

LFMC Questionnaire July 2015

1. BLACKBOARD

Are you happy with the blackboard format, one item or two items for 2 or more? YES / NO

YES -18	NO- 4
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2. Would you like to see included, a floor spot of 15 minutes, by an invited performer? YES/NO

YES- 15	NO- 5
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3. Would you like to see the blackboard finish at 8:30 with floor spot? YES/ NO

YES- 11	NO- 9	Not sure
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COMMENTS

- Floor spot occasionally rather than every month.
- There's lots of setting up required for one song.
- The blackboard time is already not long enough for all who want to be in it. Shortening it will badly affect performers getting on it. If 15 min slots were to be introduced they must be solely for our club members and selected by the majority vote of the whole committee, not left to the choice of just one or two committee members. This precludes individual bias and makes for fair selection.
- Only if that invited performer is a member/ members of our folk club.
- Does the blackboard list fill up easily? If so an invited 15 minutes slot performer might cut out those who simply want to sing one song. (I am happy either way actually).
- I like the idea of a floor spot of 15 minutes for an invited performer, as I think this would give members a chance to gain more confidence through playing a bit longer. The only thing is, it would shorten the blackboard, and I love the fact that everyone who wants can have a go and think it makes for a very inclusive club and atmosphere. Maybe we could try the 'floor spot' format on a month on month off basis and see how it goes (i.e. 1 month floor spot, #next month all blackboard).
- Blackboard straight after supper and extend by 15 mins the guest artist/s time finish at 8:30 not really as it takes up the members and visitors one hour time.
- 15 minutes acts need to be accomplished performers.
- Only want floor spot by well prepared performers, so no music stands needed.
- Blackboard spot should take up less time than guest spot.

4. SOUND. From where you generally sit, are you satisfied with the sound? YES / NO

YES- 16	NO - 5	Not sure- 2
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COMMENTS

- Guitar too low to start for the guest artist.
- Things don't appear to work well with the sound.
- Please include training for operators if we must have one.
- Usually at the front. Far worse at the back.
- Soundmaster usually good.
- I am especially impressed with Andrew's sensitivity with the sound and Kevin is fast gaining skills on sound. The current sound system shows the value of having training for our technicians by David Trail, a profession sound engineer who gave set-up and mixing training and also guidance on amplifiers.
- Andrew and Kevin mix quality sound according to best practice. No complaints except one so called "expert".
- BUT – if there are problems- they should be rectified ASAP and be corrected long before the guest artists are performing (as on the June meeting this year- very embarrassing for our guests).
- Not from down the back .PA now inadequate.
- Look, I know the sound isn't always perfect and where you sit sometimes makes a difference to the overall experience. But I think for an amateur club and the fact that the performers are changing, the guys do a pretty good job on something which would even be a challenge for professional sound engineers.
- Could improve by having a couple of people giving feedback to sound operator e.g. balance instrument to vocal not right.
- As a performer it's very difficult to hear how you sound. In the audience it's a bit up and down. Perhaps an overhaul is called for? Ramon or Paul at the music store might assist. Also, Paul Webster.
- Haven't been for some time but when I was going, the sound varied a lot. Can only speak for that time, but I don't believe we were using the system to its full potential. May be different now.
- Actually better in the front- I'm often at the back where clarity of sound is lost. Very good in July.
- Up and down

5. DOOR CHARGE

To pay guests more, would you support an increase of door charge to \$8 / \$10? YES / NO

YES- 13	NO- 10
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COMMENTS

- Personally, I would welcome the chance to pay our guest artists more. I think this needs to be carefully balanced though, (we have two working members in our family and a lot of people aren't so lucky), so we don't want to make it difficult for those with less disposable income. I still think that if increase the division between members door entry and non-members, (e.g. members \$8, non-members \$15), we might encourage an increase in membership which would strengthen the club and maybe lead to more volunteers.
- Better money attracts better guests and better guests attract bigger audiences = more money in the bank.
- For what reason?! The club has lots of money. Unless there is some larger project in mind, I'm very much against it. We want bums on seats and sadly, an increasing number of people quietly struggle to pay the existing charges. Refer our Constitution for our principal aims. Have just googled some folk clubs.
Current prices: Several clubs noted that charges may vary for special guests but otherwise, these are the standard charges.
New Edinburgh folk club, Dunedin \$3/\$5
Christchurch folk club \$8/\$12
Wellington folk club (Acoustic Routes) \$10/\$15
Devonport folk club Ak \$3/\$5
Titirangi folk club Ak \$5/\$8
Palmerston North folk club \$3/\$5
Nelson folk club \$7/\$10
- Members from other clubs could be considered as members.
- If guests are of good standard
- Provided the guests are of an acceptable (higher) standard.
- Only on special occasions for high end artists. This is already allowed for in our club rules.
- A small one off increase may be required for top acts on accession.
- A \$2 increase is very little. People who don't like it should just become members.
- Unless funds are inadequate. PA needs money spent on it though.
- If numbers attending are not what they were, will charging more work for or against attendance. I think it may work against.
- It would be nice to pay guests more, if we can afford it.

