

Islington Folk Club

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 19th December 2024, 6:30pm

The Brewhouse and Kitchen, 2a Corsica Street, N5 1JJ

Present: Richard Allen (committee member), Maggie Chadwick (booking officer), David Fenton, John Hannah (committee member), Janette Lawrence, Nick Moran (treasurer, venue co-ordinator), John Orsulik (committee member), Martin Nail (committee member, web-site officer), Bernard Puckett (committee member), Oliver Schick (secretary, minutes), Roger Trevitt (membership secretary, publicity officer), Rob Twisse (committee member).

For part of the meeting:

Carol Burt (committee member).

Apologies: Janine Hannah (committee member).

Agenda

1. Minutes and matters arising

Rob pointed out that he had been omitted from the attendance list, and that it should be 'Helen O'Malley' rather than 'Helen O'Mallory'.

Incorporating these changes, the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

2. Treasurer's report and club accounts

Nick reported that we had been breaking even financially. We had 36 guest nights, and prices had gone up in September. We were just about covering our expenses with membership fees and 5% of the box office. Our turnover was about £10,000.

Only two of our guests had been paid the guarantee, as for everybody else 95% of the box office was more. Wizz Jones had over 70 and sold 14 CDs. Some guests recently had wanted to sell their CDs directly and not through us. The average payment had been around £350, with quite a lot of variation. Nick said that if a guest brings their own audience, they can expect to take between £300 and £350. He said that he was working on finding another provider than PayPal. Commission for the service had crept up.

The meeting accepted the report unanimously and passed a vote of thanks to Nick for his work.

3. Reports from club officers

Bookings: Maggie had written the booking report, using Roger's format. She had booked all of 2025. The average attendance in 2024 had been about 47, as opposed to 48 in the previous year, so had remained broadly the same. The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Roger for his work in booking 2024.

Membership: We were getting new members every week, and had good numbers of people staying subscribed to the mailing list.

Publicity: Roger presented his report on publicity. He, Nick, and Martin all did things on-line. We talked about the large number of platforms now available for publicity. Bernard asked what young people looked at. We had accounts on Facebook and Instagram, which Nick dealt with, but he was no longer active on X/Twitter. Martin said he posted on X/Twitter. We wondered whether we should open a Bluesky account. Nick wondered about the outcome of the challenge to Google that it had built an illegal advertising monopoly on-line. One of the main ways in which people found us was through searches on Google, between the high teens to low thirties percent. We also had a presence on Google Maps.

Oliver mentioned the incoming Online Safety Act. There was always a small risk of people posting something inappropriate in any publicity channel we used, and the more channels you have, the more channels you need to look after, as channels may be misinterpreted and corrupted. Nick said there was also legislation on venues following the Ariana Grande bombing, to ensure that there could be no terrorist attacks at their venue.

Roger said that Folk and Honey was good and covered the whole country, and that people did look at it. Most of the artists we have were on it, too.

4. Committee elections

We elected the new committee, calling for nominations, and voting for them as a slate.

Booking Officers: John and Janine (nominated by Maggie, seconded by Richard)

Venue co-ordinator: Nick (Oliver, Rob)

Secretary: Oliver (Nick, Richard)

Membership: Maggie (Roger, Rob)

Treasurer: Nick (Oliver, Maggie)

Publicity: Roger (Richard, Nick)

Web-site: Martin (Nick, Richard)

Other committee members:

Richard (Nick, Martin)

Rob (Richard, Bernard)

Bernard (Richard, Maggie)

John H (Richard, Maggie)

Carol: (Richard, Maggie)

We emphasised that we should double and triple up on skills. Oliver volunteered to help with Mailchimp, and Maggie was keen to learn about the web-site and help with it.

5. Constitutional changes

The following small changes to the constitution were proposed by Oliver and seconded by Nick.

1. Management point 7:

Existing:

The committee shall meet at least three times each year.

Proposed:

The committee shall arrange meetings as required to conduct the Club's business.

Passed unanimously.

2. General meetings: It was proposed to change pre-AGM deadlines.

Existing:

1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year. In normal circumstances, there shall not be more than 18 months between AGMs. In extraordinary circumstances, such as Government restrictions on activity, the management committee shall be empowered to make alternative arrangements, and to inform the membership of these.
2. Notices of the AGM shall be sent to members at least 42 days before the date of the AGM to allow for submissions to the agenda and possible constitutional amendments and AGM papers, including a report on the Club's financial position for the previous year, shall be made available at least 21 days before the date of the AGM.
3. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time, at the request of the committee, or not less than 10% of the membership. A notice explaining the place, date, time and reason for the meeting shall be sent to all members at least 21 days before any such meeting.
4. 10% of the membership or twelve members being present, whichever is the fewer, shall enable a General Meeting to take place.
5. Proposals to change the constitution must be given in writing to the Secretary at least 28 days before a general meeting and approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Proposed (in summary): 28 days' notice of the AGM (as under point 2) (previously 42 days); AGM papers to be made available 14 days before the meeting (as under point 3) (previously 21 days); proposals to change the constitution to be submitted 21 days before the AGM (as under point 5) (previously 28 days).

Full proposed text:

1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year. In normal circumstances, there shall not be more than 18 months between AGMs. In extraordinary circumstances, such as Government

restrictions on activity, the management committee shall be empowered to make alternative arrangements, and to inform the membership of these.

2. Notices of the AGM shall be sent to members at least 28 days before the date of the AGM to allow for submissions to the agenda and possible constitutional amendments and AGM papers, including a report on the Club's financial position for the previous year, shall be made available at least 14 days before the date of the AGM.

3. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time, at the request of the committee, or not less than 10% of the membership. A notice explaining the place, date, time and reason for the meeting shall be sent to all members at least 21 days before any such meeting.

4. 10% of the membership or twelve members being present, whichever is the fewer, shall enable a General Meeting to take place.

5. Proposals to change the constitution must be given in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days before a general meeting and approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Passed unanimously.

6. Any other business

Burns Night: Amanda wanted to do it differently in 2025. The prizes for floorspots would be awarded by a team of three from the Club as a panel of judges. Rob, Nick, and Richard volunteered.

Date of next meeting: Before next year's party on the 18th December.

The meeting closed at 7:24pm.