

Newark U3A Ukelele Group

Minutes of meeting held 22 January 2020

Present:	David M	Jonathan
	David N	Les
	Chris C	Lesley
	Gary	Paul
	Gillie (+ guest)	Rita
	Graham	Roger
	Jacq (Chair)	Stephen
	Jeff	Sue
	Joan (Minutes)	

1. Origins, remit and composition of SG

- (a) Jacq explained how the current SG had evolved. It is not a management group but exists to assist and coordinate the overall administration of the group's activities for the benefit of all.
- (b) Currently SG constituted as follows: Group Organiser (Sue); Band Leader (Graham); Website/IT/Equipment set-up (Jeff); Funding and Finances (Jonathan); Gigs Coordinator (Jacq). Noted that John Aslin had recently resigned from SG and Gary had agreed to join the group in his stead.

Action: SG

2. Organisation, format, administration and remit of future full group meetings

Following proposals tabled by David M it was agreed that:

- (a) Meetings be scheduled quarterly
- (b) A common agenda be established for each
- (c) Two non-SG members would take responsible for organising and administering these – role to rotate between members (David M/Joan would organise first meeting)
- (d) Meetings would not seek to duplicate SG meetings but act as a forum for sharing of ideas/suggestions, affirming what was working well and making suggestions for improvements. It was hoped this would lead to people feeling more involved and generally enhance the sense of group identity.
- (e) Routine SG meetings would be scheduled to follow these group meetings.

Action: David M/Joan

3. Programme for weekly sessions

These to continue as already planned and currently implemented:

- (a) First Wednesday of month to be a jamming session, Jeff agreed to lead but others encouraged to share this role and lead individual sessions as appropriate. Any new songs members wished to try out to be notified in advance.
- (b) Weeks 2,3,4 to focus on set lists, chosen by a different member each month. Where a gig practice was needed this would take priority in any given week; however, provision would be made to ensure each list would receive 3 full plays. Lists for February and March in hand.

Action: all

4. Gigs

- (a) It was now the practice for members signed up for particular gigs to contribute to the selection of songs for that gig. This was working well and would continue.

- (b) Set themes for gig lists to be generally avoided.
- (c) Specific requirements for gigs to be confirmed in advance, e.g. power supply, adequate set-up space with room for 10-12 players, appropriate chairs etc. Also requirement to establish gig start and finish times in advance (these to be strictly adhered to) and whether playing in concert or as background entertainment.
- (d) Confirmed that in winter months bookings would not be accepted for venues that were not local.
- (e) Views sought on participation in large outdoor events, these to be notified to SG.

Action: all

5. Equipment, safety and storage

- (a) Equipment, currently with John, would be stored by Paul on temporary basis and it was noted that there would not be insurance cover. Jeff to collect from John and draft inventory
- (b) PAT testing on all electrical equipment was up to date.
- (c) Additional item, bass amplifier, currently being stored by David Mc, had not been PAT tested and Jacq would make arrangements for this.

Action: Paul, Jeff, Jacq

6. Finance and funding

- (a) SG had discussed possible needs including replacement equipment, purchase of new instruments (ukuleles for potential new members to try) and percussion instruments. Jonathan confirmed that there was limited storage available at Coddington for instruments.
- (b) Other suggestions put forward to SG for items/activities that might be funded had included: the provision of band badges or sashes (to be added to agenda for next meeting) and the possibility of organising further group tutoring sessions.

7. Learning support

It was agreed that rather than training or teaching as such it might be more effective to provide a supportive environment in which less confident players could practice together. Suggested that small groups could convene on a regular basis outside the main group, meeting in individuals' homes with venues to rotate. This commitment to be shared. Jacq and Sue would organise a sheet for members to sign up as volunteer hosts with specific dates and times. It was noted that some ukulele groups provide a booklet of simple 2-3 chord songs for use with beginners, Marlow being one such group. Jeff would make this available via the website.

Action: All

8. AOB

- (a) SG noted an additional item put forward for consideration, the possibility of meeting up with other local ukulele groups. One such meeting had taken place previously but feelings were mixed as to how successful this had been, possibly due to the fact that there had been insufficient notice/preparation for the visit. Further discussion required.
- (b) Rita noted the forthcoming Lincoln Ukelele Festival (to be held in April, dates still to be confirmed) and the group confirmed its interest in participating as in previous years. Once the dates were confirmed Jeff would add it as a gig to the website so people could sign up.
- (c) The meeting thanked Andy for his ongoing work on the website and for his report. Due to time constraints the meeting was not able to discuss this and the item was deferred for future consideration.

Action: all