

I feel that this has been relatively calm year for the Ironmen. As with last year, numbers have been up and down, but I think we have put on a good show when we have performed and done ourselves proud. The side feels happy and that's really nice to see.

Last year we have made a big effort bring back the Ironman unique style and I think we have continued to do that with little adjustments here and there , for instance the higher sticking in Wenlock to make it more audience focused.

We ended 2022 and started 2023 on a bit of a high, we were getting 9, 10, 11 men at practice on a regular basis. This gave us the opportunity to start looking at some of our bigger dances that we haven't been able to perform for over 6 years. Ashford was started, and Coalbrookdale, Chorley & Benthall were on the cards, , , , but then numbers started to drop off and it became impossible to keep up momentum.

There are some questions we need to ask ourselves, why do we struggle to get constant numbers at practice ? Maybe we need to rethink how we practice ? how, when ,which night we night we Practice , are there issues that could be overcome, or is it just frustration of doing the same thing every week ? do we have a chicken and egg situation ???

Although the Ironmen are back dancing to the high standard, we are often stuck repeating Wenlock, Wig Wig and Fiddlers Locks Willy again and again. I think it's fair to say this can get a little , tiresome.

Numbers at dance outs are another question we need to be asking ourselves, but I think that might come up a bit later so I will leave that for now.....

Hopefully we can talk about a few of these things over the winter and come up with a way to move forward

Back to the positive, we survived the cold of Upton the heat of Evesham and the 3 days of Shrewsbury plus many other dance outs including our solo outing at the JMO. Gordon started dancing out last winter and is getting more dances under his belt. We have welcomed Ed 2 into the fold, and he had a successful first dance out at Ludlow . we had one set back with loosing Ede 1 early in the summer and although his ankle is a lot better, he hasn't quite made it back to practice yet . but I'm not giving up on him and have been in contact again tonight.

Thank you to all the band, we couldn't do it without you and wouldn't want too either.

The Gilders, always a pleasure

To my fellow officers, thank you for all your hard work and support over the year

Thank you, Dave...and all the extras, the child minders, photographers, dog wardens, drivers, and bag carriers, thank you

Onwards and upwards

Martyn Goodwin
Ironmen Squire 2022/2023