

22nd United Kingdom Sacred Harp Convention

16th – 17th September 2017

Stannington, South Yorks.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Officers: Vicki Elliott (Chair), Catherine Roberts (Vice-chair), Joe Vickers (Secretary), Ted Brown (treasurer)

Vicki Elliott opened the meeting leading 97.

Approx. 45 singers in attendance.

17.1 Approval of 2016 Convention minutes and accounts.

These were approved. Matters arising – none.

17.2 Location of 2018 Convention.

The Brighton singers presented a proposal to host the 2018 Convention. Various options for the Saturday evening social have been explored, although many rely on a high bar spend, which cannot be guaranteed. The Brighton singers will continue to explore venues for the social, and report at the mid-year business meeting. The Brighton singers themselves are not able to provide a great deal of accommodation for singers, but it was pointed out that there are many other options within the town to suit all budgets and tastes. Theresa Maguire suggested that London singers might be able to offer accommodation. The Brighton bid to host the 2018 Convention was approved.

Action: Brighton singers to explore further options for the convention social and report at the mid-year business meeting.

17.3 Location of 2019 Convention.

The Bristol singers presented an informal bid to host the 2019 Convention, and the venue used for 2016 has been provisionally booked. The Bristol bid to host the 2019 Convention was approved.

17.4 Locations for 2020 and beyond

Singers from the East Midlands, York and Tyneside expressed informal interest in hosting the 2020 Convention.

Action: These groups will prepare detailed bids for 2020 and report at the mid-year business meeting.

17.5 Mid-year business meeting.

Discussion was held about having an additional business meeting in the Spring, possibly at the South Yorkshire singing in February or at the East Midlands Convention in April. Such a meeting would allow more time and flexibility for convention bids and other business, and allow convention organising committees to update the community on their plans. It was decided to hold an additional meeting (the “Mid-Year Business Meeting”) at each session of the East Midlands Convention. It was agreed that if any group of singers was unable to attend the meeting but wished to submit a convention bid, they could do so through the locations committee.

17.6 Hosting of convention documents on the UKSHC website.

It was pointed out that a resolution was passed at the 2015 business meeting that convention-related documents (locations guidelines, minutes, accounts etc.) be hosted on the UKSHC website. It is understood that this could not happen at that time due to uncertainty about the long-term status of the website. The UKSHC now has a permanent website, with control over the content etc. to be passed to each organising group as needed. Ed Johnson-Williams has overall responsibility for maintaining the site. It was agreed to host convention documents on the site permanently, and to begin to phase out the Yahoo group. There was some discussion about site security, but it was not felt that the information that is to be uploaded was sufficiently sensitive to warrant password protection or other access restriction.

Action: Ed Johnson-Williams (and team) to continue to maintain the UKSHC website, upload related documents and report at the mid-year business meeting.

Action: Singers who have any convention-related documents (minutes, accounts, resources etc.) that they would like uploading to pass them to Ed.

17.7 Maintenance and format of the UK singings list.

Extensive discussion was held about the format and content of the UK singings list, which is currently maintained by Cath Ingham. It was felt by some (including Cath) that the current paper format is becoming unwieldy given the ever-increasing number of groups and singings both within and outside the UK. It was generally felt that it was not desirable to reduce the number of singings included in the list, but that ways to make the information more streamlined would be welcomed. It was pointed out that some singers prefer or need a hard copy of the singings list. Some singers reported problems when there has been a mismatch of information on the printed list, the UK Shapenote website and on various social media platforms. Various options were discussed. The general consensus among singers was that a single central list should be maintained. It was agreed that Sheila and Edwin would modify the list on their website to enable it to be searched and filtered by location, and to be printed if a hard copy was wanted. It was agreed (with the support of Cath Ingham) that the preparation of a standalone paper singings list will cease.

Action: Sheila and Edwin Macadam and Seth Dickens to work on modifications to the singings calendar and report at the mid-year business meeting.

Action: Cath Tyler to ensure that a printed singings list is available at large singings. Cath is also to manage printing and distributing the list to singers who are not able to access the web version.

17.8 Appointment of locations committee.

Ian West, Judy Whiting, Hannah Land and Karen Turner were re-appointed to the locations committee.

17.9 Appointment of convention treasurer.

Ted Brown was re-appointed as convention treasurer.

17.10 Reconstitution of standing committee.

Matthew Parkinson's time on the standing committee ended, and thanks are recorded to him and the Bristol singers for their work in hosting last year's convention. