

British Forum for Ethnomusicology

AGM, Durham, Saturday 31st March 2012

Minutes

Present: Chloe Zadeh, Anna Morcom, Hwee-San Tan, Shzr Ee Tan, Luis-Manuel Garcia, Ben Power, Ruard Absaroka, Daithi Kearny, Thomas Solomon, Henry Bainbridge, Alan Karass, Monique Ingalls, Tala Jarjour, Simone Tarsitani, Joe Browning, James Butterworth, Noel Lobley, Fiorella Montero Diaz, Kendra Salois, Stephen Wilford, Henry Stobart, Martin Clayton, Britta Sweers, Caroline Bithell, Ioannis Tsioulakis

Committee members present: David Hughes (DH) – Acting Chair, Amanda Villepastour (AV), Simon Mills (SM), Christine Dettmann (CD), Tom Wagner (TWa), Alex Knapp (AK), Laudan Nooshin (LN), Trevor Wiggins (TWi). Minutes: Bronwen Robertson (BR)

1. Apologies

Stephen Cottrell, Katherine Schofield, Carolyn Landau

David, who was acting chair for the committee meeting, convened the meeting, advised that Carolyn Landau has stepped down due to personal circumstances, and introduced the committee's chosen replacement, Amanda Villepastour as chair of the BFE. AV welcomed everyone to the AGM and congratulated Simon for organising a successful and great conference.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Minutes were approved

3. Matters arising

No other matters were raised at this point in the meeting

4. Chair's report

The chair's report was read on behalf of Carolyn Landau. The key points of the report were: thank you to conference organisers for the 2011-2012 period (Trevor Wiggins, Angela Impey, Simon Mills and his team), future conferences (Pitt Rivers Museum – Noel Lobley, ICTM joint 4-day conference – Suzel Reily, Graduate Conference – Tom Wagner), possibility of exchange conferences with the French Society for Ethnomusicology, BFE student prize for 2011 was awarded to Emma Brinkhurst, Ethnomusicology Forum changes (Laudan Nooshin, Hwee-San Tan stepping down and Simone Kruger on maternity leave), new editorial assistant (Emma Brinkhurst) and admin assistant (Bronwen Robertson) for the committee, committee members

stepping down (Laudan Nooshin, Steve Cottrell, Katherine Schofield and Carolyn Landau), and the success of the BFE High Tea Party at the SEM conference (over 250 people attended).

5. Officer's reports

a) Treasurer

Income is currently exceeding expenditure, and this trend has been continuing over the past four years. A majority of BFE income comes from royalties, particularly from JSTOR and from renewals and subscriptions. Money is also generated from conferences; there was a substantial surplus from last year's conference.

DH asked for someone to volunteer to be an auditor. Ruard Absaroka volunteered, noticed misprint of year of IMR income '20102', which must be amended to 2012.

b) Membership Liaison Officer

AV reported on membership numbers. BFE membership is down, which could be because of the recession and the fact that students are able to access material through their institutions they might not be subscribing if they aren't attending the conference. There are still issues with renewals and subscription and BFE committee hope for T&F to instigate changes on their updated website. BFE are working towards online payment and renewal, in the same way as other organizations; BFE acknowledges it has been cumbersome in the past and is working towards resolving this.

250 individual members (118 of them are students, 132 non-students)

Slightly <50% of membership is outside the UK

135 institutional members

c) Journal editors

Journal co-editors are TWi and Simone Kruger (who is on maternity leave and will return in September this year). Submissions are healthy and the next issue (special issue on archiving) will be prepared on time. BFE is currently looking into access to back issues online for people who can't access through their institutions. But we need to make sure this is helpful for people who can't access through their institution and also that it is financially sensible for BFE to do this.

The BFE requests that if you are in an institution please do not download the material and put it in your VLE. Please provide the link for your students to access it themselves, because this then counts for the download total, showing your librarian the value of the publication to students, and providing income for the BFE.

BFE received £1900 from JSTOR royalties. There were 30% more full-text downloads through T&F website than in the previous year. T&F had set a target of 25%. BFE is looking at how to make the journal more available in countries where there are issues of currency and slow internet access.

