

MINUTES: Northern Jazz Promoters (Norvoljazz) network meeting

Minutes of meeting held Saturday 25th May 2019 10.30am, MJF office Board Room, Elliot House, 151 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WD



Present:

Steve Crocker: Norvoljazz Chair, JazzLeeds
Judith Waterhouse: Norvol Treasurer Wakefield Jazz
Gill Wilde: Norvoljazz secretary, Grimsby Jazz Projects
Rosemary Holmes: JazzLeeds
Lesley Jackson Jazz North
Adrian Riley Scarborough Jazz
Paul Ellis RVJ&BF
Pete Rosser Wakefield Jazz
Steve Mead MJF (briefly)

Apologies

Geoffrey Jackson and Sue Bradley RVJ&BF
Mel Grundy Jazz North East
Wesley Stevenson Newcastle Fest of Jazz & Imp Music
Paul Thomas: Sheffield Jazz
Jez Matthews: Jazz at the Lescar/ Sheffield Jazz
Ian Darrington Wigan Jazz
Mike Gordon Scarborough Jazz
Liverpool Jazz Michael Swerdlow, Victor Greenberg

Steve Mead from Manchester Jazz Festival welcomed us

1. Matters arising

1. Minutes of meeting held Newcastle Fest Jazz & Imp Music agreed by all as a true record.
2. A Norvol admin Group has been setup and met 19th Jan 2019, discussed the need for more interaction on the newly set up Facebook Forum as well as raising Norvol profile and status.
3. The internship bid has failed to get ACE grant and is to be resubmitted.

2. Treasurers Report

List of members distributed, with those who are still to re-join. **GW** agreed to send out reminder. There has been little change in the finances. The increase in fees for web master has meant he is able to be more pro-active in maintaining and updating the website – looked a lot better.

Lesley Jackson suggested we should consider **Charitable status** for the network to increase credibility, longevity and increase funding opportunities. **Action Management group**

3. Club and Festival Round-up

Rosemary Holmes & Steve Crocker – JazzLeeds. Doing OK - now three venues + two festivals. Budget OK- covering costs + funding support from Arts@Leeds; now part of Music:Leeds. The third Jazz Leeds Festival (JLF) is happening July 18-21 2019 with fringe events city-wide from 12 July. JLF has received an ACE grant. Looking to extend JLF to 10 days by 2023. Their other festival - Village Jazz – is part of the Chapel Allerton Arts Festival. This is now going ahead this year in August after a problem getting volunteers. Jazz Leeds regular programme this autumn will focus on women led bands – 10 of these - both UK and international.

Network members were also invited to the meet up at the Jazz Leeds Festival @Wardrobe Leeds on Sunday afternoon 21 July 2pm

Paul Ellis - Clitheroe Jazz & Blues. A difficult year due to illness and venue change. Some uncertainty about future and the contraction in the size of the festival. They can only rely on a local audience, as bigger audiences need bigger names and therefore higher risk. Looking at younger musicians and more women in jazz. They put on 66 bands at the festival 42 of which were free. Only 102 attended the Marius Neset concert. They brought in a paid Festival manager in 2019 but not sure if this will happen 2020, an admin assistant may be more appropriate. They are committed to a Festival in 2020 however.

Adrian Riley - Scarborough Jazz has run 50 weeks a year for 35 years! Has a good audience. To celebrate 35 years there is to be a free Jazz Party 21st July 2019. The Festival continues to be run in conjunction with the Spa organisers. A community based Festival may be held in Whitby with strong education links. Grass Roots event happening, a hip-hop jazz jam, monthly. Also an ad-hoc Jazz DJ collective in town, Adrian runs a weekly Jazz Radio Show, Jazz Thing.

Gill Wilde - Grimsby Jazz Projects Grimsby Jazz has completely ceased and there is no Cleethorpes Jazz Festival this year. Our Requiem project starts its tour July to December 2019, the music has now been recorded and awaiting CD release.

