Tower Ravens 2014 AGM Minutes

Present: Becky, Nikki, Sinead, Kate, Hannorah, Laura, Sue, Katherine, Lindsey, Jo

Apologies: Janet (holiday), Anna, Lizzie

Minutes ratified (alteration-Sinead present 2013)

**Reports:**

**Practice Leader**: Ffion

Lots of progress, especially the quality of dancing

Last year pleased with how dealt with disasters, now progressed so is very rare to have disasters!

Team big, continuing to get new members (new member’s workshop works well)

Better interaction with crowd, better feedback

Good for people to have learnt multiple positions

Good that people are learning to tumble- hope this continues and confidence builds

Lots of invitations (more than before) – because been a team longer, DERT success, social media ace

New members on first practice of month works well

Better at starting practice so getting more dancing done and progressing further

Frustration: need more people happy to teach to ease pressure

**Secretary**: Becky

Only done the role for a few months but feels organises team presence at events well

Positive results of weekly+ emails. Keeping people up to date and encouraging use of the signup sheet.

Responds to invitations promptly

Handled money issues with the church without incident

**Treasurer**: Jo

Apologise for absence and lack of details available to her

Insurance renewed (length this lasts to be double checked)

Bank account pending

Seen constitution being written, very good

Bank account in Rachel’s name so can’t get details- know must be healthy because of payment going in

Needs to organise reimbursing for travel.

* Lindsey- request lists of banks that are useful for looking into Ravens account.

Team pleased to see Jo, she pleased to see us ☺

**Tour Organiser**: Hannorah

List of pubs done in email

Number of pubs per crawl risen

->getting a better reception more money raised both per pub and overall

More people have offered to help organise crawls which helps a lot! (50/50 with HJ and other team members) names listed as to who organised ☺

Hannorah grateful for help due to busy actual life!

£748.51 from Sue, plus Nic, plus Jo (need to find total)

Predict have around £1000+ in bank account BOOM

Dancing lots with crawls, other teams’ events etc.

Janet been a great help, two person role eases the amount of work

**Wardrobe Fairy**: Sue

Most members’ have skirt and sash

2 extra petticoats made for general team use, one being made atm

Extra skirt fabric, lining, zips, Velcro etc. with Sue and ready for use

Invested in clip to attach diamanté crystals-helped!

Sashes adapted for DERT to make sturdier and prettier- design evolving \*\*DO NOT WASH SASHES\*\*

Need to invest in more chocolate eggs

**Publicity Officer**: Lindsey

Everything put on twitter automatically goes on to Facebook

Lots of people post which is good but please make sure don’t duplicate

Amount of people seeing our posts risen from 30-40 to often 200

Regularly shared by Sword Dance Union (enthusiasm of a certain SDU member)

Direct messages and requests for contact through Twitter and Facebook

Please keep taking photos, need to send to Lindsey if want to share them

REQUEST: if taken photos choose your favourite(s) and send to Lindsey so we can keep adding ☺

YouTube- people put videos up but not on the Tower Ravens channel- can we have a drop box folder where they all collate? Lindsey says easier to just email- upload straight to google drive

Can we share login to Tower Ravens channel?

Sinead- Check public performances ok to go on YouTube?

->yes as long as we’re awesome

Laura apologises for lack of involvement but loves picture of raven going into pub lolz

Should we put events on in advance-like Thrales? Or better to just do it a week in advance to maintain the buzz at the time of the crawl

ACTION: List events that we’re doing in advance (FACEBOOK about us) plus monthly ones

Cake has been brought. Cake has been eaten.

Key fairy is fine.

**Social Sec**: Nic

Not at meeting as moved away and can no longer be an active member

Post DERT really lovely St Patricks (yay for Nic)

Seen other team members perform at gigs etc. (also yay for Nic)

Nic if you read this we really appreciate all you did ☺

* No longer need social sec due to seeing each other more regularly, more of ad hoc basis

**Voting**

**Practice Leader**:

Name? Forewoman?

Forewoman (tag Crown Raven) - Decision= Foreperson

Please maintain voting policy to maintain fair say of team members

But final decisions lie with foreperson as voted in by the team. Foreperson will ensure all decisions are in interest of the team, but their final decisions are to be respected.

Standing: Ffion (seconded by Nikki)

Unanimous: Ffion

Lindsey questions maximum term for one person to hold role- EGM discussion point, as yet believe consistence better than change due to newness of team

Leader organises organising, teaching jobs can be allocated to others- stopping stagnation of team. No point imposing time limits if detrimental to team (no-one else willing or able to take over)

**Secretary**:

Standing Becky (seconded Nikki)

Unanimous: Becky

**Treasurer**:

Standing: Sue (seconded Nikki)

Unanimous: Sue

**Tour Organiser**:

Standing: Janet (sidekick) (seconded) Lindsey as main – stipulates there will be more delegation (seconded)

Unanimous: Lindsey and Janet

**Wardrobe Mistress**:

No-one feels confident enough to sew own kit.

Kit days would help people do it all together taking pressure from one person (Sue)

* These to happen 6 monthly/ ad hoc? Can also be social

Job role change- in charge and with delegation, checking on dance outs, ensure new people have kit

Can someone look after communal kit?

Keep in hall? Is this too complex/ dangerous of loss?

Split job: Kit checker and kit keeper.

Kate nominate as kit keeper (and bringing kit for correct people for crawls)

Nikki nominated as checking when out

Kit Keeper: Unanimous Kate

Kit Checker: Unanimous Nikki

**Publicity Officer**:

Involves catching secretary if left for a week- although not been a task recently

Tech stuff has to be done by her, archiving, logos, photos to press etc. - this should be separate as tech person from publicity.

Split Facebook and twitter/////split event administration and general posts

Nominate Laura events admin and tech

Nominate Hannorah twitter

Voted unanimously

**Keeper of Key**:

Lindsey work

**Cake officer**:

Organic, no longer need one. Check at EGM

**Discussion Points**

1. **Practice Venue and Time:**

All happy, not yet need a bigger space (review at EGM)

If can’t be present give at least 24 hour notice unless unforeseen circumstances e.g. Sick, stuck at work etc.

2. **Tours location and frequency:**

Historically as to why we didn’t choose Friday: team new, unconfident, nervous of approaching busier pubs. Also personal reasons- relaxation time on Friday!/going away means unavailable

(Nikki especially feels pressure as needed every event feels could be too much understandably!)

Could we have Patrick/others stand in? Patrick esp. has done good job in the past.

Try a Friday to see how compares (busy/money) do this pre DERT as will need additional crawls anyway

Do a crawl on a Monday as a different day? Does this take away from much needed practice? Yes, and pubs won’t be busy enough. Scrap idea.

ACTION January to March try 2 crawls per month, 1x Thursday, 1x Friday

NB do not clash with Thrales

18th December Islington, invite Thrales. 50/50 proceeds

3. **DERT:**

Enter competitively

Who wants to: Nikki, Lindsey(?) Catherine, sue, Laura, Ffion, Hannorah, Jo, Kate, Sinead (all present) plus Ozzy – other members to email their availability.

Do we want to enter 2x DERT teams OR 1x DERT, 1x trad

Sinead particularly like trad and would like to teach. Laura also want trad

Prefer trad as second option- need another musician?

Need to ensure have commitment

Need to be reserves for each – both teams can help be on reserve for the other although additional people would be preference

Which has more focus? DERT dance, this gets the team more attention and therefore more invites, evolution of team.

Therefore in Trad the aim is to participate and perform nicely

Aim in DERT is to place in 2nd category again. I.e. Static/improvement!

Larger show case so everyone involved (not as impressive as Dutch team 2014 DERT) attempt to do something interesting and involving everyone. But this comes second to having teams at good level, access closer to time.

Part of Open Morris- Public liability insurance up to date.

Where is paperwork going to? *Think* Rachel’s house- make sure we get this hard copy

4. **Dances:**

New dance for DERT being learnt and polished now

Jubilee is dance to be learned by new people. New dance flashy and harder therefore not as suitable. Jubilee also enables ‘Country members’ to easily join in

Therefore Jubilee to remain main dance

Trad dance: Ffion to circulate research she did earlier in year. Sinead plus 1 other to take on responsibility for trad. (to be decided once have teams named)

1x December practice= half dance, half character discussion- decide date

5. **Bank and Funds:**

Constitution to be discussed Monday practice due to time limitations. People to read and suggest changes this week.

