

# Swing and Blues Dance in Adelaide, Annual General Meeting

22 February 2018

Meeting held at King's Head, King William Street, Adelaide CBD

Attended by existing members:

Katie Beckwith, Sophie Hollitt, Finn Stokes, Vedrana Budimir, Ian Knight, Kayla Bremmert

Attended by existing members by proxy:

Marcus Saunders, Anna Kovac, Kylie Cooper

Attended by proposed new members by proxy:

Athinoula Mpou

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*Meeting open: 1:10pm*

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## **Review minutes of previous AGM**

Confirm minutes of last AGM. No dissent.

Pass minutes: Ian moves, Vedrana second

## **Administration – Association Membership**

Formal resignation from Yarran Harwood, Gen Brandenburg as Association members

Registrations from: Connie Chen, Katherine Sivieng, Athinoula Mpou as Association members

No dissent on Athinoula

Marcus and Kylie dissent re Katherine and Connie

Membership should be local, people living here and invested locally

Not all members need to be local if have invested interest in scene. Katherine and Connie are primary organisers of local event (Hearken the Blues; HtB) at least for this year, currently make sense while running this event.

Agreement - running an event means they have vested interest in Adelaide

Administratively Katie on committee (HtB), Sophie involved and continuing involvement

Interstate members need to be for special case, not add just anyone interstate

Clear that Kylie and Marcus have an objection, perhaps don't know why they are added, if not up to date with the reasons behind the addition may seem strange.

Vote: to accept Katherine and Connie as Association members passes 8 to 2

### **Financial Reporting**

Every year \$614 to maintain insurance, protect teachers at events, regular costs for website upkeep (domain etc) ~\$120, new thing want to do this year is license to play and reproduce music (APRA licence) – out of HtB event this year, ~\$200 in addition to ongoing costs. Bring annual cost to ~\$1000.

Website hosting need to change if new events added.

Room to move previous sites once past? Yes

Remove Southern Blues, if not running this year? Unsure yet

Can run up to 5 events at the same time with current capacity.

Technical website discussion ensues

### **Fancy Feet**

Fancy Feet (FF); good event always runs well, cheap to run. 2017- 24 registrations for full weekend and 20 single day registrations

Cost \$4500 to run, made \$1000 in profit – extra money as well that want to put back to the organising team for that one.

Community members are already expressing interest to be involved in organising team

Due to run in July 2018

Communication with other dance organisers from Sydney and Canberra; agreed want to co-arrange visas for Peter and Lauren (P&L) this year. Catherine Pogonowski from Sydney contacted Alice Haddon. Received advice from Alice advice.

P&L: bad experiences with other events where they have been short changed by organisers, not paid properly or on time. Have requested upfront payment or deposit, to act as security.

Probably can't pay full amount in advance but can pay deposit.

Now/Soon it is time to arrange regular committee meetings for Fancy Feet; interested in getting help from other members of the community who aren't sabdia members

Good for people who have not been involved in running an event before, train them up, get experience so they can take over such roles in future.

Visa for P&L: is there one specific group responsible? (local or interstate organisers). Need ABN.

Need confirmation of financial arrangements from each organiser, nothing said about ABN. Sabdia has ABN. Sabdia exists as a legal structure to provide these things.

Good in future for subcommittee members and past members to notify when event goes into early planning, and/or when a subcommittee forms. Nothing started yet, just responding to early organisation of P&L.

With deposit, is it something we should consider making a general part of contracts?

Nice, ethical, but depends on independent people, event, situation. Not always in position to do, can set up as standard thing to consider.

If instructor brings up then ok, can discuss, whether we are the ones to bring it up is the question.

### Breakout Blues

More relaxed in some ways than Southern Blues (SB), financially more of a struggle.

SB normally ~\$20k to run, Breakout Blues (BB) ~\$11k

\$3k straight to Gaol Blues Festival.

Did really well financially; ~\$1.5k in profit.

Have seed money to do new event or free community event.

