

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Concert Band held on  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017, at 7.45pm, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Ipswich**

**Chair:** Mr Roger Jones (VP)

**Members Present:** 25

**1. Apologies for absence**

These were received from; Brian Annis (VP), Suzanne Dexter-Mills (VP), Bernard Reader (VP), Jane Walker, Lisa Cheadle, Bev Steensma, Megan Hewitt, Maggie Porter, Heulwen Peters, Alison Keep, Jack Patching, Clare Lewis, Sue Carter, Jonathan Ferguson.

**2. Adoption of minutes held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

The minutes were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed – Toby Hope

Seconded – Mandy Chinery

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

**3. Matters arising from meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

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 whole of the committee and mentioned that Tom Rumbold is standing down as Librarian.

Simon recalled being at the first concert of the band at the Civic College in 1967 when he was just 10 years old. He specifically remembered the band playing a "Selection from Oklahoma"!! This year we celebrate 50 years of our own history.

Simon thanked Gordon for his many years of service in the band and on the committee. He also thanked Adrian for all his hard work with the recording project and the band for their part in this.

Sadly we lost Don Cheesewright this year – who had previously mentioned to Simon that his Suffolk Concert Band days were some of his happiest music-making days.

Army band music is now niche music but we must value and encourage younger members to continue with tradition.

Simon thanked Charles Hine, Bernard Reader, John Whelton and Duke Dobing for their input this year, introducing us to a diverse range of styles and musical challenges.

Simon closed by reminding us that we must preserve the best of the past but not be afraid to try out the new.

**6.2. Secretary – Angela Hope**

"I can't promise that my report this year won't be predictable but I will aim to make it quick and "leggiero" (and thank goodness for the Pizza Express menu otherwise like Toby I wouldn't have known what this means either).

2017 is a big year for all of us. The band turns 50 and - I'm sure he won't mind me saying - Uncle Gordon turns big number 80. As for me in 2017 I will have officially been a member of the band for half my life - admittedly a relatively small amount of time compared to Gordon's impressive record. For those of you quickly trying to do the maths...I have been in the band for 10.5 years!

So all this has got me contemplating the future...when the band celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, like Gordon this year, I will be turning 80. Will I still be an active member of the band as Gordon is now? Will I still be Secretary (I certainly hope not)? Will Lisa still be writing the newsletter? Will Mandy still be setting up the refreshments? Will Paul still be washing up? Will I still be thanking them for all their hard work in my report? Will my jokes still be funny?

I digress, this of course is in the future and this report is meant to be a review, and I as promised at the start...quick....or Allegro if you want to follow the musical theme.

The main objectives of the committee last year were to plan the anniversary year, including a recording to provide a “snapshot” of the band in 2016/2017. Aside from our superb playing – Adrian has really undertaken all of the hard work in this project and having heard some of the finished tracks myself I believe that you will be proud of the result.

Early in the year the committee had to make a decision. No details required but the decision was made in the usual way, taking in all points of view, having a discussion and then determining an outcome. The decision itself was not a tough one but unfortunately it did have repercussions. I try to not take anything too personally when it comes to band business, after all you don't really pay me enough, but this one got me. The committee stuck to their decision and dealt with the blows. The point is, I am proud of how we deal with such situations, and agree or disagree with our decisions I can assure you that we never take the decisions lightly.

Apart from that the year has been relatively uneventful.

I'm sad to say that we lose not one but two members of the committee this year. Although they are the two that talk the most so I'm not sad about that! (oops sorry Tom I forgot you were in the room). On the other hand the Chairman has been promising for the last 10 years that we will be discussing the unmentionable (*\*whispered\** uniform) this year so I believe they have had a lucky escape. And no David, you cannot change your mind! Anyway, seriously, thank you to Tom and Heulwen for your friendship and support as valued committee members.

It is with great trepidation that I close my report with a mention of TeamSnap. My jokes last year were met with...well...all I can say is I definitely spotted a tumbleweed floating across the room! On a personal level, having used the system for over a year, I can honestly say that it has revolutionised most of my member administration tasks. Going forward, love it or loathe it, some sort of electronic member management system for this band, in whatever format, is probably here to stay.

And for the time being...I imagine I am too!!”

### **6.3. Treasurer – Mark Cheadle**

The accounts were circulated.

