NOTES FROM UKYBOBS STEERING GROUP MEETING (UKULELE BAND OF BURY). 25 March 2025

Attended by: Iain Harris, (Chair) , Lynn Watson, Jeanne Collins, Brian Sharples, Chris McAleese, Sue Earnshaw, Geoff Smithies, Mike Birtwistle.

Welcome to Mike Birtwistle . We invited Mike to join us , as he has taken on the IT work required, and has been liaising with Olly . We recognise that Olly is balancing being a f/t student with other personal commitments . We appreciate all that Olly has done to get us up and running, and he is still very much a valued member of Ukybobs. Mike has done a sterling job taking on this role.

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1. **PA System.**

Geoff informed the group that the system requires a carriage case on 4 wheels to help with portability and to protect it. Cost approx. £106.00. Also we require a better microphone and stand for Iain. Pre loved at approx. £50 . Bag for cables required - £15 . Total cost approx. £214 **Group agreed spend.**

Geoff to arrange a smaller session with less participants to do further soundchecks . **Sue to book UCC when required.**

**To look into our insurance and amend to include cover of equipment . Most suitable person tbd.**

1. **Supporting beginners.**

The workshop at the Welcome was well received and a agreed a success , with positive feedback. Next dates agreed as 16th April & 14th May, subject to availability at The Welcome. **Tony to enquire** **and book.** .

1. **Managing Gigs.**

Hoy Lake Festival. Discussion of hiring a coach. 26 + members have requested transport to date. Lynn has been researching costs. Discussion of how to fund. Agreed members and if bringing a guest to pay PP. Seat priority on coach for Members , then to open to guests or RUG players on a first come first served basis. Cost circa £600. Agreed to try and fill a 37-seater. To arrive 11 am and leave 5.30. Ukybobs performing 3.20pm to 3.40 pm- 20 mins. Agreed we need to do lively songs and ones more obscure to avoid duplication with other bands. Geoff suggested us doing a QR Code for guests to download songbooks to sing along**. Geoff to explore .**

Elaine B may have a cheaper Transport company. Agreed coach will enable some without transport means to go , or those not wanting to drive. Parking is limited. **NB UPDATE** . Lynn and Elaine B have found a 37-seater £550. Booked. Pick up Art in Bury and Whitefield Tram station. If fill it cost to travellers approx £15pp, - £21 pp depending on numbers.

UKYFEST: 28TH May in the evening. The Links Haslingden. Big hall. Limited parking.

PARK FARM : Sunday 28 June. Food tasting event. Outdoors and under a Gazebo if weather poor. Agreed to have a bucket to collect for Bury Hospice**. Mike to get bucket and add stickers / or Brian to ask Bury Hospice if they have collector items we can use**.

Agreed we would also be happy to receive a donation to Ukybobs from Park Farm for playing , as well as having refreshments provided. As many members as possible required. **NB UPDATE and discussion with Chris : Overall we should regard it as supporting a local business . # Supporting local businesses should also be our mantra.**

Foyer in Office Block in St Peters Square Manchester**.** Insupport of Mc Millan Day we’ve been invited to play . Geoff and Iain to visit and do RA.Travel on tram required for members as parking n/a.

The Weavers memorial service 28 APRIL . To use our PA system there.

1. **Website**

Mike has resurrected the website from original one Olly set up. It is now functional with members reporting they can access it. It is has great content . Booking onto Gigs will still be done via WHATSAPP as it works for members and Lynn. Flyer has been updated and venue added. New group photo is required for Webpage . Current one is blurred and we need to try and get all members on if possible!

Cost of website is £7 a year for URL. **Mike to be reimbursed for expenses incurred .**

1. **Safeguarding.** Jeanne ensures members been directed to and will have signed the Policy and it is uploaded onto website.
2. **PR.** Brian has had Best Wishes UKYBOBS cards produced for us to send to members/ customers. Flyer has been amended and BMS is referenced. Agreed to promote Ukybobs with some local primary schools, we feel we have a connection with. Agreed not to overwhelm our capacity to do gigs. **Agreed to discuss possibility of playing at school summer Fayres when we visit as held weekend or evening . NB We only have July 5th or 12th available.**
3. **FINANCE:** full details of Financial position not to be shared as it is a fluid picture unless requested. Annual review of finances will be shared at our yearly full Members meeting.

Current bank balance is £4,300 after PA spend. Donations keep coming in. All members paying monthly by DD or several have paid annual fee.

Agreed we continue to make donations to Charity.

Discussion of ‘ treating ‘ Ukybobs by having a party in Summer , similar to Christmas. To explore Coach and Horses pub in Whitefield where there is a lovely beer garden and stage where we could have food , drink and play our ukuleles. **NB UPDATE** . Brian has enquired with Cand H pub and Suggestion of August , midweek Mons and Weds best as quieter. Burgers , jumbo hot dogs chips, salad , and dessert can be available.

Also landlady is interested in us performing for the pub on the stage as a formal Gig on another date. **Landlady may contact Lynn or Brian to discuss and arrange if going ahead. .**

NEXT MEETING tbc.