

Conwy Folk Club - AGM Minutes

Royal British Legion Club - 8.00pm - Thursday 24-2-2011

1. Attending

Tony Franks (Chair), John Liversedge (Deputy Treasurer), Derek Smith , Alison Shaw (Secretary), Dave King, Norman Harpe, Sylvia O'Malley, Ron Kerr, David Hughes, June Hughes, Ann Taylor, John Taylor, Martin Pendleton, Shirley Pendleton, Harry McKenzie, Flo Leicester, Jim Leicester

Apologies: Esmor Ellis, Sylvia Charles, Colin Campbell, Ken, Bev and Terry, Joyce and Colin Mullington, Cathy Howe

2. Minutes

Tony summarized the minutes of the previous AGM. All agreed that there were no matters arising to discuss.

3. Chair's Report

Tony gave a summary of the problems encountered throughout the year as a result of the British Legion licence issues. He reported that there are still a few finishing touches to be made by the Legion to the alterations requested by the licensing committee, after which they can apply for the premises license. He stressed that the Folk Club had never been part of the problem, but that the license issues had proved a distraction for us through the year.

We successfully hosted a ceilidh and Martin Simpson in concert at Conwy Civic Hall.

Tony thanked everyone for their support.

Included in the thanks were: John Liversedge (door); Flo (wine); Jim (setting up); Dave King (stagecraft and fixing equipment); Derek (sound); David Hughes (frequent MC and sound standby); Alison (minutes); Terry McKenna (treasurer until end December); Edith (bookings and publicity for several months).

Esmor Ellis and Colin Campbell were thanked for joining the committee as co-opted members.

Members who had supported guest artists were thanked.

Tony stated his intention to stand down as Chair. Everyone thanked Tony for his contribution to what has, as David Hughes pointed out, been a very good year for the club.

4. Secretary's Report

Alison reported that there are now about 270 members on the database, of whom, nearly 200 have email addresses. We introduced new memberships cards during the year.

We were successful in establishing links with various media sources and databases, including a reciprocal arrangement with Kelda Manley, who has a mailing list for Trelawnyd, Owen of Cob Records publicized the Martin Simpson concert on his extensive mailing list and we have had concerts publicized on the Bangor University intranet.

Alison summarized changes in magazine subscriptions. We have reduced numbers of Folk North West; we are trialling Taplas, a Welsh folk music magazine and are receiving Properganda, a free magazine.

5. Treasurer's Report

Tony passed round a simplified balance sheet. He reported that we have increased our balance over the year. Many ideas for spending money failed to come to fruition due to the license issues.

Points of note:

- successful raffles
- banner (needs repair following storm damage)
- cordless microphones were purchased
- guest nights overall made a profit

We discussed various ideas for future spending:

- club outing (but seen by some as possibly excluding some members)
- new speakers (but the existing ones are fine)
- sponsorship of events in Civic Hall
- a festival (1 or 2 days)
- guitar stands
- adjust the stage lighting
- omni-directional microphone
- accordion masterclass (but should it be for club members only? Yes)
(Alun Jones of Rhyl was suggested)

Tony reported that he has opened a NatWest account for day to day transactions and left a deposit in the Credit Unit to help the community and benefit from good interest rates. The NatWest account is in the Club's name and attracts no charges.

6. Any Other Business

- Nick Gausden is still the contact name in a few places – changes are ongoing.

Dave King pointed out that the calendar on the website is not current, Tony agreed that it should (and would) be removed.

David Hughes asked if U3A could borrow club equipment on 11th March if necessary. All agreed.

- John Taylor pointed out that all members needed to be kept informed. He suggested that members select their preferred method of communication. Tony emphasized that word of mouth through the membership was important.
- David Hughes wondered why so few had turned up to the AGM. Alison reported that 2 emails, various announcements on club nights and a mention in the North Wales Pioneer had been made.
- Martin Pendleton suggested an camping trip and / or barbeque. All liked this idea, but as with all ideas like this, it needs a volunteer to organize it.
- Dave King asked whether there was any mechanism for expiry of membership. Alison said that there was some natural wastage as people failed to update their details, but otherwise no.

- Flo suggested that if we hold events in the Civic Hall, raffles could be held for charity.
- It was suggested that we make another donation to the Legion (or Poppy fund). Tony pointed out that we may need to pay for the room once the new license is acquired, so we should wait and see what happens.
- John Taylor suggested a notice board for the club. All liked this idea. John could possibly make a suitable one.

7. Elections

The old committee stood down.

The new committee was elected unopposed as only 7 people volunteered.

- Chair – John Liversedge
- Secretary – Alison Shaw
- Treasurer – Tony Franks
- Member – Esmor Ellis
- Member – Sylvia Charles
- Member – Derek Smith
- Member – Ron Kerr