

Islington Folk Club
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
12 May 2022

Venue: Brewhouse & Kitchen, 2A Corsica St, London N5 1JJ

Meeting commenced: 7.02pm

Present:

Carol Burt, Margaret Chadwick, Maggie Eiseman Renyard, Pete Eiseman Renyard, Brian Gardner, Simon Hindley, Helen Martin, Nick Moran, Martin Nail, Bernard Puckett, Oliver Schick, Paul Steele, Roger Trevitt, Rob Twisse,

1 Apologies for absence:

Mary Kerle, Helen O'Malley, Syd Pochin, Alex Szyszkowski

2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 25th February 2021

2.1 Matters arising:

Final letter missing from the name of each of: Rob Twisse, Carol Burt

Item 4.3c: proposal to redesign the Club web-site. To be raised later by Brian

2.2 Minutes now agreed as an accurate record of proceedings

3 Decision to move the 2022 AGM from January to May

The Committee had acted unconstitutionally in not holding the AGM in January. Oliver explained that with the spread of the new Covid variant at the time the Committee had judged it prudent to delay. He proposed the meeting ratify the Committee's decision. The motion, seconded by Nick, was passed.

4 Treasurer's Report & Club Accounts

4.1 Copies of the following were e-mailed in advance and made available at the meeting:

i) Analysed Cash and Bank accounts for year ending 31st December 2021

ii) Analysis of income and expenditure on Club Nights from resumption in September 2021 until 31st December 2021.

Nick reported that:

Prior to re-opening in September 2021 there was no income but a number of expenses in particular: a Zoom licence (for on-line Club nights) and Trad2Mad prizes (until the competition ended in spring 2021). These were in an attempt to keep the Club alive.

Live Club Nights resumed fortnightly from September 2021 with five guests booked until the year-end.

Takings were set against: artist fees, purchase of a Zettle machine (to enable card payment), purchase of copies of *Folk London*, purchase of a Club banner and various sundries such as, stationery and printing.

Unclaimed Trad2Mad winnings had been donated to the 'Help Musicians' charity.

Nick proposed a donation of circa £200 to the 'Sweet Thames' folk club project. This was agreed.

In summary it had been an exceptional year resulting in a decrease in the bank account of £874.38, however the overall financial situation of the Club remains healthy.

4.2 Martin asked if in future a Balance Sheet showing surplus or deficit on the year could be produced.

4.3 Oliver noted that the accounts reflected the position of the Club in December 2021 rather than the current position. Had the AGM been called in January 2022, as was originally scheduled, they would have been current. The last 5 months (January to May 2022) will be reported upon at the next AGM – hopefully January 2023.

For the information of the meeting Nick reported that the Club had lost a further £37 on Club nights from January to May 2022.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting (proposer: Simon, seconder Rob)

5 Reports from Club Officers

- 5.1 Bookings co-ordinator/Publicity and Website Officer – Brian
Uncertainties over revenue and the new Covid variant around Christmas had made it difficult to book a balanced programme ahead of time. Nevertheless acts had been successfully engaged for each fortnightly session with some success in promoting diversity both in gender of artist and of musical style.
Plans to redesign the site were to be put on hold. Martin agreed to continue maintaining the site.
- 5.2 Secretary - Roger
4 new members added to the *MailChimp* database from the September restart to December 2021. The Club at present has 52 members.
Any member without an e-mail address cannot be entered on *MailChimp*.
As the Club communicates information via *MailChimp* mail-shots such members do not currently receive Club information.
Nick has been maintaining a separate full membership list compiled from the cards filled in on Club-nights by new members. In future this list will be held by the secretary.
Of the 949 recipients of Club e-mails the vast majority are subscribers (ie not members but those who have shown an interest in the club). Around two-thirds of those in receipt of Club e-mails do not open them.
- 6 Amendments to the Constitution – Oliver**
Oliver had undertaken to revise the Club Constitution. Marked up copies showing the 12 proposed revisions had been e-mailed to members in advance and were made available at the meeting. Each of the revisions was accepted.
Martin questioned the need for the Constitution to be signed by: Booking Coordinator, Secretary and Treasurer. It was agreed that this was not needed.
Oliver would draw up an amended Constitution incorporating the above.
Nick proposed a vote of thanks to Oliver for his work. This was carried.
- 7 Membership & door entry fees post September 2022**
Brian had been mindful of financial limitations when engaging performers and wondered if we should increase the Club entrance charge in order to book better acts. He would also welcome clarity on how much he should be paying artists.
Nick pointed out that the pre-Covid entry fee was higher than that at present but, in view of the Club's financial position, saw no reason to revert to this.
Nick therefore proposed:
Club membership fees remain at £2pa. They currently cover administration costs and should only be raised when this is not so (seconded by Oliver). Passed
Entry fees should also remain at present level until 2023. Any changes thereafter to be made by the Committee as circumstances demand. (seconded by Bernard). Passed
- 8 Election for Management Committee Roles until January 2023**
The following were elected:
Bookings Coordinator – Brian
Venue Coordinator – Nick
Secretary - Oliver
Treasurer – Nick
Publicity & Website Officers – Brian & Roger
Booking & Venue associates – Carol, Martin, Bernard, Rob
- 9 Any Other Business**
Brian proposed the Club send congratulations to Bob Davenport on his 90th birthday (31st May). Brian will also contact *Folk London* about this. Rob suggested that the celebration should involve folk clubs London-wide and agreed to make the necessary contacts.
Summer Party on final Club Night (30th June). There will be no guest hence planning is needed. Suggestions included: inviting the *Tower Ravens* Morris team (Bernard) and/or a *Sea Shanty* crew (Carol).

Meeting ended: 9.10pm