



July 2021

Hello to all members of the Levin Folk Music Club

Your committee has been working hard over the past year to ensure that you have enjoyed the programs that have been presented. There are however major issues that our club must face at the upcoming AGM. This message is inform you and give you some background to those issues.

New lease

A new lease has been signed with Horowhenua Scottish Society (HSS) with a large hall rental increase to \$1200.00 annually, paid quarterly, as well as a new charge of \$300 annually for the use of a cupboard/room for storage of club items. This increases our hall rental costs to \$1500 annually, which equates to a cost of \$75 per night to the Club. The hire agreement will be on an annual basis from 1st January 2021 and will be 'rolled over' each year unless notified by either party in writing.

This was a protracted and difficult process, with new conditions being added which include:

- only two sets of door keys are allocated to LFMC, to be held by committee
- no alcohol/drug use on the premises or around the hall (as per Bylaws)
- use of 2nd and 4th Fridays **only**, from Jan 1 – Dec 31
- times of use 4 pm – 11.45 pm
- max limit 99 persons
- cleanliness of hall/kitchen
- smokefree/no candles
- no garage storage
- no parking of motor vehicles on the grassed area

Clearout

The clearout of older items was necessitated by HSS wanting to clear the garage and allowed committee to recycle older and damaged items along with the heavier tables which were getting difficult to manage during setup and became a physical strain on the committee every month. Over the past 6 months, new folding and lighter tables were purchased and have been much easier to use. Padded chairs have been purchased in small lots but their storage has been an issue for HSS, despite their use by other hall hirers.

Possible Notice of Motion to be put at AGM

As a result of the HSS doubling the hireage for our use of the hall, there will be a need to increase the entry costs in future, starting with the September concert if the motion is approved. The current door charge has not changed since 2014. A motion will be put forward at the AGM and we encourage you all to consider what would be an

appropriate price increase. Note that the annual subscriptions will remain the same, ie \$25 per person.

Proposed Motion: That the entry costs for guest concerts after the AGM should be increased from \$5 to \$10 for members and from \$10 to \$15 for non-members, school aged children to remain at \$3.

Rationale 1: The Club currently pays guests at a lower rate than they would receive professionally and will sometimes lose the opportunity to feature performers who would expect a higher fee. An option to receive 70% of the door take **at our current door prices** does not often result in more money for performers. If our door prices are increased, then performers will likely receive closer to their usual/desired fee. [We note that door prices for other music concerts is in the range of \$15/\$20 or \$20/\$25].

Rationale 2: The Club concerts often clash with other local events and audience numbers are lower than desired. This results in a low door take and minimal profit after payments to guests – in some cases, subsidization is required. The Club does not want to run at a loss, especially with the increased rental to HSS and possibly, in the future, replacement of the sound equipment.

Rationale 3: Accommodation and/or travel costs of guests are not offered but in the past year many guests have enjoyed the hospitality of committee members. This has not been reimbursed to club/committee members in 2020-21 as was past practice, but the Club has the option to reimburse the host up to \$50 for one night's accommodation/meals. In order to continue attracting out of town guests and make it less onerous on individual committee/club members, an increase in door charges would facilitate reimbursement for accommodation and meals, when applicable.

AGM – 7pm on Friday, 27 August 2021

With the AGM and election of officers coming up, the committee would be pleased to receive nominations for officers and committee members. It has been a year of change: a larger committee would enable duties to be shared, decisions to be discussed and delegation of responsibilities.

Please ensure that any nominations are for paid up members, with their approval and signature, and nominated and seconded by fully paid up members. The current Officers are standing again for their positions but secret ballots will be held if there is more than one nomination for Officer roles.

All nominations should be presented to the Secretary by end of concert night August 13. No nominations will be accepted from the floor at the AGM.

Any further Motions from members should be forwarded to the Secretary prior to 5pm July 30, 2021. These will be distributed by email to members on July 30, 2021.

There will be a draw from members present to reimburse their annual subscription, and the AGM will be followed by supper and a jam around. The current committee welcomes the assistance and willingness of club members to be part of decision-making and the running of our longstanding and respected club.

Importance of having an elected Committee chairperson

Having an elected Chairperson this past year has:

- enabled the lease to be negotiated and agreed in a unified manner,
- satisfied the Societies Act by having appropriate Officers,
- ensured that internet banking and the switch away from cheques has been achieved,
- given the Club direction, access to groups/performers, and a spokesperson/administrator.

Club Night - 4th Fridays

We note the club night rarely welcomes more than about 6-8 people. This is disappointing for the committee and the club members running the evening. The original intent was an opportunity for members to prepare something, improve on it, and play on the blackboard list at some later date at Concert night. Over the past year, this opportunity has not been taken up by many and the evening has run as a song circle, with an occasional jam.

The committee wishes to hear ideas on what other events would appeal to more people and make better use of this 4th Friday (which now costs the club \$75 rental). Some suggestions might be acoustic floorspot concerts, additional guest concerts, or other. Realistically a \$2 charge is not viable anymore and an increase to \$5 is mooted. Other members' assistance is needed, in addition to the committee members, to run these club nights.

With kind regards,
The LFMC Committee

Jean Hollis, Secretary
Dianne Morris-Madill, Chairperson