

**Minutes for Arco Iris Committee Meeting - November 2012**  
**Hosting: Ian and Ahu**

Present: Alan, Ahu, Ian, Ruth, Laura, Steve, Steph, Larissa, Blake  
Apologies for absence: Adam.

**1. ROMP.**

October Committee meeting minutes at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nEWUIOOa1znzmmXFty1d7yd4N3X6xqoo8qrMdwdvTAA/edit>

Correction to October's AOB – The Arco hoodies cost £12.95 from Talking Tees.

**Actions from last meeting:**

Adam:

- Ask via Facebook that people give us their photos of Arco  
    Laura needs access to old photos.
- Re-new the Flickr pro account in time for AGM

Ian:

- ✓ Bremen Carnival: Look into what are the likely costs for this

Ahu:

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Alan:

- Set up subcommittee to discuss constitution.  
    Let's drop this. As discussed previously, the constitution isn't broken.
- ✓ Announce AGM to the band.
- ✓ Circulate to committee about the AGM posts.

Blake:

- Make instrument inventory and put it on the web (Need inventory for insurance)
- Talk to players about hitting drums correctly
- Offer old drums to band members
- Label up cases and tell people how the surdo cupboard is organised
- Email to band about borrowing instruments for workshops.

Laura:

- Update and fix the score summaries
- Email collated suggestions about 20th anniversary to Alan.
- Take feedback about anniversary event(s) forward.
- ✓ Invite Norwich along to Leon's workshop
- ✓ Invite Ely band to the workshop
- ✓ Find location for technique workshops on Saturday (Flight path? Bath House?)

- Respond to Ivan's email about switching players around for gigs.

Steph:

- Finish Treasurer guide and pass on to Adam to put on web  
- Investigate technical details of how the member and email databases can be merged (talk to Steve and Adam directly)

Don't have time to do this.

- ✓ Find original invoices for loft sound insulation for details of what was purchased
- ✓ Email to band about subsidy for workshops.

Steve:

- Find out what other fund-raising events are happening for Strawberry Fair.

Steve contacted the Strawberry Fair chair offering to help raise funds, but the Strawberry Fair chair didn't give details in his response. Arco will do a busk in support of Strawberry Fair.

#### Recent gigs:

Sat 20th Oct Oxjam Cambridge Takeover 2012

Busk raised over £200 for Oxjam. There was a bigger crowd and more donations once Arco moved from middle of Parker's Piece to next to University Arms. Arco was playing on Parkers' Piece as the organisers hadn't been able to get permission for Arco to busk in the city centre. Arco should consider doing this event again, but maybe encourage the organisers to contact the City Council about a busking permit earlier.

Sat 27th Oct Hallowe'en MBA University Arms Hotel

The gig went well and again the organisers looked after us well.

#### Upcoming gigs:

Sat 3rd Nov - Addenbrooke's fireworks

Anke gig managing.

Fri 16th Nov - Children In Need Parade (TBC):

The organisers have not got back yet. They are asking for parade from Grafton Centre.

Sun 18th Nov - The Big Christmas Lights Switch On.

Arco has been asked to do the opening and play for 15 minutes. Again, there is no parade this year as the Council say they do not have the money. Since it's a short playing time, suggested at committee that Arco can follow this by playing at busking spots around the city centre, but not collecting for charity. However, Arco could collect for the band without requiring a permit.

Andy Long has asked that Arco busk in support of "Performers without Borders". He is flexible with about the dates and suggests: 24th-25th of Nov, 22-23 Dec or 5-6 Jan.

Mill Road Winter Fair (1st December)

Arco will play at the Argyll Street Co-Op, and then in parade from Argyll Street to Petersfield.

#### **1. AGM 2012 on November 14th (Alan)**

Alan suggested that we move the election of General Members to earlier in the evening. This is because the two General Members posts are often contested and this would give an opportunity for people to re-stand for other posts that are often not contested.

Committee voted – Proposal defeated.

Blake put forward an alternative proposal that one General Member position is elected at the beginning and the other at the end.

Committee voted – Proposal defeated.

## **2. Leon's workshop weekend: quick update (Laura)**

Ahu reported that Anthony Paul has kindly offered to supply whatever instruments we need for individual techniques workshops on Saturday. Laura reported that already about 25 people are signed up from Arco for each day. A couple of people from the Ely band have signed up too.

ACTION: Laura – Get in touch with Ant to thank for offer, but may not be required as Leon is bringing down instruments.

## **3. Christmas party (15th December)**

There's quite a lot of work to do in preparation for the party, so suggestion that a sub-committee of volunteers is formed.

The Missing Sock are offering the venue for free. So suggestion that we use the money normally used for event hire to subsidise food. The Missing Sock are also offering one free minibus trip to transport people from Cambridge to the Missing Sock. Arco will also have its own discounted bar for the night.

ACTION: Ahu – Email to band about date and ask for volunteers to help organise the party.

ACTION: Steph – Find out how much was spent on party in previous year and then decide if we put it towards the cost of food.

## **4. Bremen festival (1st – 3rd February)**

Ian and Ahu reported about logistics for Arco Iris to attend the Bremen Festival. Ahu is currently in contact with Bremen organizers about our registration. In summary, it appears that Arco attending this festival is financially viable because:

- Bremen festival is hosting the participants by putting them up in dormitories at local schools and nurseries.
- The organisers will be providing food on one of the evenings.
- Shirley is available with her van at the beginning of February to transport the drums between Cambridge and Bremen. The total cost of transporting drums and 3 people in a van on ferry would be about £450.
- Flights to Bremen are relatively inexpensive – Between £10 and £90 depending upon when booked.
- The organisers have requested only an optional €10 donation from participants.

In addition, the Bremen Carnival has a fancy dress competition we can enter. Though competition may be tough.

The Committee agrees it's a good suggestion and that we should carry this forward.

## **5. More General Members Discussion [Ahu]**

Ian and Ahu raised for discussion the subject of increasing the number of general members on the committee. This will:

- Increase the number of members on the committee available to help with the committee's work
- Provide extra input and views to the committee
- Reduce or avoid the upset for people who stand, but are not elected
- Make the committee more inclusive and representative

Laura noted that a larger committee may be less efficient and committee meetings take longer. Also that the committee is democratically elected by the band and that although unfortunate and upsetting for an individual, not everyone can be successful in becoming elected.

Larissa commented that the majority of the work of the committee is carried out by the officers with defined roles. However, general members don't have delegated tasks and there's often not too much left for them to do. She continued that she thought this has led to attrition of general members from the committee in the past.

Ruth suggested that general members would benefit from further guidance from other committee officers about how they can contribute. However, for some roles it's difficult to delegate tasks. For example the financial officer.

The issue was raised that some Arco members felt the committee was too exclusive. On this subject, Ruth commented that if we want to break down any division between the band and the committee, then we shouldn't do that by having more people on the committee, but by having more working groups where lots of people can get involved.

A further issue that was raised was that some members believe that the incumbent committee members will win the same seats at the AGM, and so there is no point in standing against them, or that some posts and post holders are unknown to the band. The committee agreed that this issue needs to be addressed and it is emphasised that anyone can stand for any post and it is not decided beforehand.

There was agreement that we do want members to feel more included and engaged in the actions of the committee and we need to find mechanisms to do this. The suggestion of an "open" committee meeting was suggested, so that members could see how the committee runs.

However, the majority of the committee agreed that the number of general members should not be increased at this time.

ACTION: Alan – Mail out names of current incumbents to the band so that members may approach them if they're interested in knowing more about the committee or standing for a post.

ACTION: Pass on to the next committee about promoting engagement between the committee and band members.

**A.O.B.**

Anke Adams had written to the committee asking if Arco can print and sell CD's of Arco that we can sell. A source of recordings could be the sets recorded by Ivan at Drogheda. It was thought that this may be a job for the next committee, but Steve agreed to ask Ivan and look into it.

ACTION: Steve – Ask Ivan about use of his recordings.

**Minutes signed off:**

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....