

Footnote (for your own info.) The occasion was a 'Festival' at Cecil Sharp House, London. Having done their 'show' the team were relaxing during the interval, in the tea-room, and had taken off their bells. Arnold, however, was still walking about in full gear and with his fiddle tucked under his arm, A woman, who had nothing whatever to do with the organisation of the programme, seeing him dressed up and presumably 'ready to go', said to Arnold, "Oh, we're going to have another dance then." Arnold took this as an invitation for the team to perform again, and straight away went to the tea-room and told the team, "They want us to do another dance." The team objected as it would mean putting on their bells again, and leaving their tea. My own observations made it quite plain that Arnold was OK as a team-leader - as long as he was dealing with boys, who would do as he instructed and not ask questions, but he was hopeless at negotiating with young men or adults, especially when it came to Morris. (There had been previous 'rows' over Arnold's invitations to 'outsiders' who showed interest in his team, to 'come along and dance with us'). Instead of seeing reason, Arnold flew into a passion over the team's reluctance to dance again. On the way back in the coach, Arnold and Wyn sat by themselves in the front of the coach and never spoke to anyone. When he got home he immediately wrote letters to all the team-members involved, saying they were not going to dance in his team again. He should have foreseen the obvious outcome. The team-members involved disassociated themselves from Arnold and carried on on their own. Arnold was left with a team of young boys, four of whom were not Bamptonians, and his team has never recovered their previous prestige, and still mostly consists of 'foreigners'.



HONEYMOON COTTAGE,
QUEEN STREET,
BAMPTON, OXFORD.

February 23rd 1974.

Copy to each

Your attitude at Cecil Sharp House on Sunday February 17th was abominable. When a Leader has to write and apologize for his Teams behaviour I feel its time something was done about it. As you no longer feel it an honour to wear Bampton Morris Dress I can only ask you to return it to me including the tie. Your expenses will be forwarded to you later.

Yours Sincerely

Atwoodley