

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Concert Band held on  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at 7.45pm, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Ipswich**

**Chair:** Mr Brian Annis (VP)

**Members Present:** 32

**VPs Present:** John Whelton

**1. Apologies for absence**

These were received from; Roger Jones (VP), Lisa Cheadle, David Brunning, Jane Walker, Jess Holt, Sally Webb, Jacqui Cobbold, Bev Steensma.

**2. Adoption of minutes held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

The minutes were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed – Toby Hope

Seconded – Gordon Scopes

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**3. Matters arising from meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Adoption of minutes of EGM held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**

The minutes were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed – Gordon Scopes

Seconded – Heulwen Peters

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**5. Proposals for Vice-Presidents**

There were no proposal for Vice-Presidents

**6. Proposals for Honorary Members**

The committee proposed that Paul Blofield becomes an honorary member

Seconded – Tom Rumbold

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**7. Officer Reports**

**7.1. Chairman – Simon Pulham**

"As ever an interesting year.

Thanks to all the committee as ever – whose talents are as diverse as their characters!

When does a rota become a list? Being careful not to lose touch.

We decided that four or five was a sensible number and that we should keep our eyes and ears open. It seems that the three weeks audition and then an open rehearsal/performance is a realistic way forward. Remember particularly Charles Hine who drew the audience in to the music during the performance.

Under the adopted rota system we have now had two full sessions with each Tom and Jonathan. We are inviting your comments and your chance to express your preference in a secret ballot as some people seem to be shy about sending in feedback! Or can't be bothered. And some of them still complain! You can vote for either or both – positively or negatively. This will give clear guidance to the trustees as we take decisions about the future.

Concerts – why should there be an audience? Yes I know we are a good band. But times and fashions change and so do listening habits. People will enjoy a band 'where it is' but that does not mean they will pay to come to a concert. Perhaps we should put ourselves about more and play for nothing? Concerts here (Holy Trinity) are successful – but they are free.

Kirkley and Shotley - About the same size audience if you took away the choir at Shotley. We hired a coach (£400 paid by church) but would it have been better all round if we had taken ten cars and paid everybody £20 petrol money. The correct use of the Charity's money to educate the public in the art and science of wind band music. The money does not belong to the band and may only be used for the stated aims of the charity.

We have got the money right – the Treasurer will report – but the subs now pay for the housekeeping in an agreeable way. We don't have to work to pay the bills! Good, I think? We should keep this up and always in our sights!

I would like to be involved with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as I was in the audience at that first concert. As we approach our first half century I would like to be part of setting up the band for the next 50 years.

Part of this is going to involve THE UNIFORM. Is it right to contemplate spending £170 for bespoke jackets. We have agreed that we shall launch the new uniform at Gordon's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party – the clock is ticking!!

Thanks from Barry Salmon for everyone who took part in his farewell concert.

Which is the cue for me to sit down and shut up with my thanks for your continued support and friendship.”

## **7.2. Secretary – Angela Hope**

“I would like to open this year's report with a little perspective...

I sat and wrote this report in between doing a 10 mile run, decorating the landing, walking the dog, playing mousetrap, eating a whole bag of Revels (please do not judge – I am marathon training) and cooking macaroni cheese. A perfect example of multi-tasking. This is the same for every single member of the committee. We all have busy lives and we all have to multi-task in different ways. We all work hard on the committee and this year has been no exception.

The year started with a rather civilised committee meeting held in the meeting room at the Farmhouse pub in Kesgrave. This included a very impressive spread of sandwiches, the coronation chicken ones were particularly delightful. Let me make it clear we do not always treat ourselves in such lavish fashion. It is usually 8 of us squeezed around a dining room table and some custard creams. At this particular meeting we had special guests....two of the section leaders were present. Sadly this has not happened since so I urge the section leaders to come along to the meetings, not just because of my love of coronation chicken sandwiches, but because we truly value your input.....no really, we do.