6. SUPPER

Are you satisfied with the supper? YES/NO

YES- 22	NO	One not circled
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COMMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honestly think that this goes over and above – most people would only expect a cuppa and a biscuit at most.• Good variety. More savories.• Usually very good.• Usually too elaborate.• I think it is excellent, thank you.• Don't like noise in the kitchen, opening and closing of doors while guests perform.• Excellent volunteer help with serving.• Especially the savoury crackers

7. WORKSHOPS

Would you support an occasional Saturday workshop? YES / NO (Please indicate)

GUITAR:-10 MICROPHONE-11 BANJO-6 PERFORMANCE-8

SINGING HARMONY-14 PERCUSSION/DRUMMING-8

YES- 20	NO- 2	N/A- 1
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COMMENTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I would be interested in ALL workshops and happy to come along and support.• Whatever is good.• Can't get there.• Ukulele• Sorry I am busy with grandchildren quite often on Saturdays.• Sharing of P.A. skills (sound desk). Another workshop would not go astray.• All of the above.• All of the above.
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ACOUSTIC NIGHT

8. Do you think acoustic night should include training for performance with microphone ?YES/ NO

YES-10	NO- 5	N/A- 7
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9. Do you think it should include jamming? YES / NO

YES-15	NO- 0
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10. Do you think it should be just a sing around? YES/ NO

YES-2	NO-11
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COMMENTS

- AN is great, I would really welcome training for using Microphone and I'm sure there are others who would be the same. As for jamming, that is a musical skill which would develop everyone, even the more experienced muso's and I also love the sing-around. What we could do is maybe have a sing around to start, where everyone gets the chance to sing at least one song, followed by a mini jam session before tea break / then either continue jam or singaround after supper. The next month could start with Microphone training for those that want/need and start the jam/singaround at 8pm for those who just want to do that.
- Learning and participation is good.
- (Jamming) often happens spontaneously if people can stay on at venue after the sing around.
- I think Acoustic night should be more supported by the committee and seen as an important musical /social night for the club.
- This is the night most of the club night performers should be performing at.
- Microphone use training should be part of a separate workshop.
- Performance training best held as a separate workshop.
- Acoustic night could also be used for training for the sound system in both techs and performers. Not every month but from time to time.
- First half sing around, second half, jamming.
- It could be a training ground/performance first half with jamming practice second half.
- I usually only go to the performance night.
- I think that would be great to have some kind of microphone training, it would encourage newbies to give it a go without the stress of winging it if we go on to do the blackboard thing.
- All of the above are valuable , however, I think it should be up to each performer to invite/suggest if they want others to join in with them. hopefully the audience have the courtesy not to drown out the performer!
- Acoustic night is a good venue to give and receive feedback on suitability regards performance and whether suitable for concert blackboard-

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FURTHER COMMENTS:

- Minutes of the committee meetings – these were to have been available to club members.
- Restricting any 15 min slot to club members would encourage out of town performers to join up as members. It is essential that out of town performers do not gain unfair advantages over club members. There would need to be a standard letter from the Committee offering a 15 min slot to a club member. As stated, I prefer to keep with the current blackboard situation. Please note that Acoustic Routes in Wellington clearly states that support act slots are for club members.
- I have been a member now for 2/3 years and all this time nothing has been done to improve the state or décor of the hall. It is rough, unfriendly, not inviting and terribly tacky. Do we want more people to attend and get good bands? I believe it is major time for an overhaul of the hall. If it wasn't for the warm and friendly response of the members, they make the club. Change and improvements of the hall would encourage people to take photos too. For example the newspaper clipping cardboards behind the stage, pinned to the curtains, looks very shabby and the clientele can't read it there anyhow. They should be up the front or the sides, where people can see it. Thank you for your caring interest.
 - Generally I think the committee are doing a good job. A tweak of the sound system and AN is all that is required.
 - Appreciate feedback opportunity. Believe Blackboard performers (some) need to be made to up their performance. How! Remove music stands would be a start.
 - Love the way people offer to help. Makes it an inclusive, friendly place.
 - Try row seating at front for club night with tables at back/middle.
 - I think performers could be further vetted before concert night- songs and performers (new) could be given feedback.
 - Thanks for giving everyone the opportunity to input.