There has been a small loss this year but the subscriptions are now at a level that covers our running costs; including Musical Director fees and hall hire.

Mark thanked all those that have paid their subs and/or updated their standing orders to cover the increase agreed at last year's AGM.

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

Clem Cocker asked if there had been an increase in the price of TeamSnap. Angela Hope explained there had not but the monthly fee is charged in US dollars so the monthly fee depends on the exchange rate.

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

Proposed – Pennie Nash

Seconded – Toby Hope

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

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

“TeamSnap 12 months on is used by the majority of the members regarding engagements but there is a percentage who do not or refuse to use it which does not make it easy to plan ahead. Only a small percentage use it to say if they will be at rehearsals. Please if we all use TeamSnap in the next 12 months it will help the committee to plan more efficiently.

Welcome to new member and a sad goodbye to Don Cheesewright, who died in April 2016.

Colin Pettingale is not well and is in Ipswich Hospital. I am sure we wish him a speedy recovery.”

### **6.5. Librarian – Tom Rumbold**

“Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I've thought a lot in recent weeks about what I'm going to say in this report. Of course, in time-honoured, disorganised fashion I only started to write it a few hours ago!

As far as the library is concerned there isn't much to report. To the best of my knowledge the only new music purchases since my last AGM report have been 'Sun Paints Rainbows on the Vast Waves' and a replacement score for 'Miss Saigon'. There must be some other items as, according to Mark's report

we spent nearly £400 - I'm sure other committee members can fill in the gaps!

I would like to thank Russell and his helpers for putting up new shelves in the library - all the music that was donated to the band in recent years is now sitting proudly on those shelves. Sadly I've not had the time to catalogue this vast array of repertoire - is this a future job perhaps for a person or group of people sitting here tonight?

As has been mentioned already, I am stepping down as librarian. I've done it for seven years and have been on the committee for eight and I hope I've been occasionally useful during that time. After today I will no longer be a member of Suffolk Concert Band either. Actually, tonight is the first time I have attended a band 'rehearsal' (other than quickly dropping off music) since last year's AGM. I would like to explain briefly why I've decided to leave. For those who know all or some of this already, my apologies.

A few days after last year's AGM Zoe was taken ill and spent three nights in hospital with pneumonia - not great news for anyone but she was only 32! A couple of days after she was discharged the usual monthly SCB committee meeting took place - unsurprisingly, given the circumstances, I was absent. At that meeting, [a committee decision meant] Zoe felt unable to carry on as a member and so left.

At this point, in early March 2016, I didn't know what I wanted to do long-term. I certainly didn't want to leave the band in the lurch librarian-wise. So I carried on as librarian but took a break from playing. By the time I'd got to October last year I had made up my mind that I didn't want to play full time in the band without Zoe and so let the rest of the committee know my plans.

I joined the band in 1997 and I feel sad to be going after 20 years. However I'm not disappearing completely. A 'rumour' that I would like to emphatically stamp out is that I am no longer prepared to conduct the band. This is not the case. I would happily consider doing so again in the future. I do have to balance all my musical commitments and pay the bills, of course, but in principle I really want to conduct you again. I know some of you will be more pleased than others to hear this but that's an occupational hazard of conducting I fear!

I hope to remain a 'friend' of the band. I will do what I can do to help, including playing in the odd concert if I'm free and you're really desperate. I have a reprinted version of Speed the Plough on my computer at home which I will deliver to you soon to mark the band's 50th anniversary. The parts could be fashioned into handy hats to protect you from rain/sun/hail/snow/hurricanes at Barham Hall or you could even try playing from them if you really wanted!

I'm grateful to the committee for offering me the continued opportunity to borrow music and also percussion instruments - in fact you'll see me briefly next week when I return a tubular bell I've borrowed this evening. Indeed, Suffolk is a fairly small place so it's unlikely I'll wander particularly far away. Thanks for all the memories, both musical and social - and I hope to see you all soon."

Sally Webb thanked Tom for his brilliant conducting and expressed her hope that he gets invited back again in the future.

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

Russell thanked everyone who helps setup and clears away. Thanks to everyone's help there has been no need to hire a van. Having different setups with each new MD has been challenging and Russell asked for ideas about how to make the transportation and setup of equipment easier. He also asked for members to pass on any broken stands etc. to him so that he can get them fixed.