Each and every committee meeting throws up a new challenge. Sometimes they are short and sweet. Sometimes they drag on and on. Often we go round the houses and back again before having exactly the same conversation again at the next meeting. Now and again we argue. More often than not we agree.

Some of the topics this year have included:

- The library lighting
- Some messy membership issues; including the is there/isn't there a vacancy in the sections beginning with T – trumpets, trombones and tubas, and the issue of the person of short stature [slash] little person – both of which are politically correct...I googled it!
- Acoustics
- The library lighting
- Jane's snake – who you may have met and tripped over (if you are late to a rehearsal) and yes, believe it or not, we did spend some committee time discussing him and yes he has a name. He is called Sid!!
- The library lighting
- Acoustics

During a conversation with a fellow committee member last week, we were laughing about the predictability of our AGM reports. Every year we end up thanking the same people. Again this year I thank Lisa (Cheadle) for all her work on the newsletter and Paul (Blofield) and Mandy (Chinery) for their help setting up and making the tea. They are all stars but wouldn't it be great next year if we had some different people to thank?!

Myself and my glamorous social media assistant, Heulwen, have completely failed with our social media efforts in the latter part of this year. I blame our work commitments. If anyone else would like to join our “social media team” you would be very welcome! Let me know.

We agreed at the last committee meeting that as we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the band in 2017, the "new" committee (substitute new here for same old) should work hard over the next two years, reviewing the way the band operates and preparing the band for the next 50 years. The anniversary happens to coincide with one of our founder members becoming an octogenarian. It occurred to me that when the band celebrates it's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I too will be this old and the way things are going, will have been on the Suffolk Concert Band committee for 67 years!!

Expect changes, expect digitisation. In the next 50 years maybe every member of the band will have email (I'm down to 3 and a half without so we're getting there! The half is Julie, she has been promising to give me her email address for the last two years, but at least she has one so that's a start)

I have already moved the band mailing list to MailChimp and it has made my life a whole lot easier. There have been a few issues to iron out, but I think as of yesterday, everyone who has email is successfully receiving emails from me. I shouldn't tell you this but in true Big Brother style, MailChimp allows me to see when you read the email, how many times you read the email, the links you clicked, your location when you read it and your IP address. We have no secrets.

And finally, back in June, to help bring the band kicking and screaming into this new era, I decided to take the rather revolutionary and quite controversial decision to change the font of the committee minutes from Times New Roman. I had tried on a previous occasion a number of years back, but at the time the committee was just not ready for this change. But now...in 2015...for your viewing pleasure...the minutes are now completed in Tahoma.

Welcome to the next 50 years!"

### **7.3. Treasurer – Mark Cheadle**

The accounts were circulated.

Alison Keep asked what the equipment expense was? This was the new gig bag for the Tuba.

2015 Subscriptions are now £96. Please adjust your standing order as soon as possible.

Missing music liability/insurance claim still pending.

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

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

Seconded – Angela Hope

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

### **7.4. Membership Secretary – Gordon Scopes**

"There are currently 47 members. Attendance at rehearsals over the last 12 months has not been as good as previous years. The best section is the flutes with Mandy leading the way, with Angela in second place. Please complete the engagement notices in plenty of time to enable me to book deps if required. Thank you for all your support."

### **7.5. Librarian – Tom Rumbold**

"I'd like to thank everyone for keeping their pads in good order and not losing any music (unlike me - more of that in a moment!). Thanks also to those people such as Mandy who help with the giving out of new pieces during rehearsals, when this is necessary.

New music purchased in 2014 was 'Charivari', 'Cossack Wedding Dance', 'Light Cavalry Overture' and 'How to Train Your Dragon'.

The library in Felixstowe now has power and lighting, thanks to FADOS. I have begun the work of bolting the music shelving back on to the wall, if I'm re-elected as Librarian I will carry on with this.

