2015 Tower Ravens AGM

September 21st 2015

Present: Kate, Sue, Nikki, Katherine, Jo, Janet, Laura W., Becky, Ffion, Hannorah (late)

Apologies: Reesha, Sinead, Laura S.

Minutes amended and ratified from 2014 AGM.

Officer Reports:

Foreperson:

Ffion- Everyone amazing, achieved goals from AGM, placed in DERT and competed in trad. Everyone improved as dancers ☺

Katherine- took over post DERT, thanks for people being patient. Steady turn out over summer, people learning new dance and trad, generally v. good feedback when dancing out

Secretary:

Becky- Breakdown of number of events invited to versus those attended and why. Generally a mixture of reasons, hoping with greater number of people knowing greater number of dances we will be able to dance out more next year. Emphasis on maintaining dancing out post DERT- Summer is a very public time of year and will get us noticed and therefore invited to more events.

Steady turn-over of members, have an open practice in October to give people opportunity to join.

(See Report for more details)

Treasurer:

Sue- Thankful for patience with getting bank account up and running and thanks to everyone for paying up all owed promptly and without fuss

NB The report is interim as end of financial year is currently ending October 31st, therefore figures are NOT annual.

Subs currently roughly balance out payment for hall

Average taken £116 on crawls- massive improvement from 2 years ago £74. Could still improve upon this with better collecting techniques. If you’re not dancing it is your responsibility to collect immediately post dance as this leads to most money. Dancers or players not expected to collect unless really want to. Think £120 per crawl average at least is aim for next year.

Once subs paid will have £1500 plus (2 crawls) wows.

Expenditure similar over past few years, crawl income increased.

NB this is guesswork due to holes in accounts and lack of statements etc.

1. Should we make a donation to charity?
2. Should we lower subs?
3. Both?

Tour Organiser (wait till Hannorah gets here to give report)

Janet liked her tour in Clapham- made a lot of money, new area so ppl not seen rapper before.

Kit Keeper:

Kate- overall we seem to have the right amount of kit with some spare, will be reminding people to return items to kit keeper if they haven’t attended in some time.

Some sashes need cutting down to fit teeny people

Grateful to people asking to get kit, works very well

Kit Checker:

Nikki- not really had to give reminders about where kit should be and have self-awareness of when ‘charlies’ not hanging down enough (translate as petticoats). People have a self-awareness of standards of presentation needed when out.

Sue- Please keep an eye out for sparkly netting still!

Publicity officer:

Laura S. in absentia- hoodies, website achieved hurrah. Not always great at putting up-coming events on facebook.

(General praise of Laura given for all she has managed in the last year)

Still no cake-officer needed- we don’t need cake help.

Nominations and votes:

Foreperson:

Katherine – please be aware she might be leaving London and therefore us. Can other people get used to taking charge (delegated by Katherine) so if she leaves we will not be left in the lurch.

People need to let her know what happy with as she doesn’t want to give tasks to people that they don’t want.

Becky propose Katherine, Jo second, overall unanimous vote in.

Secretary:

Becky- happy to keep on this role but more than happy to have someone else do it (warn isn’t the funnest of tasks!)

Ffion propose Becky, seconded by Katherine, overall unanimous vote in.

20.09 enter Hannorah to massive lol

Treasurer:

Sue- similar to Becky, happy to keep doing it but also happy to pass on.

Jo nominate Sue, Janet second, overall unanimous vote in

Tour Organiser Report:

Hannorah- Lindsey voted organiser AGM, Hannorah and Janet filling in from spring.

Up until DERT we did more crawls and raised efficiency in organisation and funds bought in. Since DERT this has slackened. Hannorah has been off and others away so this isn’t surprising.

Do we want to continue doing monthly crawls and same dates? People take in turns to do crawls based on where they were etc. Line up crawls and who is organising for next few months in advance as to who does it to ensure the best organisation and the best advertising.

Discussion of tour organiser/co-ordinator and how much work to take on or if should be more spread out among everyone as having one/two people doing it turns into a huge task.

Collate info of pub crawls been on previously- can we use Thrales map? Make own maps and lists?

People too busy etc. to take on job independently. Can we divide into 3 or 4 people? Each do 3 or 4 crawls per year and then spread these out so no one person has to take on too much time-consuming organisation at one time.

Voting tour organiser/co-ordinator

Hannorah, Janet, Laura W. and Ffion split between them, doing different areas in conjunction to area worked/lived in.

Becky propose sounds good for all 4, Kate seconds, voted in unanimously.

Hannorah going to do organisation now to propose year ahead and who to take on which date.