Or buy new equipment; microphone (for instructors) is something we lack as standard equipment

Need to be careful about running events, make sure timeline is ok; as long as they are staggered

Seed money – not counting expenses for exchanges starting up, ~\$6k once reimburse FF committee and \$600 paid for HtB

Still need to be careful, no idea whether profit or loss until after event.

### Hearken the Blues

HtB starting well. Not entirely SABDIA event, starting up with seed money from Katherine, if event not completely successful, more of that loss going back from Katherine's money than SABDIA, but if does well, pay for volunteers etc will come out first and see what is left over

What association involvement is there with running an event? Is it just providing coverage for insurance, seed money? With some events clear, not clear with others.

Can SABDIA provide clarity? Hoping to get in part from new subcommittee rules. A lot not clearly laid out. Policy needed to support events from community, we need to cover having a clear budget and clear goal to meet budget.

If good idea, good team, available budget, we be willing to support.

What financial support specifically – covering insurance, good and we can do, or if have money can put towards the event...

People who run event are responsible for budget and plan, assess loan SABDIA giving to event

HtB complicated, not putting in money, mostly making resources available. Significantly smaller amount than other events. Generally, deposit required before registrations open ~\$2k, only \$600 for HtB

#### Future events

Another BB or SB, priority FF team set up then see to BB/SB. Serious planning for SB after we see how HtB turns out.

Risk in Adelaide when running blues event as heavy reliance on interstate attendees (no local blues scene)

If HtB does well, better outlook for SB/BB, at least until HtB registrations close. HtB organising visas for Damon and Kelsy Stone

Instead of another blues event, has anyone thought about regular blues classes that feed into future events? No blues dancers regularly working together at present. People have thought about it, teaching experience in community but not enough energy or time.

*Action items:* Arrange for deposit for Peter & Lauren for Fancy Feet

Open Fancy Feet organising subcommittee involvement to community

Consider purchasing microphone as SABDIA resource

#### **Elections**

Public Officer (PO) vote only needed, Ian withdrew from General Committee (GC)/PO

GC: five people for five positions, unopposed. GC = Vedrana Budimir, Marcus Saunders, Kylie Cooper, Liz Jilbert, Athinoula Mpou

Sophie unopposed for Chairperson – elected as Chairperson.

Finn unopposed as Treasurer – elected as Treasurer

Katie unopposed as Secretary – elected as Secretary

Role of PO determined by committee not general association vote. Must reside in SA.

This year wanted to write a better list of things committee is responsible for. Constitution is difficult, good to have best practice instructions.

Katie and Sophie nominated. Sophie here longest, safest option (Katie pursuing leaving the state).

Sophie prime candidate, but away for a few months, Finn can handle in absence.

Any objections to appoint Sophie as PO?

No objections

Sophie elected as PO

## Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Anything contentious, save for another meeting due to high proxy rate at current AGM.

Proposed change #1: Association form subcommittees – read in full

Agree with idea of formalising this, if running events using money and SABDIA, concern around the sentence ‘in accordance with ... rules and any other regulations that are imposed’ if SABDIA starts imposing things

Can’t have subcommittee running 100% separately from Committee, because SABDIA as legal body is responsible.

Main Committee can make extra rules, e.g. this is the budget limit don’t go over; in interest of safety you need to make sure someone on main Committee is responsible. Subcommittee only have power to act on things outside Committee rules

Committee has legal responsibilities to the Association

Not aware of rules surrounding formation of a subcommittee, need be formally approved by subcommittee (first sentence – Association can form subcommittees)

“Powers and authorities...” decided by entire Committee, the Association as a whole, Committee acts on behalf of the Association

Add to new change: “form Subcommittee by formal resolution of Committee”

Reason why 2 people of Committee including at least 1 Executive member (secretary, chairperson, treasurer) is needed to make resolution

Vote: Accept addition to constitution (with agreed change) passed 9 to 1

Proposed change #2 – addition of having formal executive of the committee (Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and PO if not held by one of these people) – read in full

Executive can form subcommittee without group – but no, need Committee to form. Concentrate power in 3 people, or even 2 people