Pete Rosser Judith Waterhouse – Wakefield Jazz. Pete Rosser takes over booking for Wakefield starting Autumn season. Attendance has been quite low, but the advertising seems to work bringing in some regulars, transient and quite a few new faces some of whom return. Judith sends out reminders via weekly mail-chimp, which has an excellent 41% take-up. The volunteers do an amazing amount of work to keep it going.

Paul Thomas - Sheffield Jazz (via email message)

- good musically but very variable (and unpredictably so) in terms of audiences, but wound up OK financially
- still struggling to get enough volunteers
- more confirmation that big US names don't attract Sheffield audiences
- the introduction of some pre-gig talks seems worth persevering with

Lesley Jackson - Jazz North reports the new website launch will be 1st July containing more information, Board membership details, new listings with changes to the JN Introduces and Northern Line booking system. This will make everything more efficient and easier to use. An e-bulletin has already started with the hiring part time media help. A better balance of gender on the board is being sought. Website links to partners will be added. The **Alt-shift** project was hard work but excellent, targeting younger people. An evaluation is to be published shortly. The **Jazz Camp for Girls**, a series of one-day intensive workshops for **girls** aged 9 -19yrs involved 74 girls. They are keen to do more, widening the partnerships with 50-50 tutor split. Funded by Ronnie Scott Foundation. The **JN Education Conference** is to be held 12th June at Huddersfield with 3 speakers. A new recruitment for **Jazz North Introduces** has started. The evaluation of **Northern Line** has led to improvements. The Fees have been raised £110 per musician split 50:50 with promoters. The roster has been reduced to improve effectiveness and management and a showcase will be held Lancaster Jazz Festival 17th September. The ambition is to rotate the showcase subject to suitable dates.

Projects and New Business:

4 Future project proposal – Education Partnership for jazz promoters and MEH's.

Gill Wilde outlined a project to bring together a partnership between venues and **Music Education Hubs MEH's**. To bring together through a partnership between Northern Jazz promoters, schools (MEH's), Grimsby Jazz Projects, La Luna and Jazz North (and possibly others). Main aim is to introduce schools to jazz music and bring a new audience to venues. NJP supported the project. Gill would like any venues with an interest to forward any contacts they know of or can find of contacts in the music hub in their area. **Agreed** to pursue the project – initially to ask which members clubs were interested. **Action GW**

5. Internship Project SC GW and LJ

This project has been 2 years in the making, with 3 of the lead promoters having altered since the start. It needs a strong rewrite. It was agreed that we should continue. Lesley Jackson has spoken to Relationship Manager Richard Brown who is keen for us to re submit. **Agreed** to re submit end of August, with scheme projected to start early 2020.

Action LJ and GW

6 Where is NorVol going? All

Members discussed what they got out of the meetings: collaboration, benefits of meeting other promoters and finding out how other clubs were doing. Feeling that we shouldn't become subsumed into the JPN – there was a need to retain specific northern focus

6.1 Constitution amendments

Agreed to removing the pure "voluntary" aspects of jazz promotion and including commercial and public funded promoting organisations. Less clear about how individual memberships would work as members, especially if it comes to voting rights. Associate membership for individuals proposed and to be considered. Amended constitution to be put to the AGM in Scarborough in September **Action SC**

Need to sort out **year ends** - we currently have a financial year end of March, with an AGM in September. Subs are due in Sept but not decided until the AGM
Treasurer will look at this and make a recommendation. **Action JW**

6.2 Logo and name

Interesting discussion with Scarborough rep Adrian Riley who is a graphic designer. Logo needs to be readable at all sizes, so make the font of the "Northern" and "Promoters" much larger. It also needs to work in a monochrome version. **Agreed** that we change our name to **Northern Jazz Promoters** and that the blue of the old logo be changed to a gold version in the new **Action SC**

7 AOB – none

Meeting closed 12.45 – we were invited to the Manchester Jazz Festival concert at St Anne's Church sponsored by Danish Jazz Federation

Next Meeting – AGM and network meeting Scarborough Jazz Festival @ Scarborough Spa Sat 21 Sept 10 for 10.30am