### **7. Musical Director Reports**

#### **Bernard Reader** *via email*

"Once again, thank you for inviting me to conduct the band. I don't know if I handled the stress of it all very well but I enjoyed the rehearsals very much and it was good to see you all again. Good luck with all that you do."

#### **Charles Hine** *via email*

"I was very pleased to work with the band for an extended period in which we had the opportunity to rehearse and perform a wide variety of repertoire ranging from 'classics' such as the Vaughan Williams Folk Song Suite to modern masterpieces including Paris Sketches by Martin Ellerby and East Coast Pictures by Nigel Hess.

As our first performance was in the form of an April recording session contributing to the band's anniversary celebrations, all performers were at the edge of their seats (and podium) inspired by the concept that every breath and every note would be included in the annals of history.

Both in this performance and the subsequent May programme ('Colours, Images and Tributes') I was struck by the levels of concentration and ability that led to such impressive playing and more than a few moments of great beauty.

The final two performances in the stunning gardens of Barham Hall in June and Christchurch Park in July provided strong contrasts in repertoire and mood with enjoyable performances of popular ceremonial items and music from stage and screen."

## **8. Election of Committee**

### **Chairman – Simon Pulham**

Proposed – Angela Hope

Seconded – Toby Hope

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

### **Secretary – Angela Hope**

Proposed – Paul Blofield

Seconded – Lucy Ball

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

### **Treasurer – Mark Cheadle**

Proposed – Clare Shemming

Seconded – Sally Webb

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

### **Membership Secretary – Gordon Scopes**

Proposed – Sally Webb

Seconded – Kath Sutton

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

### **Concert Manager – Russell Banyard**

Proposed – Vince Steensma

Seconded – Kath Sutton

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

Heulwen Peters has agreed to stand for librarian next year as she is currently on maternity leave. There Mandy has agreed to take on the position for one year only.

### **Librarian – Mandy Chinery**

Proposed – Pennie Nash

Seconded – Gordon Scopes

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

### **8.1. Election of Other Committee Members**

#### **Trustee – Adrian Budgen**

Proposed – Jack Patching

Seconded – Toby Hope

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

#### **Trustee – Pennie Nash**

Proposed – Angela Hope

Seconded – Mandy Chinery

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

#### **Trustee – David Brunning**

Proposed – Angela Hope

Seconded – Vince Steensma

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

## **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 – David Brunning

The vote was unanimously in favour of the proposal

## **10. Membership Subscriptions for 2018**

The subscriptions will remain the same in 2018; £102 or £35 for those in full time education.

## 11. **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

We encourage members to be as involved as possible this year. The biggest concert of the year will be at All Hallows Church in London, conducted by Richard Harvey. There is also likely to be a mid to late Summer concert at Clare Parish Church.

We are hopeful the new band CD will be launched at the concert at Holy Trinity on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

We are also planning a social event at Henley Community Centre on a Sunday afternoon at the end of November. This is in the early planning stages but will be a combination of music-making, socialising and eating. Previous conductors and old friends will also be invited.

## 12. **MD Rota**

Three years ago we re-introduced the rota as members were generally in favour of this system.

At last years AGM we discussed our three options:

- 1) A principal MD
- 2) A principal MD with regular guest slot
- 3) A rota system

The members were invited to comment about the current system.

Heather Ferguson reported that she has enjoyed the different conductors but often feels like we are under-rehearsed for concerts, as if there hasn't been enough time to fit everything in. She felt that we needed longer sessions with each MD. Heather pointed out how good Tom Rumbold was at planning rehearsal time. She also expressed her disappointment that Tom did not get a recording session.

Simon Pulham responded that the next session with Richard Harvey is a longer session, from April until October. He reminded members that we always ask for feedback for each MD session.

Vince Steensma felt that every time we begin with a new conductor it feels as though we are starting from scratch.

Clem Cocker felt that we have improved musically by having the rota system in place.

Toby Hope asked if we had ever asked for feedback from MDs? Angela Hope reported that we did at the start but not more recently.

Kate Budgen thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

## 13. **Any Other Business**

Simon Pulham thanked Gordon Scopes and Paul Blofield for preparing the trailer for sale and installing lighting at FADOS house.

*Meeting closed at 8.38pm*