

Wayfarers Barbershop Chorus A.G.M.

Held on October 15th 2019

There were 28 members present.

Apologies received from Ian Homewood, Peter Dawson and David Layne.

Colin Wayte led the chorus in the traditional rendering of "The Old Songs" to open the meeting.

AGM 2018. These were accepted as accurate. Proposed by C. Whittaker, seconded by C. Wayte.

There were no matter arising.

Chairman's Report:

David began by saying that 2019 had been a very good year for Wayfarers. The reinstatement of the "Afterglow" gave us a chance to practice the polecats and other numbers from our repertoire .

He went on to say that he feels the quality of our singing has improved this year and for this he praised Colin and Paul for the work they have done in "knocking the chorus into shape". As can be seen in your copy of the accounts we have acquired a significant sum of money for our distribution to charity. This has been raised through performances from both the main chorus and Men in Black.

David Layne, our treasurer, has been forced to step down from this role as he is suffering very serious family health problems. We wish him and the family have a speedy recovery from their issues and we look forward to seeing, and hearing, him in the chorus very soon.

2019 was sad in that we lost Joe Casey and Geoff Williams. They will be badly missed and we pay our condolences to their families.

Geoff Poynor and Frank Hughes were thanked for their great work in producing the Chorus's Concert in the summer which was a great success.

Tributes were paid to Derek, Bill and Simon for their efforts in managing the weekly raffle and for Ray Parker for keeping the weekly attendance register.

Future plans include attempting to promote Barbershop singing amongst local youths. Frank Hughes is leading this and we wish him well. Coaching sessions from outside the chorus are to be considered and recruitment of new members, particularly Bari's and Tenors.

Secretary's Report:

MIB reduced the number of sing outs significantly this year. There were 2 occasions when MIB had to perform without a balanced chorus. There seemed to be general apathy and this may be due to the large number of bookings we were accepting. We will now only accept bookings where we can guarantee a decent balance.

Liverpool Barbershop paid us a visit in the spring which was very successful. This visit was reciprocated in August. Liverpool's barbershop have requested we make this an annual event and the committee have agreed to join with Liverpool for fellowship and fun once a year.

Music Director's Report:

It has been a quieter year for the chorus in terms of number of performances. However the singouts we did have were quality. Highlights were the 30th Anniversary concert (which we performed with excellent soloists).

The chorus was successful in winning the Southport Music and Arts Trophy but the elation was dimmed slightly as we were the only chorus competing. Colin expressed concern for the future of this event and perhaps Wayfarers could have a bigger part to play in promoting the event in future.

Colin expressed satisfaction with the quality of performances and attendance at rehearsals. He felt we have shown we can give relaxed, energetic and entertaining performances but they can still be improved by focussing on dynamic and quiet singing when appropriate.

We are now overdue for learning new song(s). The music team will be working on this and hopefully we can bring some order to the way we organise the choosing of new materials.

Colin finished by paying tribute to Ian for his work in organising the Quartet Nights, to David for his prompting and ideas. Tributes also to all members for their continuing commitment to practice and performing.

Treasurer's Report:

David gave this in David Layne's absence. Copies of the accounts have been distributed to all members and acceptance of these was proposed by Roger Fieldhouse and seconded by Rick Walker.

David informed the meeting of the committee decision to increase the monthly subs from £8.67 to £10.00. There were no objections to this and therefore the increase will take place from December 1st.

We have the sum of £3477.00 in our "Charity Account ". The committee have debated borrowing some of this to cover essential expenses we are likely to incur shortly.

President's Report: Roger told the meeting he felt Wayfarers were a very "clubbable" chorus who are achieving consistently high quality of performance. He said this was due to the work of our two M.D.'s .

Roger voiced his support for our continuing membership of BABS and praised the work of our chairman in organising the purchase of the new uniforms. The gift of the 30 year celebratory glasses to all members, initiated by Ian and David, was a great way of commemorating the birth of the chorus.

As Roger has come to the end of his two years in office he proposed Colin Whittaker to be his successor. This was agreed by the meeting unanimously. Roger ended his statement by likening membership of this chorus to Last of the Summer Wine set to music.

Election of Officers:

Chairman: David Andrew

Membership Secretary: Frank Hughes

Treasurer: Robert Spence

P.R.O John Andrews

Secretary: Gerry Smith

Ian Halewood (representing music committee)

Chorus Manager: Colin Whittaker

A.O.B.

The chair gave a short talk on potential charities we could support with cash donations. It was proposed by John Pike that we make a donation of £500 to Southport Soup Kitchen. This was seconded by Bill Fuller and agreed unanimously.

A proposal to donate £500 to Southport Lifeboat Project was debated. Whilst recognising this as a worthwhile cause it was decided to defer any donation until structural factors relating to the building site were clarified.

Barbershopper of the Year:

This was awarded to Jim Little after members overwhelmingly voted for him in the secret ballot.

Jim's Party: We will be celebrating Jim's 97th Birthday on Saturday 26th October at Birkdale URC Church on 26th October. All welcome.

D.O.N.M October 2020.