

# RIBBLE VALLEY JAZZ AND BLUES LIMITED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

## Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

The meeting was held over the internet in consequence of the social restriction set out to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Present and voting at the meeting:

Dave Walters (Chair)	Trish Ferrarin
Sue Bradley (Minutes),	Ian Parkinson
Miles Peachey (Honorary Treasurer),	Dave Harman
Lorraine Grice,	Gary Ward
Phil Lee	Carol Balshaw
Janet Holland	Paul Balshaw
Alan Bramwell,	Alfred Cerezo
Wayne Kilner	Paul Ellis
Doreen Lawton	Ivana Douglas
Phil Baugh	Geoff Holmes

Apologies noted from Jill Mitchell, George Arnold, Jennie Schumann, Gavin, Gabrielle, Sam and Joe Westward, Matthew Collinge. Sue Lightbown, Geoff Jackson and Eric Ainsworth.

All decisions were made by voting during the meeting. The following people had submitted proxy votes and were not present at the meeting:-

Eva Kahan	Matt Collinge
Roy Gonsalves	David Meredith
Judith Gonsalves	Rosemary Matthews
Edward Lomax	Elaine Shepherd
Don Rowbottom	Bernard Shepherd
Helen Johnston	Steve Grunshaw
Jennie Schmann	Jack Yerkess
John Dootson	

Thanks to Alfred Cerezo noted for facilitating the arrangements to enable this AGM to continue safely within the framework of restrictions in force due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

**2. Minutes of previous AGM** held 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved as accurate. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Trustees Annual Report - presented by Sue Bradley**

Members were reminded of the programme provided in Autumn 2019, the cancellation of gigs, festival, band rehearsal etc. due to emergence of the Covid 19 pandemic and social distance restrictions in force. Sue described the new skills and alternative ways of reaching audiences and participants developed through the Jazz Box project, supported by emergency Arts Council funding. This funded community online jazz workshops, a range of online gigs and pop up busks in Clitheroe, consolidated presence on Ribble FM, enabled a complete overhaul of the club's website and provided airplay for young people. During the year Trustees made a commitment to fair pay for musicians so badly hit by the

pandemic, and the capacity to be infinitely flexible in the face of ongoing uncertainty due to the level of Covid 19 in order to provide a festival in May 2021 whatever the circumstances. The Chair commended those so active in the background keeping the club running in unprecedented circumstances.

#### **4. Financial Report – presented by Miles Peachey.**

MP stated that the Financial Report for 2019 2020 is on the Club's website. He noted the significant change in income and expenditure reflecting the impact of the pandemic on changed activities. The £15,267 surplus shown in the accounts also included significant monies held over from last year and ring-fenced for the festival. Even so the club had managed to attract over £1000 of free reserves to add to the free reserves held by the club. Even in a difficult year the club was slowly building reserves to the levels recommended by the Charity Commission.

Members voted to approve accounts. These will now be signed by Treasurer Miles Peachey and Board Secretary Sue Bradley ready to forward to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

#### **5. Election of Committee Members**

Following a unanimous proxy membership vote the current Trustees were re-elected to the Board:

Sue Bradley  
Paul Ellis  
Ivana Douglas  
Kate Lowes  
Phil Lee  
Miles Peachey  
Dave Walters

In addition Ian Parkinson was welcomed back to join the Board.

#### **6. Life-time Membership Awards**

Gary Ward received the 2021 Life-time Membership Award in recognition of the energy, wisdom and programming support he had given the club over many years. His positive "can-do" approach to promoting the best of jazz and blues, as well as his educational skills in community music, especially with Blu-funk was praised. He accepted the award to the applause of everyone present and thanked the club for the award.

#### **7. Festival News**

Phil Lee commended and described the features of the programme for this year's Ribble Valley Jazz and Blues Festival, on-line to ensure delivery to our audience at a time when lifting of social restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid 19 were still very uncertain. Ivana Douglas invited members to share the online promotions due out next week with friends, family and networks the social media.

#### **8. Moving forward**

Sue Bradley advised the meeting that the club had been successful in attracting a significant Cultural Recovery Fund award of £33,500 for all its activities apart from the festival. Plans approved by the Arts Council included high quality gigs to attract an audience back to live performance once it was safe to do so, a scheme to encourage hospitality venues to return to booking bands, pop-up music in communities throughout Ribble Valley and injection of extra funding to allow

community bands and the jazz jam to return to their previous high standards. The money needed committing by the end of June 2021.

Paul Ellis informed the meeting of partnership with the Grand to present an Autumn programme that included Nubiyah Twist, Gwilym Simcock and Mike Walker and Dennis Rollins. Extra plans were required to fill performance slots in Summer and September he was in consultation with a range of bands. Paul also raised the need to find a club venue to identify with regular gigs by the start of 2022 and the return to normality in the run up to a live festival in 2022.

### **9. Any Other Business**

In answer to a question about member numbers and the impact of the pandemic, Alfred Cerezo advised the present figure stood at 130. The meeting felt the club had weathered 2020 well. It was agreed that a push to encourage regaining membership levels should be part of the plans relating to the Cultural Recovery Fund grant with volunteers encouraged to ensure new audiences were aware of membership benefits.

### **Information to Club Membership**

Minutes of this meeting will be put onto the club website with overall information about the event.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm allowing members to switch to the club YouTube link for a live stream from the Mike Smith Quintet.