one against the idea. As with all new members – up to them to work out how they fit in. Join via open practice/crawl/1st Monday, up to them to work out what suits.

Comment that sometimes we have strict clothing regs – e.g. Sports bras if you need it!

Reesha – FB post – if they become a member may want to discuss gendered language (we call ourselves female – is that ok). They might want us to help with outsider’s comments

SB - what if they only want to practice and not dance out – would depend on foreman as purpose of our team is dancing out… May not get as much dance as they wouldn’t be a key focus of efforts if not dancing out. Becky to think about this. Point that it’s not a class, we’re a team.

HL email read – not going to make as many practices in future, but happy to dance/not as required.

General - please keep coming!! Always an asset. We understand and want to see you :) Probably need to let Becky know when are/are not coming…

1. BS email: Glad tried longsword, not bothered about pursuing further. Could consider as a separate entity if people want to learn properly. Anyone with different dance type up their sleeves - great to pull out at festivals. May be worth figuring out what we have in common.

Note we were asked for Beverley whether we do anything else. Don’t want to become “Rapper + …”, but useful for festivals, especially if floors crap.

Longsword: LW – funniest day of life, but no sure it needs repeating, FD – amount of effort needed is not worth it to get it good. No to longsword – need the people, even though that could be the option that makes most sense.

Katherine (Clive’s partner) happy to teach a simple clog dance, which we can dance out so long as we say it is Pat Tracey’s… Doodle (HN). SB happy to teach Irish dance (hard-shoe). Another doodle! Post #GE17 please! Happy to try both these out and see how we feel.

People already good enough at things. Clog – Laura S, Jo? LS was always against it, but if will do it if we all want her to. KR – kit doesn’t really lend itself to Cotswold – bum flashing. But happy to do /teach it if anyone wants. LW – sparkly pants all round?

Conclusion - bring blue hankies (neckers) and clogs (or whatever footwear), so that we have them if we need. Try out clog/Irish.

1. Ffion - 14th October – Album launch party in Islington. Dream one team each of Ravens and Thrales, otherwise Thravens. Will require separate day practice for whoever can make it.
2. Party!!

Belated AOB – (apologies to the few that had already left when I remembered) – presentation of Katherine’s weddingmonah pressie.