Issue 20.1.1 has been online for two weeks now, BFE is now using footnotes instead of endnotes, because increasingly people are reading on e-book readers and endnotes

are cumbersome on e-readers. BFE would welcome feedback from the membership on this.

The turnaround time from submission to publication is around 12-18 months due to the processes involved. The publication needs to be timely in order to be on the Thomson Reuters citation index. Editors are trying to keep a general issue as backup at all times, which could be pulled forward if need be if the publication date for a special issue was pushed back.

T&F will help with REF deadlines by publishing the journal early online and give it a DOI number, which will be acceptable.

d) Website development

Running smoothly, our provider 1-and-1 now has a better and more stable system. Bronwen is moderating the e-mail list. We also now have social media pages and have had good feedback about this. If you have any news you want to spread please contact us. Ashgate have provided a 20% discount online, promotional code is online and the link is on that website. We are looking into asking other publishers to do similar and for the future we are thinking of maybe creating an engaging and dynamic members only area on the website.

e) Student representative

There have been a number of grassroots student community things popping up, like Chloe Zadeh's successful ethnomusicology discussion group, which meets in London at Senate House, promoting engagement amongst students. Fiorella Montero Diaz has also had a very successful Facebook page called 'Ethnomusicologists in the UK' that has gone beyond the UK and has over 400 members.

6. Committee membership and elections

There are 4 elected openings on the committee. Roles to be filled are student rep, membership liaison, potentially membership development, and conference liaison, in order to lessen the work of the chair (but working closely with the chair). Committee also currently includes the posts of web developer, treasurer and the chair (AV is chair until 2014).

A ballot was taken and 35 members voted. Votes were counted immediately after the AGM, and the names of the newly elected members were posted on a notice board at the conference. The four newly elected members were: Henry Stobart, Noel Loble, Anna Morcom and Tom Wagner.

7. Amendments to constitution

The main reason for amending the constitution at this time is to switch to online voting. This would have two benefits: 1) The elections could take place before the AGM, so that the new committee can be formed and have their first meeting at the AGM. 2) More importantly, online voting would allow all BFE members to vote, even if they cannot attend the AGM.

DH presented the changes proposed to the constitution regarding online voting that were agreed by the committee.

Decision: Proposed changes were approved

In addition, a number of wording changes were suggested, for Rule 10 and Rule 7 point ii. The committee and attendees decided that the online voting amendment means this could be discussed at a later date with more clarity and voted on online.

Future conferences

Next conference is the one-day conference at Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. CfP will go out shortly. Ioannis Tsioulakis, on behalf of Suzel Reily, discussed Annual Conference for April 4-7, 2013. Professor Leslie Gay will be keynote speaker. The next AGM is on April 6, 2013. Student conference, September 12-14, 2012, Keynote by Michael Bull of iPod culture fame, Vicki Cooper from Cambridge Publishing, ethics panel discussion featuring Laudan and Henry.

BFE are currently in conversation with French Society for Ethnomusicology to have 2014 annual conference in Paris and then to have a joint annual conference in London with them in 2015.

Other projects

BFE is considering developing an ethical statement of which there would be two separate documents, one short version and another in-depth exploratory document. The longer version would address ethical issues of fieldwork and international music copyright concerns. Anyone interested in these issues or in drafting ethical guidelines please contact Monique Ingalls or Muriel Swijghuisen Reigersberg.

AOB

Tom Wagner proposed his open-access online journal for the BFE: open access, peer-reviewed, shorter articles, (4,000 words), reviews (TV, radio, etc), podcasts, perspectives. If anyone wants to get involved, contact Tom Wagner or James Butterworth.

Question from the floor: Would virtual attendance at conferences be possible in the future? Video streaming, podcasting afterwards, live Tweeting.

Reply: This can be taken up at the committee meeting and reflected back. It would depend on the venue and the facilities available. Ioannis advised that this is definitely possible in the Sonic Arts building at Belfast.

Date of next AGM:

April 6, 2013