

12th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PEOPLE OF NOTE INTERNATIONAL TOURING ASSOCIATION (PONITA)

Registered Charity no 1113893

Saturday 25th November 2017 from 2.00 – 4.00 pm

at Southville Community Centre, Bealey Road, Southville, Bristol

MINUTES

Present: 21 members of PONITA were in attendance (15 required for a Quorum):

Nigel Siddall, Robert Burgess, Robin McDowell, Sue Morse, John Smith, Jennifer Smith, Eric Lewis, Philip Barker, Gay Bridge, Natalie Skidmore, Marie di Mambro, Eric Booth, Julia Townend, John Gulson, Shena McCulloch, Sarah Shorter, Clare More, Kate Hale, Wendy Brandl, Maggie Lowe, Lucius Redman.

1. Appointment of Meeting Chair

Sue Morse and Robin McDowell were appointed Co-Chairs for the meeting:

2. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Tina Tamlin, Judith Stewart, Jeanie Copland, Rhiannon Prys-Owen, Jean Barrow, Alison Roberts, Christine Golesworthy, Mary French, Emma Dangerfield, Fenella Butler, Gil Barrow, Lin Whitfield.

3. Minutes of the 11th AGM held on 26th November 2016

Minutes of the 11th AGM of PONITA were approved by all present as a correct record with no amendments.

Proposed: Nigel Siddall Seconded: Robin McDowell

4. Annual Report – 26th November 2016 to 25th November 2017

Sue Morse and Robin McDowell presented the annual report (attached to these minutes), outlining the successes of the year. Key points were:

- the growing support from the membership and improved numbers at events
- Charitable objectives achieved (eg Sparks, Cheddar, Amnesty)
- Committee members organizing and supporting events(usually 2 per event)
- A wider range of events participated in
- Foreign events being sought (eg Oporto), perhaps with Nickomo and Rasullah's involvement
- Developments with the website and social media – with Natalie Skidmore now employed to further develop such things
- A sound recorder purchased (and a video recorder researched)
- The £5 per event policy working well

Robert Burgess was thanked for his sterling service as Treasurer

Gigs and events

Event	Purpose
Amnesty International Garden party	To raise money for Amnesty
Cheddar Michaelmas Fayre	To raise money for the Village Hall and Carers
Blaise Castle	To increase profile of Blaise
Easter Gardens summer fete	To support local community
South Bank Arts trail	To support the arts in South Bristol
Christmas Market	To raise money for Southmead Hospital
The St Mary Redcliffe Treefest	To support St Mary Redcliffe and the local community
Sparks Ball	To help raise money for a children's charity
Cabaret	To create and develop community
Boat trip on the Avon	To create and develop community
Singsong in the Volley	To create and develop community
Workshop with Wendy Sergeant	To develop and train new leaders

Rehearsals for the above events at St Pauls Church were additional. The repertoire was from People of Note choir songs previously performed during 2015-17

The meeting agreed to accept the report.

5. Financial statement to year ended 31st August 2017

Robert Burgess, Treasurer, reported on the financial statement contained in the Treasurer's Report (attached to these minutes). The bank balance at year end (31/8/2017) was £2,773.65 which represents a surplus for the year of 1,625.98

There were no questions on the report. The meeting agreed to accept the statement.

6. Selection and rehearsal of songs for events

A discussion was held on the topic 'how can we work with Ponita leaders to select and rehearse songs to achieve best quality performances?' The following ideas and proposals were put forward for action by the next Committee:

Which Songs ?

- only choose material from last 3 years of PON repertoire
- go back further to create 'standards' or a 'core' repertoire for performing at song raids and street / public events, and fitting for that event, eg, Khosi sikelele, There But For Fortune
- challenging to teach older songs to new / recently joined Ponita members
- set lists often too long with some songs too complex to perform well
- **Proposal: songs should be chosen via a poll of members with Committee having role to review and collate from these for specific performances.**
- must be aware of Nickomo's copyright and selective about which 'old' songs we ask him to revive, as he generally wants to maintain control over this.
- Carols – should the Committee produce a Carol Book? It was recommended first to review the CD produced some years ago by Nickomo which has standard arrangements.

- Proposal: **the Committee should produce or purchase 40 folders to hold printed words / music for (say) 12 songs to use at gigs and events.** On a straw poll, **A4 size** was favoured (as better for viewing music 'dots').

Better Rehearsals

- general consensus that rehearsals should start the warm up within 5 mins of the advertised time, and tea-making and subs collection should wait until the break.
- **Proposals: volunteer members to be identified / encouraged to lead vocal warm-ups**
- **committee member(s) responsible for the gig to call people together and introduce rehearsals, and keeping rehearsals to the time schedule,** rather than this being the conductors job.
- **typical schedule: 7.05 pm warm up; 7.15 first song; 8.00 break; 8.30 second session; 9.00 close.**

Recruiting and Retaining PON / Ponita members

- general consensus there is not enough welcoming and inducting of new members happening and Ponita can make a difference here.
- More promotion of PON, eg. distribution of flyers, needed during and after PON concerts and Ponita gigs.
- Could the Committee produce a 'pack' introducing the format of PON sessions and containing word sheets and perhaps free CDs of the last PON concert and / or the current term's Parts CD ?
- **Proposals: within each part, find volunteers to 'meet and greet' new members and offer on-going support**
- **Committee to discuss the pack idea and raise with Nickomo provision of free /discounted CDs and flyers.**

7. Election of Executive Committee and Honorary Officers.

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The following nominations, with proposers and seconders, to stand for the Executive Committee were then received:

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Suzanne Morse (Chair)	Annie Whitefield	Eric Lewis
Nigel Siddall (Chair)	Robin McDowell	Stuart Grant
Robin McDowell (Treasurer)	Judith Stewart	Hannah Blackshaw
Judith Stewart	Sue Morse	Jeanie Copland
Rhiannon Prys-Owen	Shena McCulloch	John Gulson
Jeanie Copland	Eric Lewis	Nigel Siddall

The above individuals all confirmed acceptance of their nominations and were unanimously elected unopposed.

The formal AGM business closed at 4.00 pm.