

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Concert Band held on
Wednesday 28th March 2018, at 7.45pm, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Ipswich**

Chair: Mr Brian Annis (VP)

Members Present: 23

VPs Present: 1

1. Apologies for absence

These were received from Suzanne Dexter-Mills (VP), Roger Jones (VP), Bernard Reader (VP), David Brunning, Maggie Porter, Lucy Ball, Toby Hope, Tracy Smith, Jill Blofield, Ian Blofield, Jonathan Ferguson, Lisa Cheadle.

2. Adoption of minutes held on Wednesday 1st March 2017

The minutes were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed – Gordon Scopes

Seconded – Sue Jayasuriya

22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

3. Matters arising from meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2017

There were no matters arising.

4. Proposals for Vice-Presidents

There were no proposal for Vice-Presidents

5. Proposals for Honorary Members

There were no proposal for Honorary Members.

6. Officer Reports

6.1. Chairman – Simon Pulham

Simon thanked the committee members. Sad to see the departure of Pennie, as she made an important contribution to the committee.

This will be a meeting prompted by letters! WTF?

Firstly a letter R:

RIP - CCP – Colin Cecil Pettingale – founder member and former secretary. Colin died last year, very neatly, doubtlessly using his considerable engineering skills, on his 92 birthday. Many of you played for his funeral, for which thanks, interestingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, a simple request and no further prompting produced a fine 20 piece band. The family appreciated this. Colin went to meet his maker dressed in his band uniform - although this has nothing to do with 'uniform' appearing on tonight's agenda!

A moment recalling his banding career may not be out of place.

Ipswich ATC band - went and got a cornet – given a universal band primer – come back when you can play a scale!

Ipswich Co-Op Military Band – the members of the TA too old to serve.

Days of biking to places like Kersey village hall to play for the local dance band – a lady pianist who could not look at the audience! – and the village boys who would stop the generator so the lights went out giving rise to a lot of giggling and laughter in the pitch black.

When the TA was reformed after the war Colin joined up, serving more or less continuously until 1967. He rose to the rank of Sargent – largely because he devised and made a cigarette holder/extinguisher that clipped to a music stand! Later making us music stands and much more.

Colin did not much care for football, but enjoyed the analogy – If you don't attend training then you don't get into the team.

SMB/SCB always came first for Colin!

Corn Exchange concert – missing – mother in law broke her leg – what an excuse!

Later after standing down from the committee he served on The BASBWE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE. I went with him to several conferences – the first of which was in Manchester. He was on the community band subcommittee.

So much of Colin's work set fledgling group on the right course. We owe him much.

Three letters suggested by the 100th anniversary of the RAF NOT CCP – but CCI
Commemorate – Celebrate – and INSPIRE – we all need inspiration – Colin had it in Shed loads!

6.2. Secretary – Angela Hope

Nothing to report.

6.3. Treasurer – Mark Cheadle

The accounts were circulated.

There has been a small loss again this year but the subscriptions continue to cover our running costs; including Musical Director fees and hall hire.

Mark thanked all those that have paid their subs promptly.

Mark proposed a vote of thanks to Jill Blofield for acting as Independent Examiner.

Andrew Farthing asked about the expenditure of the recording, whether the committee budgeted this as a project or as an income stream? Mark responded that our aim was to cover our costs but there are still further CDs to sell to do this.

Mark proposed that the statement of accounts be adopted by the meeting.

Proposed – Andrew Farthing

Seconded – Gordon Scopes

22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

6.4. Membership Secretary – Gordon Scopes

At the AGM 2017 I requested for all the membership to use TeamSnap regarding availability at rehearsals and engagements. Sorry to say the use of TeamSnap has not improved. Please try to do better this year.

As always a warm welcome to new members. We said goodbye to Pennie who has moved North. Trusting she finds a band to join and enjoy music making. Heulwen has also left the band, hopefully temporarily while she focuses on her family. We wish them both good luck. Their contribution on the committee will be missed.

Sadly a founder member died last July, Colin Pettingale. French horn, secretary, concert and transport manager, refreshment organiser plus any other jobs that came along in the last 50 years.

Bev Steensma asked how the committee fill vacancies within the band or actively seek out new members. The committee responded that we only advertise vacancies on the website. Bev asked the committee to take this forward.

6.5. Librarian – Mandy Chinery

I did not ask to be librarian, I did not want to be librarian but alas I found myself in the role of being librarian for the greater good of the band.

The librarian role itself is quite an easy job as long as....

1) The conductor is prepared for their session with a selection of music required for their programme communicated well in advance

2) An orderly library with music filed away correctly, complete and in score order

3) The composer or arranger has written parts for all of the instruments in a symphonic wind ensemble

Safe to say that at times it has not been an easy job!

For those who don't know I was librarian for a decade about a decade ago. I am a busy working mum. I have to covertly do any photocopying at work. Music is kept in a garage at Fados House in Walton High Street which is at least a 45 minute round trip. It is not damp but it is cold, full of cobwebs and cramped. Thank you to my kids (who groaned oh we are not going there again!) and Ross who have helped on numerous occasions... and seen me get upset when finding incomplete pads, not finding pads at all and finding pads like this filed away!

Moving on...