Committee headed by Hannorah.

Wardrobe:

Kit Keeper-Ffion propose Kate, seconded by Laura W., unanimously voted in.

Organic kit checker. Nikki doesn’t think enough of a job. Is it worth having some rules on kit? To be had at kit part. We know Sue secretly judges us and ensures we all get on with it.

Publicity Officers:

(Hannorah thanks Laura for doing good job- achieved such good things, all agree)

Ffion propose Laura in absentia, Jo seconded, unanimously voted in

Hannorah concerned lack of tweeting lost us followers, as she hasn’t tweeted things over the summer. If Hannorah not going to something delegate the job to someone else.

Tour organiser to do the tweeting part of it/delegate someone to do so.

Tour organisers need to inform Laura enough in advance if she needs to put information on social media. Should crawl organisers post event on facebook? Yes. Propose to Laura when see her- ensure she happy with this. Laura brilliant at posting from events and random comments, lighten her workload by taking on some of tour advertising.

1.Practice venue and time- all happy.

Reminder to give 24 hour notice can’t make practice.

2. Tours

Happy with last Thursday in month? Yes

Friday is more difficult to get pubs- but happy doing extra crawls in run up to DERT on alternate Thursday/Friday. If not enough for a Friday crawl then do the Thurs instead etc.

Drinking in pubs- Thrales were refused a pub based on the last team going and not drinking anything.

🡪 Out of politeness should we drink in each pub? This becomes very expensive and we can’t expect everyone to have enough money to do so.

London pubs don’t necessarily need this financial support, we bring entertainment which means punters stay. If it’s quiet we should endeavour to buy a drink as ‘payment’ for using the space.

Don’t feel have to buy a drink but do as politeness, esp. if not dancing. If seems particularly bad discuss with treasurer? Tour organiser to decide where to drink. Maybe spread drinks over a few pubs rather than spending long time in just a couple

1. DERT

Do we want to enter competitively- yes

New dance as dance we compete with- yes much more exciting than jubilee. Modifications to be considered and implemented.

How to do main dance: five main or squad?

* Everyone who wants to have a go can do and then nearer the time when at DERT standard can do it. As long as people are good enough do we need to decide now on five? Does this just put off the inevitable decision- some stress over last years’ decision making, ultimately for Katherine to decide so should be done in a way that team deems fair but that Katherine feels comfortable with.
* Will every one dance at some point or will some just not be involved?
* Showcase and spotlight offer chance for greater numbers to enter competitively as spotlight doesn’t count towards whole thing so can be a totally different team.
* Becky asks new people how bothered they would have been not dancing last year?
* Laura w. said really enjoyed as a new person getting to be involved, wouldn’t have gone just as a spectator as so new didn’t feel confident from a purely social point of view
* Sue- much easier to dance with individuals in one set. I.e. only the five. Becky relives the complications of different people in a set, everyone has own dancing style and therefore influence on full set.
* Need reserves up to scratch as put too much pressure on the main team (disaster of injuries DERT 2015)
* Have a reserve set as spotlight set to ensure if you put the work in you get to dance competitively on the day. Ensures standard high across whole team.

Traditional- enter competitively? Yes, should show excellent improvement of team form 2015-2016

Westerhope chosen again- make any modifications we fancy.

Anyone to lead Westerhope?

Sue proposes Laura the opportunity to lead Trad

* Discussion as to if one person can realistically be in the DERT set and lead the trad. Overall people feel not doable. Therefore propose the idea to Laura S. and allow time to consider. If she’s not happy open the votes again next week. All agree.

Public liability insurance up to date? Yes and documentation going to Sue for renewal.

Showcase plans- Vote for simple dance or something fun, depends on how much time we’ve got, who would be in charge of it?

Realistically probably need to work on competition dance rather than something special- this shows a better indicator of what we can do as a team.

Potential for double dance? With reserves as second team.

Potential for some silly London based jokes by tommy or whole team. To be considered closer to DERT depending on how team is progressing overall.

1. Dances

Jubilee as main dance for when people join etc.

Nominate new dance names: Piccadilly, Victoria and Circle

Circle dance not massively due to tube system- rapper happens in circles.

Victoria is regal not tube, Piccadilly=London and central.

Unanimous Piccadilly dance ☺

Characters: Do we want Betty or any new characters?

Beefeater such a good character a Betty might impose. Betty a bit pointless as humour is for crossdressing and therefore as a female team it’s not funny. Other female sides not had one. Decide that unless someone joins who massively wants to be a Betty it’s not worth it.

Do we want another tommy routine to the beefeater?