As you all know, just before Christmas a box of music the Essex Concert Band had loaned to us via Jonathan Abbott was stolen. I am sorry that this occurred - Jonathan and I agreed a

safe place to leave the music for a few hours as he was due to collect it while I was out. With hindsight it was obviously not a safe enough place. Again I apologise for my part in this very unfortunate episode. Last month I spent several hours compiling a detailed list of the music and replacement costs for our insurers to consider. Our fingers are now firmly crossed for a positive resolution."

Mandy Chinery requested that Tom asks for help fitting out shelving for the library. If everyone does a couple of hours, the work will be completed in no time.

Ruth Symington commented that Tom acknowledges that in hindsight leaving music was a mistake but not an unreasonable thing for anyone to do.

#### **7.6. Concert Manager – Russell Banyard**

Russell requested that engagement notices are completed early and accurately so that he knows how to set chairs up for a concert.

Russell is continually thinking of ways we can transport equipment to concerts, as easily as possible, please help wherever possible. Feedback from members would be gratefully received.

Gordon Scopes asked if the members felt we should hire a coach for Eastbourne. Toby Hope suggested we send an email asking members, as not all were present. Andrew Farthing asked the committee to consider making this a weekend away. Maggie Porter suggested we ask band members for donations. The new committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

### **8. Musical Director Reports**

#### **Tom Rumbold – January to June 2014**

"During 2014 I conducted the band from January to the end of June. We performed four engagements: A concert at Holy Trinity in March, a concert for the Royal British Legion in Needham Market in June, Barham Hall also in June, and then a performance at the Felixstowe 'Art on the Prom' event in early September. I very much enjoyed directing both rehearsals and performances throughout my 2014 tenure. We played some great pieces and I'd like to thank you for working so hard and playing so very well. Thanks particularly for sticking around at the Needham Market concert - it was unfortunate that the organisers thought it was acceptable to keep us waiting for more than 90 minutes doing nothing between our two sets! You all played wonderfully nonetheless. I hope you enjoyed the music we played across all four performances. Thanks to the committee for asking me to conduct last year and I hope to do it again at some point in the future."

#### **Charles Hine – July 2014**

"I was pleased to be invited to conduct the Suffolk Concert Band Summer 'Tune-Up' during July 2014, being two rehearsal sessions culminating in an informal performance at the Summer Social. Having conducted the band for the first time some months earlier I chose three contrasting items of repertoire that would hopefully suit their standard as well as stretching the group and its individual members both in technical and musical terms.

Eric Whitacre – Equus  
Grieg – Funeral March in memory of Rikard Nordraak  
Alfred Reed – Armenian Dances part 1

The audience of family and friends was intrigued and entertained (I believe!) by what they heard and gave some positive feedback. The band performed very well especially considering the timescale and the rhythmic and technical challenges – they actually played faster than they thought possible..."

#### **Jonathan Abbott – September to December 2014**

Nothing to report.

### **9. Election of Committee**

#### **Chairman – Simon Pulham**

Proposed – Toby Hope  
Seconded – Maggie Porter  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

#### **Secretary – Angela Hope**

Proposed – Sarah Stirling  
Seconded – Maggie Porter  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**Treasurer – Mark Cheadle**

Proposed – Simon Cutts  
Seconded – Angela Hope  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**Membership Secretary – Gordon Scopes**

Proposed – Paul Blofield  
Seconded – Russell Banyard  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**Librarian – Tom Rumbold**

Proposed – Kath Sutton  
Seconded – Maggie Porter  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**Concert Manager**

Proposed – Nicola Day  
Seconded – Lucy Ball  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**9.1. Election of Other Committee Members**

**Concert Member – Heulwen Peters**

Proposed – Kate Budgen  
Seconded – Toby Hope  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**Concert Member – Adrian Budgen**

Proposed – Kate Budgen  
Seconded – Maggie Porter  
The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

**10. 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 – Kate Budgen

**11. Membership Subscriptions for 2016**

It was proposed that subscriptions will be held at £96 in 2016 (£35 for those in full time education).  
Proposed – Mark Cheadle  
Seconded – Toby Hope

**12. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

*Meeting closed at 8.28pm*