Music purchased over the last year (including the last 3 months)

2 New Year's night - arr Adrian Budgen

- 2 Songs of the great war - arr Rob Wiffin
 - 2 Danza Brillante - Giuseppe Verdi
 - 2 Triumphal March - Giuseppe Verdi
 - 2 George Washington Bicentennial March - John Philip Sousa
 - 2 Overture to Colas Breugnon - Dmitri Kabalevsky
 - 2 Score for Stage centre – Geoff Richards - since found in a large pile of miscellaneous odds and sods
 - 2 Score for Concert Prelude – Philip Spark - a piece that SDM requested for anniversary gig but the score was missing and did not arrive in time
 - 2 Sold duplicate copy of Crazy For You to Greg White Director of Music for the Essex Yeomanry Band
- Finally, I am really pleased that David Seymour has agreed to take over the role and I will assist in whatever way I can to get the library back into the position it was a decade ago.

6.6. Concert Manager – Russell Banyard

Russell thanked everyone who helps setup and clears away. Russell felt that we have finally found a layout in Holy Trinity church that suits us. Russell asked if members were happy to continue to bring their own stands to rehearsals? This question was met with approval.

Russell reminded the members that we have two seafront engagements this year and all help with the equipment will be much appreciated.

Brian Annis, AGM Chair, thanked all of the officers for their hard work over the year.

7. Musical Director Reports

John Whelton

John thanked the band for a successful Christmas concert. He was pleased with the band's attention to musical performance. John felt that setting the correct level of music for the band's capabilities and being well-rehearsed is the key to our success, the band sounds better than it ever has. He feels this success is in part down to the recording sessions we did; different conductors, rigorous rehearsals and more attention to detail. John feels the band would benefit greatly from sectional rehearsals.

Bernard Reader

Simon reported that Bernard's prognosis has improved but he is still seriously ill with cancer. Simon wanted to thank Bernard for his immense contribution to the band over the years.

Andrew Farthing asked if we could resurrect some of Bernard's arrangements and compositions? This point was noted by the committee.

8. Election of Committee

Chairman – Simon Pulham

Proposed – Kath Sutton

Seconded – Angela Hope

22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

Secretary – Angela Hope

Proposed – Jill Blofield

Seconded – Sarah Saunders

22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

Treasurer – Mark Cheadle

Proposed – Hazel Small

Seconded – Russell Banyard

22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

Membership Secretary – Gordon Scopes

Proposed – Andrew Farthing

Seconded – Russell Banyard

22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

Concert Manager – Russell Banyard

Proposed – Vince Steensma

Seconded – Gordon Scopes
22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

Librarian – David Seymour

Proposed – Mandy Chinery
Seconded – Clem Cocker
22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

8.1. Election of Other Committee Members

Trustee – Adrian Budgen

Proposed – Angela Hope
Seconded – Sarah Saunders
21 voted in favour of the proposal. 2 abstained.

Trustee – David Brunning

Proposed – Angela Hope
Seconded – Kate Budgen
22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

9. Approval of Independent Examiner for Suffolk Concert Band Accounts

Jill Blofield was proposed to be the Independent Examiner for the Suffolk Concert Band Accounts.
Proposed – Mark Cheadle
Seconded – Gordon Scopes
22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

10. Membership Subscriptions for 2019

The committee recommend that subscriptions should increase in 2019; £108 or £36 for those in full time education.
Proposed – Mark Cheadle
Seconded – Russell Banyard
22 voted in favour of the proposal. 1 abstained.

11. Uniform

The current uniform is nearly 40 years old and the committee consider that it has reached the stage where it needs to be replaced.

Adrian Budgen prepared a mood board to inspire members to consider their opinions about what the band should wear.

The uniform was discussed under 12. *WTF!* In the agenda as an open forum.

12. WTF!

RESPLENDENT - Uniform

- Would we like to replace what we have already or go back to a Mess style of jacket? We have already received a quote from Coes for a replacement like for like. These would be made to order and cost £200 each.
- The committee have also been in touch with a company called Centre Stage, who specialise in band uniforms. They have offered us a representative to visit and discuss ideas with us.
- Would members be happy to pay for their uniform? The general feeling from members present was agreement.
- Should we maintain the original red colour of the jackets, our connection to the Suffolk Regiment? The general feeling from members was that the uniform should be traditional.
- The uniform needs to be smart.
- We need to consider whether the uniform is suitable for indoors and outdoors, hot or cold weather. Perhaps we need both a formal or informal uniform?
- A suggestion was made to raise money, either from a grant or a sponsor from a local business.
- It was felt that a working party should be set up to run this project on behalf of the band. Ruth Symington offered to be in the group.

REHEARSAL - Venue

- We have tried a few venues in the past but nothing quite worked out. There are always pros and cons and we are unlikely to find the perfect venue.
- Holy Trinity is too cold in Winter, too dirty, and has terrible acoustics but we do have the option of using the Church, we can have access anytime and we have storage space. It is also very reasonably priced.
- We have been offered two rehearsals at St. Peters, which is not free regularly on Wednesday at the moment anyway.
- Things we need to consider about new venues – acoustics, price, storage, parking, location, access.

RECRUITMENT – New Members

- There are less musical opportunities for children in state schools than there used to be.
- Martlesham Brass and Stowmarket Concert Band (to name two examples) both have successful junior bands but this involves a huge amount of work and commitment and it was felt we needed something we can introduce right now.
- Make connections with local school groups and universities or contact business to seek out adults who are new to the area.
- We could produce flyers advertising the band around the town.
- We should hold more open rehearsals and community concerts to encourage people to come and play with us.
- Bev Steensma offered to come to a committee meeting to discuss her ideas about recruitment.

13. Any Other Business

Ruth Symington thanked everyone involved in making refreshments at rehearsals every week.

Simon Pulham thanked Brian Annis for chairing the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm