



**Northern Jazz Promoter (NJP) Network Annual General Meeting ~
Saturday 15th October 2022 10.30am
Zoom Meeting**

Present:

Steve Crocker: NJPNetwork Chair JazzLeeds
Gill Wilde: Secretary Grimsby Jazz Projects
Bob Walker Scarborough Jazz/ S. Jazz Festival
Wesley Stevenson Newcastle Fest of Jazz & Imp Music
Judith Waterhouse: Norvol Treasurer Wakefield Jazz
Richard Gentle

Apologies

Rosemary Holmes JazzLeeds
Pete Rosser Wakefield Jazz
Mike and Marion Gordon Scarborough Jazz
Jez Matthews : Jazz at the Lescar/ Sheffield Jazz
Heather Spencer Jazz North Durham Jazz Festival
Peter Woodman Marsden Jazz Festival
Laurie Stead Huddersfield Jazz
Phil Lee RVJ&B
Kieron Matthews (NQ jazz)

It was agreed that the minutes of the last AGM 3rd Nov 2020 was a true record.

Chair Annual report 2022 given by Steve Crocker, (see separate report).

Northern Jazz Promoters have done many good things since 2012 (2008 if you include the time in Jazz Yorkshire) including the **Club Development Programme, the International Touring Project the Internship scheme and the Website with the gig guide, club information and blog**, but we now have JPN and Jazz North and these other organisations can take up many of the roles performed by NJP. And since no one has come forward at this AGM to take over the chair, secretary or treasurer of NJP it seems a timely point to wind up the the organisation.

Judith and Gill were in agreement. Bob Walker said he would have stepped up but as with most voluntary promoters has many other demands on his time, he thought NJP had done a remarkable job and would like to see its most valuable role of networking continued.

Richard Gentle observed it was important to have a forum and the website offered valuable information about northern jazz clubs and festivals. Gill agreed it was a valuable tool.

Wesley suggested that Jazz North could provide the platform for promoters to communicate through their drop in sessions. JPN and Jazz North should be lobbied as the website provides a valuable data base.

It was agreed that Steve Crocker would get in touch with JPN and JazzNorth to pursue links for the NJP website as a regional link.

Richard Gentle suggested he could keep a skeletal website page with lists of club, venue and promoters with a once a year upgrade, on his website to be linked to JPN/JN.

All agreed that the NJP organisation in its present form would be dissolved – probably by December 2022 when the finances had been finalised, but to try and maintain a more informal group network. It was agreed by all it had served a very important purpose for Promoters.

The NJP working group would complete the winding up formalities

Agreed – unanimous agreement that the NJP network be wound up by December 2022.

Treasurers Report 2022 (JW) (see separate report). At the moment there are 8 paid up members. There would be approx. £2,500 left when the final amounts outstanding from the Traineeship programme had been paid put.

Treasurers report noted

Round up of events by clubs.

Bob Walker Scarborough Jazz The club is doing remarkably well despite fluctuating numbers. The new jazz generation is doing well. The Art Theman night was great and some very good stuff is coming up. A big worry is the chance that they may lose the venue as the pub, like many, is struggling but they are hoping it will survive. The festival was a success, but Mike Gordon is to retire after the next, his 20th year as Director, due to personal reasons. It is bound to be a superb line-up!. There is a suggestion the Mark (Mikes son) may take over.

Judith Waterhouse Wakefield Jazz They are struggling with audiences still down since Covid. They are cutting costs, doing a flyer rather than programme, and using more local musicians. They also have a subscriber list with some good donations. They lost £7000 last year but will keep going till money runs out. The sports club spent £60.000 to upgrade the building but made a more sterile atmosphere in the process. The venue want to encourage more functions with higher bar take the jazz cannot compete. There are rumours that jazz will probably be asked to move to move to Thursday night but that was the same night as Leeds operated. Steve Crocker volunteered to change JazzLeeds to Friday from Thursday to help. Wes suggested a change of Wakefield venue? But that brings its own problems, piano storage, higher PRS to pay.

Wesley Stevenson Newcastle A good festival with a successful experiment to pitch it over 2 weekends. A warm up weekend was held at St Georges church - since a church was needed for one of the acts. It was well attended with walk ups covering any deficit. Good comments such as 'Best festival yet'. Planning going ahead for next year with some changes but including 2 weekends. JNE gigs going well with Marco Wolf trainee project gig going down well. Wes tries not to worry too much about numbers, funding for JNE is in place til Dec 2023. Using the Grassroots ACE funding has meant it had to be very structured with all gigs pre planned. Wes welcomed the space it gave.

Steve Crocker JazzLeeds Chapel Allerton Festival successful in September with first efforts at Jazz and Film, Jazz and Dance, although audience numbers were down for some jazz events. The autumn season includes a sell out a joint venture with Andy Shepherd at the Howard Assembly rooms. An education project with Roundhay school was progressing well. Inkwell venue (now called Northlight) has reopened as a commercial Arts Centre with some gigs booked for next year. Overall it was getting more difficult to survive as audiences were down by around 25% since before Covid.

Final review – the NJP Internship Project

Discussed between Judith, Gill Wes and Steve. Wes was pleased to see Steve looking well after the difficulties he had encountered through the project!

Wes enjoyed the project finding many positives coming from it. It also highlighted many difficulties and problems regarding the need for more, younger promoters and why bigger organisations were not doing more about it. He was very pleased NJP had initiated this project. Being a promoter required lots of dedication and hard work, and asked if the young to have that drive and dedication? The touring project highlighted that they learnt a lot gaining valuable experience and skills.

Ups and downs Wes encountered problems such as the changes Covid wrought on the whole project delaying the start for two and a half years changing the focus and arrangements. This in a way

benefitted the Trainees. RVJ&B club dropping out as the person who was the lead mentor died. There were difficulties in negotiating with trainees who had other priorities also being musicians. NQ Jazz had problems when their first trainee dropped out and the replacement went away for four weeks. The trainees were expecting more direction and guidance, a more structured programme ie “to be handed things on a plate”. The applications had come mainly from musician based, not promoter-based candidates. The training sessions had been successful but engagement by our partners was lacking, with cancelled meetings etc.

The outcomes were largely positive for the individuals at the end of the project- with two trainees taking on volunteer roles in the jazz clubs they worked for, and one being taken on as a paid employee. Highlights included the networking, the successful ACE bid, the Marco Woolf tour organisation, the and organisation of the Leeds Jazz Festival, meeting musicians. From the club point of view the outcomes were mixed. JazzLeeds especially had had a difficult time with the traineeship scheme. Ribble Valley and NQ jazz had had difficulties. Overall however it had been a worthwhile project

Final words

The chair finished the meeting by **thanking** all the Internship clubs for their hard work in completing the project, to Wes for the excellent job in project managing it, and overall to Gill and Judith in supporting the development of the Northern Jazz Promoters network over the past few years

The meeting finished at 1.30pm