Hannorah to build on tommy routine as ‘Rosie the Riveter’ from Westerhope

We have now officially checked that there are no problems with dressing up as beefeater

Hannorah and Sue good to be Tommys but others encouraged. Can use the top hate/whatever makes people feel confident for doing so. Greater number of people feel ok doing job of tommy the better.

Happy for the two dances, Picadilly and Westerhope, to develop to the teams’ needs.

Picadilly changes currently being considered: stepping in 8s, adding double tumble, shortening fountains, maybe cutting the turning line- attempts to make flow very nicely, need more breastplates? Or too many locks? Never too many locks.

Any other ideas please send to Katherine.

1. Bank/Funds

DERT- pay for entry

Subs balance well with the hall therefore all subs go towards renting the hall and to not be altered at this point. Anyone having difficulty with payments please feel free to discuss with Sue. No one should feel they can’t be a member due to money.

Crawl is all profit- therefore this pays for Open Morris, DERT registration etc.

Spend until EGM subsidising all activities (travel accommodation etc.) and then see how much money we have left to consider charity giving.

If someone has a specific fundraising need then can have some/ all of the allocated crawl go to charity.

Christmas crawl all go to charity, to decide upon a future date- something to local charity, homelessness at Christmas, something connected to this church?

Day of Dance/ invite another team to stay- Mid-April.

Due to our distance from each other as a team would overnight be hard? Do daytime instead?

If invited someone like Silver Flame and could have for the day and then they’d reach home without too much journey.

Could invite Silver Flame and Northgate- two Bristol teams to balance out.

* Invite one or two teams to be invited in April, to have been decided and invited by Christmas

Please email Becky if you have any preferences.

1. Kit

Musicians- make sure match better with team- penalised for not matching well DERT 2015

Is the kit keeper happy with who has kit? Kit to be returned to Kate if not likely to be on crawls as helps other, if you are going to keep crawling better to just keep. Kate to send emails to ask for returned sashes.

Laura W. has a damaged sash, can we make a replacement?

Eventually we need different sashes maybe consider different materials? No more of this fabric so make from a different one?

Sue to just ask if she needs any help making kit. We could pay someone to make a new tommy kit or if we had large workloads.

Trad kit- neckerchief, no petticoat 🡪 leave with Westerhope leader as to how to progress with kit. Vote later as to whether to follow male/female kit route.

1. Music

Nikki happy to run a music practice- lots of tunes, all on the session where people can find them.

Hannah, Ffion, Kate, Becky, Hannorah, Sue, Laura S. all interested

Think better to happen separate to practice- can be on a Monday if available earlier?

Ffion to do a doodle poll re. availability.

Happy to use people from outside of the team as supporting musicians, Nikki did have idea of her contra band but unsure, would prefer more melody instruments. More practices together of dancers and musicians than last year would be preferable crawls and practices etc.

Nikki’s aim would be to have interesting harmonies and to score higher at DERT through this.

Do more metronome practice- much better for musician and dancers as keeps us confrolled!

1. Festivals

Broadstairs- how can we get this? Can we go since is Warwick’s thing.

Better to do festivals than days of dance for morris. We’ve done a lot of this and is rather hard work!

Ffion has crazy spreadsheet of festivals which can go through and find what we could go to.

Bromyard, Warwick both be good.

Can people consider what festivals we would get to and email Ffion saying what we might get an invite to. Use people we know!

Should consider being able to do workshops as part of this, so far we have never run a workshop and this is an important part of being at a festival.

Becky to reply won’t make York as not bothered about doing again.

Doing different styles - necessary? Wearing different kit works as doing a totally different dance, plus completely different tommy character. Don’t necessarily need other dance styles.

Carrying multiple instruments creates variety- having additional musicians works well

Emphasis on differentiating between dancing we do rather than employing individual different styles of dance and forcing people to do spots. Should start doing this out at events as this will get noticed.

1. Workshops

Want to do workshops as helps attract members/make name for selves.

Defo do Cecil # workshop.- do prep in summer run up

Sinead please to send email re. King’s College society as need more details

1. Members

First practice of the month still stands as when new members are told to come.

This first of October practice is our open practice- please advertise this on FB and twitter

Send post AGM emails to zone 9ers- do you still want to receive emails and if you have kit please return it

1. EGM/AGM timing

AGM in autumn works better for evaluation of the year. All rested but also can easily consider competition to come and festivals that have happened. Therefore keep AGM as just post Thrales day

EGM fine as after DERT. Foreperson may naturally change at this point but doesn’t mean everything else needs to.

AFB

Constitution amendment for setting up bank account- change ratified