

Islington Folk Club
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
25 February 2021

Venue: On-line via Zoom

Time: 7.45pm

Present:

Sheila Miller, Bernard Puckett, Nick Moran, Carol Burt, Roger Trevitt, Simon Hindley, Maggie Eiseman Renyard, Pete Eiseman Renyard, Dave Wooldridge, Brian Gardner, Rob Twiss, David Fenton, Amanda MacClean

Apologies for absence:

Margaret Chadwick, Sheila Finn, Chris Lamb, Alex Szyszkowski

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 16th January 2020

- 1.1 Passed as an accurate record of proceedings
- 1.2 Matters arising: none

Secretary's report (including the future of the club into 2021) – Roger Trevitt

- 2.1 The committee had met on 11th February 2021. A decision had been made to offer an extension of membership to the end of 2021, to all persons who were members in 2020 and 2019. This would enable voting at this meeting. An extraordinary general meeting would be called when the club could once more happen "live". The AGM supported this position.
- 2.2 In the absence of live performances the Club has continued with fortnightly on-line Singarounds and monthly (until October) Trad2Mad competitions. These have been successful in maintaining, and in some ways extending, interest in the Club. Both performers new to the Club and regulars who are geographically distant have been able to participate. Thanks to Nick for hosting Zoom and Bernard for MC duties.
- 2.3 It was agreed to continue fortnightly Singarounds until further notice. Trad2 Mad will recommence for May 1 entry, thereafter with quarterly competitions.
- 2.4 Carol has agreed to replace Amanda as Trad2Mad judge. Other judges might be recruited from past winners to give the panel a more even gender balance.
- 2.5 Suggestion for 'hybrid' Club sessions i.e. a mix of live and on-line performances. Nick will look into facilities and equipment needed for this. Some discussion of pros and cons: will people just stay at home and go on-line? Will the presence of mikes put people off. Some form of Zoom presence might be maintained even after live Club nights resume.
- 2.6 Return to live Club nights. The Government's earliest proposed date for full opening of clubs is 21st June. Many folk clubs are already booking for the autumn but it was agreed to wait until the situation is clearer.
 - a) The absence of a Venue. The Taproom is unlikely to be available, other suggestions: The Harrison, Hope & Anchor, King & Queen, Horseshoe. These and others to be investigated by members during July/August. Practicalities include: possible change from Thursday night, avoid football pubs, avoid pub chains (because managers change), possible move out of Islington
 - b) We will aim for a September start for live Club nights whilst noting the many imponderables: venue availability, continued social distancing, possible need for vaccination passports etc etc

Treasurer's Report (including presentation of accounts) – Nick Moran

- 3.1 Nick presented the accounts. Main points:
 - a) No Club nights since 5th March hence no income for most of 2020
 - b) No membership charge for the year
 - c) Over £1400 spent during lockdown on: reimbursement to cancelled acts (5 took this up, one offering a free night in future), Trad2 Mad prizes, 1-year Zoom contract, bank service charge, Folk London adverts
 - d) The Club remains in a healthy financial position with reserves of over £9,000
- 3.2 The accounts were agreed by the meeting with thanks to Nick

Other management committee reports – Brian Gardner, Nick Moran

- 4.1 Bookings Co-ordinator - BG
Nine guests booked between 9th Jan and 5th March. No bookings since then.

- 4.2 Venue Co-ordinator – NM
Either Tap Room or King & Queen used until 5th March. No Club nights since.
- 4.3 Publicity and web-site Co-ordinator – BG
- a) E-mail contact maintained with the membership via Mailchimp database. This has continued throughout lockdown with details of Trad2Mad, Singarounds and AGM details.
 - b) Club Facebook page maintained jointly with Nick and Bernard. Videos of Trad2Mad entries and Singaround sessions are available on the Club Youtube channel and Facebook site.
 - c) The Club Website is administered by Martin Nail. Dave Wooldridge has prepared a new design, using the existing content, to be sent to Brian shortly. Discussions about wholesale redesign of the web-site are on-going.

Election Club Management Committee until January2022 or until a Special General Meeting is held:

- 5.1 The following appointments were proposed and unanimously passed by the meeting:
- a. Bookings Co-ordinator– Brian Gardner
 - b. Venue Co-ordinator–Nick Moran
 - c. Secretary– Roger Trevitt
 - d. Treasurer– Nick Moran
 - e. Publicity and website officer– Brian Gardner
 - f. Up to 4 booking and venue associates – Bernard Puckett, Carol Burt, Rob Twisse

AOB

- 6.1 Suggested that Alison Frosdik be approached about being a Trad2Mad judge
- 6.2 Nick asked members to consider support for action by Bectu who are pressing the government for a better deal for workers in the creative and entertainment. Details are at:
<https://prospect.eaction.org.uk/bectu-selfemployed>
- 6.3 A vote of thanks to serving members

Meeting ended: 9.10pm