**Report for the 2020 AGM of the Southport Barbershop Harmony Club ( Wayfarers Chorus) on the 15th October by Zoom time to be announced.**

Hello fellow Barbershop singers, well this is a strange moment to be presenting details of how we are to tackle our Annual General meeting. Gerry and I decided that as we will have to use the Zoom technology for our meeting it would be best if I gave a presentation of the whole year to August 2020 with help from the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Having circulated this memorandum to all we will have a zoom meeting for discussion but prior to the meeting members might like to send in any comments they feel need airing to myself and Gerry.

**Meeting of the SBHC to be held on Zoom 15th October 2020**

----Can we assume that the minutes of last year’s AGM held on the 15th October 2019 are approved.

**Report on the year 2019 to 2020**

**Sing Outs**

The year started on the very good grounds, yes there were problems to be solved but we managed several sing outs for both full chorus and MIB. I list as follows: -

The Ormskirk Chapel Gallery , Kew Church, Waterloo Free Church Concert, Brunles, Tarleton Library Forum Court, Green bank School.

( At the Ormskirk Gallery we supported Bob Fox, Les Barker, Bram Taylor, Ukulele Ult and Ragged Trousered.

Then the Virus arrived at which time we had 9 good sing outs including a celebrity wedding in Lancaster, SDC Dinner, Wirral Music Festival, New Brighton Floral Pavilion, Sutton Grange, Aintree U3A, Clouds Southport, Springfield Court, and Stroke Club. So without the virus we would have had a very busy year with a good mix of large and small venues.Sorry about the non-SOD visit. (it hurts)

We also had a social evening with the Grand National, Liverpool, Chorus and had hoped to reciprocate. A note for our calendar.

The Christmas Party was as usual a great success and much credit goes to Ray Robbo for organizing and the Cast of great artists. Will we be able to have a Party this year? But we must think about a get together as soon as is possible.

**Music team** set up a small committee to consider the position of the Music Director.

Following Paul advising that he would have to take a step back due to Family and work ( a distant past for many of us) we needed to consider the massive work load on Collin. After some careful research we were very pleased to announce that Barry Nowell, well know to many of us had accepted taking on the roll of Music Director. Colin will be joining the tenors but still be there to help Barry certainly over the next few months. We are now in the take over period using Zoom meetings, and look forward to getting back together on the risers.

**Our Music Committee** met on a number of occasions and a new song has been introduced ‘I’ve got Rhythm’. We also have reintroduced the ‘after glow’ with some success. Pole cats etc.

**Harmony College**

We sent a group of 4 to Harmony college including myself Bob ,John and Rod. I think we all learnt something and really enjoyed the experience.

**Membership** Frank and myself were set up to visit the universities of Edge Hill and Liverpool in a hope of trying to seek interest in developing a younger element. It was also hoped to have some recruitment drive including a hosting week. Well we will have to try again.

**Members and thanks**

-Well we are looking forward to Jim’s 98th

-Now Gerry has been secretary for at least 10 years. I think 3/4 years is a long enough spell so a really great thank you to all the hard work and devotion . But do not worry Gerry will still be around , see below new duties.

-Colin Whitaker has been suffering a little. He is President as you know but will relinquish his roll as Chorus Manager a roll he has dealt with far better than the notorious Serjeant Major Britten. Thank you also to John Andrews for his stint on Committee.

- Bill Fuller is not having the best of health and we need to find replacement for his duties as Wardrobe master. Also the storage of the risers etc. Again, many thanks to Bill.

- It is hard to find the right words of thanks to Colin Wayte. Colin was a founder member of the chorus and is recorded in the inaugural minutes dated 14th. February 1988 with his appointment as ‘stage Manager’. Colin subsequently became assistant MD to Mike Smith and took over from Mike when Mike tragically passed away. Colin has led the chorus in a most patient and thoughtful manner. He is interested in all of us and has developed the chorus into a fine body of singers, Evidence of this success has been the number of Sing Outs, mentioned above, and this proves that Colin has drilled into us all a wonderful spirit of comradeship and enjoyment in our art of singing.

We all owe Colin a deep debt of thanks and he should now be our *Emeritus Music Director*

**Committee Going Forward for year 2020/2021**

**The following are prepared and are putting their names forward for the various offices**

**President Colin Whitaker**

**Chairman David Andrew**

**Secretary/ Web site Ian Homewood**

**Treasurer Robert Spencer**

**Membership Frank Hughes**

**Chorus Manager Gerry Smith**

**PR and Advertising**

**The Music Committee will be**

Barry Nowell, Pete Dawson(sect), Roger Fieldhouse, Ian Homewood, David Andrew, and our Emeritus MD.

**Charity Box**

During the year we have made a further payment to the Soup Kitchen of £650 . I have been in touch with Pauline Lydiard and Maria of SK to advise that we will help if they have any problems. They are currently operating on an out door service on Saturdays and Sundays, But the main thrust is delivering to many needy.

Before Lockdown we still had the following charities on our spectrum.

The Life Boat House

The Library in Birkdale

**Uniforms**

You will hopefully have received your new Navy Blue trousers. This completes the re uniform of the Chorus which started with our Jackets. So, the uniform for the chorus going forward will be as follows.

Taupe Jacket, Navy Blue Trousers, Blue Shirt, and Yellow Tie. You will need a belt and black shoes with leather top.

As well as the above we will retain a black shirt, mainly for MIB, a white tie and an orange tie.

All other items you may have collected are for the bin. However If you wish you may still use the green jackets and when we meet again I will see if we have any spare green jackets in stock and distribute as appropriate.

I am sure I do not need to note that your uniform is the clubs property and should be maintained to a high standard.

Now we will have a small stock of the main uniform with different sizes to facilitate new members (and those who have changed size). These have been stored , maintained and distributed by Bill Fuller. *We need a Volunteer to take on this duty.*

So, a queue please!!

**Birkdale Con Club**

Just a final note The room we practice in has had an extensive refit . Bill Gerry and myself have had to remove our risers whilst this happened and will return them shortly. As a Chorus we need to consider very carefully the further use of risers for sing outs. I maintain after 30 years that at some stage there will be an accident erecting and transporting the old wooden risers. Only a few of us know how to put them up safely and we are well out of the age bracket for the job. Any Thoughts Please!

I hope I have covered most points and your Committee will appreciate Constructive comments.

Keep singing

David

As an after thought , this Lockdown started in March, ran into some good weather with longer days and plenty of light. We are now entering Autumn and winter with the shorter days and winter weather. So it is important and necessary for us to keep up our spirits and no better way than singing. Watch out neighbours.