

The Scroll of Appreciation (created by Mary Kear aka Props) for Ruth thanking her for her time as Treasurer was shown to the assembled company and much admired.

1. Apologies for absence: Bobby, Colin, Lyn, Gill, John M, Tony, Kim, Ken, Maureen
2. Approval of 2023 minutes. Proposed Chris Newman, seconded Roland Clare. Accepted nem con
3. Reports by officers
  - 3.1 Financial Report: previously circulated. No queries. Liz commented that Ruth had always been happy to support initiatives to develop the band which take us forwards musically  
Proposed to accept report: Heather Minnion, seconded Mary Kear. Accepted nem con
  - 3.2 Steerers General Report including MD reflections: previously circulated. Opened for discussion...
    - 3.2.1 Ed suggested we should have a core repertoire, some tunes perhaps to be played without music. To have a well-known piece to start a gig would give confidence for the band and the audience. Alison always starts a rehearsal with a well-know tune for that reason. Heather J mentioned that in the Highly Strung Band they start and end gigs with the same sets of tunes every time. There were suggestions for core repertoire tunes (Long Ashton Schottische, Enrico, Banbury Bill, Portsmouth, New Rigged Ship, Rogues March) and for which ones might be starters and finishers. The steerers will reflect and come up with a list later.
    - 3.2.2 Mary would also like us to concentrate on performing / engaging with the audience and first impressions are very important
    - 3.2.3 Pat asked how we get gigs and the answer is that mostly we are approached, and some gigs are repeats. Priddy FF gig came through Alison and is unlikely to be repeated in 2025. Heather M wondered if we could get another folk festival booking, eg Chippenham FF, Bristol FF. Alison will approach Bristol FF

Proposed to accept report: Sally Rice, seconded Angela Hammond, Accepted nem com

4. Election of Steering committee members. We need a new treasurer. Chris Mapp could take over in a few months' time. Ruth is happy to continue to cover a gap.  
The steerers would like another person on the committee and Pauline Mapp agreed to join.  
Proposed that Pauline and Chris Mapp join the steering committee (Chris M when life returns to normal after the panto) Proposed by Heather Minnion, seconded Chris Newman. Accepted nem con  
Ed asked if there was an active recruitment policy for new band members and the answer was no as we are near the maximum number of 40. However, new younger members would be extremely welcome.  
There are various jobs done by members of the band who are not on the steering committee. Liz mentioned and thanked them (Mary props, Judy social media, Helen website updates, Gill teas rota). She also said that she would like someone else to take over her role, but will carry on till Alison is back from maternity leave.
5. Election of officers: Gaffer Elizabeth Newman, Bagman (vacancy with Ruth Lindars holding the fort till Chris Mapp is available), Scribe Colin Hendy (currently unwell and out of action for the next few months). Election en bloc proposed: Fritjof Koerber, seconded Heather Minnion. Accepted nem con. The role of scribe will be reviewed by the steerers later.  
Liz thanked the steering committee for all their hard work over the year and especially Alison in leading the band so ably and musically. On behalf of the band she wished her the very best for the next few months of maternity leave. And Liz was also thanked for her totally committed and onerous behind the scenes work.