

British Forum for Ethnomusicology
Annual General Meeting, Cardiff University, 11 April 2008

MINUTES

1. Apologies: Rachel Harris (RH), Elizabeth Lidster (EL), Barley Norton (BN; treasurer), Ian Russell (IR), David Wong (DW)

Present: Alexandra Balandina (AB), Jim Barrett (JB), Caroline Bithell (CB), Katherine Brown (KB), Stephen Cottrell (SC), Nicoletta Demetriou (ND), Rita Fiorella Montero Diaz (RFMD), Julian Faultless (JF), Iain Foreman (IF), Ruth Hellier-Tinoco (RHT), Angela Impey (AI), Simone Krüger (SK), Carolyn Landau (CL), Sharon Meredith (SM), Laudan Nooshin (LN), John O'Connell (JOC), Tina K. Ramnarine (TKR; chair), Martin Stokes (MS), Hwee-San Tan (HST), Shzr Ee Tan (SET), Ioannis Tsioulakis (IT), Kathleen Van Buren (KVB; secretary), Suzanne Wint (SW), Giovanni de Zorzi (GDZ)

2. Minutes of previous AGM, 21 April 2007: The minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.b. The BFE Student Prize was awarded to Eoghan Neff.

7. The conference at Goldsmiths was successful.

4. Chair's report

a. A number of positive developments can be noted. The discipline has experienced growth in the last three years, with ethnomusicologists now critical to music departments and ethnomusicology more fixed institutionally. Ethnomusicologists are also interacting actively with other disciplines. BFE has diversified, and has established important links with partner organizations such as SEM and ICTM. *Ethnomusicology Forum* is gaining greater visibility through JSTOR. Past successful conferences include the Horniman/BFE conference.

b. A number of challenges remain both for the discipline and for BFE. *Ethnomusicology Forum* was not mentioned on the ERIH list. NAMHE is acting on behalf of BFE to

express discontent, and has called for nominations for a reconstituted panel.

c. The society would like to encourage student participation and dialogue. Students are encouraged to contact EL to share views on BFE matters.

5. Officers' reports

a. Editors

Andrew Killick and LN, the current editors, report good progress overall. There has been a steady range of submissions to the journal, especially from abroad. UK scholars are encouraged to contribute to the journal. The committee is waiting for a revised contract to arrive from Routledge, and anticipates increased revenue from JSTOR. The committee is considering Routledge's request that we move to three issues a year. However, there are administrative issues to consider. Problems with online subscriptions remain an ongoing concern, and members are encouraged to let committee members know if they encounter problems. Membership numbers are not significantly higher than fifteen years ago. The committee encourages students and others to become members.

b. Treasurer (read by TKR in the absence of BN)

The current accounts are healthy, with a closing balance of 14,426.57 GBP. This amount will increase as more membership fees are coming from Routledge for 2006 (609 GBP) and 2007 (1124 GBP). Major sources of income include JSTOR and membership fees. Routledge is handling subscriptions. Members with standing orders are encouraged to cancel these orders. They will be reimbursed for any overpayments. No major expenses are foreseen for 2008, so finances should remain in good order.

c. Website (read by TKR in the absence of DW)

Opinions are requested from the membership on new possibilities for the website, e.g. a discussion board, YouTube feature, or webpages for members. Suggestions given by members during the meeting include: a link to articles and online examples from *Ethnomusicology Forum*, a forum for people with questions about fieldwork, finding a means to promote networking amongst the ethnomusicology community, ensuring that

news items are updated, and making use of Yahoo dialogues. The committee was encouraged to begin by reviewing and updating the current website and then to explore possibilities for expanding.

6. Committee membership

TKR and BN stepped down from the committee. SC and DW were re-elected as members. SK and MS were elected as new members.

7. Forthcoming conferences

The 2008 one-day conference will be held in Aberdeen. The 2009 annual conference will be held in Liverpool. The theme will be “Music, Culture and Globalisation.” An offer has been given by Leeds to host a future conference, perhaps in 2010.

8. AOB

a. TKR expressed thanks to John O’Connell and the Cardiff team for hosting the present conference. She also expressed thanks to the BFE committee for work completed together.

b. SC and members of the BFE committee expressed thanks to TKR for her contributions both to BFE and to ethnomusicology in the UK. Thanks were also expressed to BN for his work as treasurer.

c. LN wonders whether we might be able to use BFE finances to further promote ethnomusicology in the UK. LN suggested providing more funding to students, such as for conference travel, and JF recommended using funding for the website.

d. JOC can confirm results for students who applied for bursaries for the present conference.

e. An email about the BFE Student Prize will be circulated. Students interested in submitting papers for consideration should watch for the email.

9. Date of next AGM: To be arranged during the 2009 BFE conference.