

## **Islington Folk Club**

### **Booking Officer Report – 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

#### **January to June (Brian Gardiner)**

With remaining uncertainty about Covid the Club ran fortnightly sessions from January to April. There were 8 sessions including 2 singarounds. With more certainty about the future weekly sessions resumed from May. There were 8 further sessions until the summer, again including 2 singarounds.

Brian used a variety of methods to book guests including: direct approaches from artists or their agents, contacting known performers, suggestions from Committee members).

Of the 12 guest evenings arranged 7 included women performers.

#### **June to December (Roger Trevitt)**

With Brian's departure Roger Trevitt took over with 2 bookings already confirmed for the autumn term (Jim Murray, Maria Dunn), leaving 14 more dates to fill before Christmas.

#### **Remit**

The following considerations to be taken into account from September 2022:

- We could continue at the Brewhouse & Kitchen until at least Christmas
- A guest artist should be booked for each week
- We should continue to seek gender equality in booking and present a variety of musical styles
- Singarounds were not part of the Club tradition and should be arranged sparingly if at all.
- We rarely close for holiday periods
- We should continue to encourage our local performers with occasional 'two or three-way split' evenings
- Admission prices would not return to pre-Covid levels but would be pegged at our reduced rate until further notice thus: £2 annual membership (Jan-Dec), £6 members, £4 concessions
- Acts to be paid an agreed minimum fee or 90% of the door if greater (excluding membership fees), for 2 x 35 minute spots.
- There would be at least 3 Arsenal home fixtures on Thursdays and football World Cup games on TV. All dates - dates not yet known.

#### **The Programme**

- The club ran weekly from September to December with one break on 10<sup>th</sup> November when the room became unavailable. The bookings was re-arranged for May, hence no one was cancelled.
- 7 of the 14 acts booked included women performers. Musical styles included: English traditional, bluegrass, poetry & humour, old-time, contemporary.
- 3 Arsenal matches had some impact on attendances, but fortunately 2/3 artists arrived by train the other being given local resident vouchers (no longer possible). The World Cup had no discernable impact as all home nation fixtures avoided Thursdays.

- Attendance ranged from 25 to 51, average 33. The highest surplus (we only keep 10%) was £27, the biggest deficit £85 (including a ULEZ charge for 2 days). Overall the Club made a surplus of £9 on artists over the period.
- The one singaround, the Christmas party, was very well attended – perhaps 40 people. (No exact figures as free for members).

Acts that were booked came from: personal contact, recommendations by Committee, 'old favourites' from the past programme, seeing acts at other clubs). A number of the acts came at rates we could afford. I would wish to pay them more if re-booked.

Overall there were encouraging signs that the Club was emerging from the Covid days.

*Roger Trevitt, Bookings Officer from June – December 2022*