New policy: everyone to have a standing order to pay subs (unless a country member)

£12 a month, £8 students any others considered re. circumstances (no-one to be unable to come due to lack of money)

First *calendar month* of new members free

Pay for DERT entry- believe there is both team entry fee and per person entry fee- to be confirmed

New swords to be bought

Everyone who went to York to email in price of ticket to be subsidised. Treasurer to calculate percentage to be paid back- members to only be reimbursed once up-to-date on sub payments/ can have taken off total of subs owed. Owed subs can be paid back in chunks if is too much at once- be discussed with treasurer on a case-to-case basis

Consider payment to charity, subbing travel etc. once know how much money we have!

6. **Kit:**

New people can’t have a petticoat as no material, now comes out of kit box

Borrow kit for first dance out, after this point if still a new active member have some sort of sewing day

Sewing day every 6 months? Or a social ‘sew in’

Trad to have a different kit? Pinstripe hoggers, bloomers? To be discussed when have team assembled

7. **Country members: (In future to be known as Zone 9ers)**

If not present for 4 consecutive week you become a ‘country member’

£3 for every practice on ad hoc basis

Zone 9ers won’t have kit sorted out especially, focus on regular members, although ensure they have something to dance out in, travel not subsidised. (I.e. you get into the team what you get out)

Entrance to festivals etc. would be paid for but travel not subsidised

Country members now to be known as Zone 9ers (London joke not anything to do with apartheid!)

Kit to be returned to the team if you are a Zone 9er for communal use

Zone 9ers names to go to bottom of signup sheet to avoid confusion and not to be assumed to be going to events. Obviously still encouraged to sign up to events they can/do want to participate in!

Zone 9ers not expected to give weekly practice absence notice

* Zone 9ers to preferably give 24 hour notice if *can* make practice to help Ffion plan

Zone 9ers considered on an individual basis as to if they can join in and dance out

8. **Festivals:**

Do we want to go to them: YES!

Days of dance different to festivals- i.e. looking for more prestigious festivals e.g. Sydmouth, Whitby etc.

Will we get Broadstairs? Nikki to ask Warwick folk/ connections. Aware need to push for these things

Aim to be invited to bigger festivals in the future, currently aware we are not a good enough or well enough known team to be invited

Consider going to a more prestigious festival as a scratch side if a number of people going anyway. 🡪 Only if people dancing as a high quality to ensure the quality of dancing and therefore what will be noticed will be quality. I.e. scratch side definition being not invited

Post DERT we should practice doing a 20 minute slot with chatting etc. to see if can fill spot.

* Is this with other types of dancing? Jigging, clogging etc.

9. **Hoodies and T-shirts:**

How much people willing to pay? Ranged= from £15-£35

Unmarked hoodies shared? Logo but not personalised name.

Badges to be sewed on as a cheaper alternative- worried about quality being rubbish

Job lots doing bulk orders annually? 6 months? Would this mean new members had to wait a long time?

Have small, medium and large hoody spare but without names so new members have something in the meantime- after all not essential to have a hoody

Possibility of subsidising hoodies depending on funds in bank and costs.

Lindsey’s research to be built on by Laura (publicity officer) and options to be presented to team ASAP so would have in time for DERT

10. **EGM post DERT** - approved

11. **Any Other Business**:

**Musician**- set number of tunes and a ‘ravens style’ has been established. When we use other musicians do we make them play our tunes or let people play what they want? Consider on a musician-musician basis

List of suggested tunes of varying abilities to be created to encourage others to play our tunes as it helps dancers!

**Tower of London -** Email tower of London to get to dance there. Hannorah has an Age UK connection? Would be great publicity!

**Open Morris -** Do we want to be more active- go to AGM etc?

General response= no.

SDU should we be members?

General response no- some shock and disgust that SDU claimed to have created TR in their AGM minutes. For the record this is not true. Essentially Ravens is the brain child of Lindsey and Rachel+

**Points to be discussed at EGM:**

Length of term of Foreperson- if want to change would it make more sense to change post DERT?

Possibility of this happening 2016. I.e. we definitely won’t cut this part of Ffion’s reign short ☺

Does the practice space seem big enough for the numbers attending?

Do we have the funds to give to charity?

How much can we subsidise travel?

Proposed ideas for how to fill a 20 minute festival spot- inclusion of other dance forms that members can do