

SOUTHPORT BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB
AGM MINUTES THURSDAY OCTOBER 22nd.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic the meeting was held via Zoom technology.

There were 17 members present and apologies were received from Ray Robertson, Stuart Hayling, John Edmiston and Paul Stafford.

2019 Minutes: Geoff Poyner proposed the minutes be accepted, seconded by Jim Little. There were no matters arising.

The secretary welcomed our new Chorus Director Barry to his first AGM with the club though it is noted he had attended them in the past when he was Wayfarer's chorus director. Fulsome tribute was paid to Colin Waite who is stepping down and will be supporting Barry as assistant chorus director.

- 1) **Chairman's Report:** Due to the Covid19 pandemic and the fact that the club's activities have been seriously curtailed it was decided to dispense with the usual committee reports and that the chairman's report would suffice.

David gave a comprehensive report detailing the activities throughout the year. Pre pandemic we had several high profile bookings most of which were abandoned as the corona virus brought our programme to a sudden halt. Prime among these were the engagement at Bliss Hotel for the Southport Dramatic Clubs annual dinner and that at the wedding party at a Lancaster Hotel.

All members have been given a detailed written resume of the chair's report prior to the meeting.

- 2) **Treasurer's Report:** This was delivered by the chair in the absence of the treasurer. Basically the chorus's finances are healthy with a current account of £5865.00. The accounts have not been audited as yet and a more detailed report will be published in due course. All subs are up to date. Major expenditure has been £1800 to BABS; Trouser purchase £650; We

made a donation of £650 to the Southport soup kitchen; the monthly cost for the hire of room and web site totals £86.

- 3) **Secretary's Report:** Secretary talked about 2020 being a year out for the chorus. Several exciting high profile bookings were abandoned due to the virus. He talked of MIB having supported several top class professional entertainers at the Chapel Gallery. Unfortunately the chorus has been unable to meet since early March, and without our weekly session life is much the poorer.

Tribute was paid to Colin Waite and Colin Whittaker for their work, not just for past year but over many years.

Your committee has decided to cancel the Barbershopper of the year this year therefore Jim Little will retain the Lewis Parry trophy for a further year. Colin Whittaker is now in the 2nd year of his reign as president.

- 4) **Chorus Director's Report:** Colin gave a brief account of the years activities and expressed disappointment that so many exciting bookings such as SDC Dinner, Wirral Music festival were unable to take place. Colin said he was looking forward to working with Barry in the future and expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by the committee over the past year. Especially to Ian for the daily newsletter and the advent of Zoom. Colin also paid tribute to the whole chorus for the work they had put in over the years.

- 5) **Election of Committee:** The following members were elected unanimously.

Chairman: David Andrew
Secretary: Ian Homewood
Treasurer: Rob Spencer
P.R.O.: Bob Myers
Chorus Manager: Gerry Smith

6) Items for discussion.

- a. **Zoom;** The meeting agreed to provide funds to pay for a professional Zoom account. This will enable the chorus to meet regularly via the internet.
- b. **Alternative venues;** Ian Homewood is collating a list of potential alternative rehearsal venues and a number of members have been recruited to investigate and report back.
- c. **BABS;** The meeting discussed the wisdom of continuing to subscribe to BABS. The pros as debated were seen as:
 - i) being part of the countrywide association.
 - ii) membership of Making Music who provide public liability insurance for the club.

The cons were:

- i) the excessive cost of membership
- ii) the emphasis that BABS gives to those elite competing chorus's whilst ignoring the concerns of our chorus who were concerned with entertainment and being a community resource.

It was decided to call an EGM to discuss this further and make a decision on our future membership of BABS. This will take place, on Zoom, on Thursday November 22nd at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.