Opinion of Executive is too broad definition, need for level of Committee involvement; many ways to communicate and make decision collectively without formal meeting. It is unlikely that there will be an emergency that cannot wait for the group to communicate

When writing the constitutional amendment, was thinking about event related emergencies and urgent legal matters re organisation. There is currently a way to deal with unforeseen urgent problems

Biggest problem is no oversight of process. Add clause – when does meet, decision needs be brought to Committee

Can’t see why can’t go immediately to a meeting. If something happens, need to be by agreement of all 3 of Executive, but not agree with quorum of 2. If put power to decide what is an emergency and acting on it, need all 3 and absolute majority to pass.

To take emergency action need the entire Executive to agree unanimously, should still go to full committee meeting asap afterwards, if entire Executive not agree then wait until meeting. Unanimous agreement by Executive rather than majority. At 4 (if PO other)?

Should include PO for unanimous – then also majority of committee. Quorum for committee is 5 (of 8).

Amendment needs more discussion, needs more work. Agree with spirit – if emergency situation needs someone to be able to make a decision, just need detail around when and what warrants that. No objection to composition of Executive.

Need to review role of PO if include in executive? In further amendment

Pass on vote

Proposed change #3: purpose to allow formal notification of meetings by email

No strong feelings against.

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Proposed change #4: how often meeting held and who determines (read in full)

Have meetings as needed

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Minor alterations:

Proposed change #5: capitalise Association and Committee throughout constitution

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Proposed change #6: give members access to minutes

Discussed last AGM

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Proposed change #7: change “committee appoint PO” to “appoint member of committee to PO” (read in full)

Strongly believe PO should be member of Executive, Chairperson or Treasurer preferably

Incremental change – rules for Executive still being worked on, can define executive now and add that into this change. Needs more discussion.

Addition of definition of Executive, tie it with this change and appoint member of Executive as PO. Less clauses to constitution, less difficult. Combined proposed change: 3-person definition of Executive and PO elected from among Executive

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Proposed change #8: deletion – association workable number of committee members (read in full) – redundant

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Proposed change #9: alteration – “half members up for re-election” to “all subject to re-election at every AGM” (read in full)

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

Proposed change #10: alteration – number of people needed in order to propose Special General Meeting, currently includes fudge words, change to define numbers (read in full)

Vote: proposed change passes unanimous

*Action items:* Make agreed changes to Constitution

Arrange meeting to discuss unresolved Constitution change (proposed change #2)

## **Other business**

SABDIA Facebook page

Keep page for swing and blues events and not rock and roll/west coast, pretty much is but things occasionally creep in because blues straddles different genres, bands call themselves blues but in reality are jump blues/rock n roll. Not what we mean by blues.

Haven't had anyone from west coast

Sounds like a moderator note, can talk later and group chat

Kylie can remove posts (as moderator) but does not want to do so without consensus and agreement.

It would be nice to do more outreach and make Association more visible to swing and blues dance community, lots of new people joining through swing out and 8 count, with spirit and organising skills, but not proactive about adding membership. Aim to do more of that this year.

People not realise the Association exists behind the Facebook group. Use group to inform people.

Another meeting after FF to discuss. Make event for keen FF people to be involved in organising.

*Action item:* Arrange meeting to discuss improving visibility of SABDIA to community  
Arrange meeting to discuss moderator responsibilities for SABDIA Facebook group

#### Safer Spaces Policy

Updating safer spaces policy not going anywhere, contact with insurance – main concern is liability with injury. Need to continue to draft things and get opinion of others with legal expertise which would cost money.

Had a working group, can re-form and start working on it again.

*Action item:* Arrange meeting for Safer Spaces working group

#### Another meeting

Need meeting soon to discuss moderation, outreach, update website.

Website need to be built to be more accessible to broader group of people. Easier if subcommittees can access and work on more readily. HTML at the moment.

Add as goal for the year – part of outreach is making us more visible with website and social media.

Finn intend to set up more accessible/usable version of website.

*Action item:* Make website easier to update by those who are not familiar with coding

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*Meeting close 2:30pm*

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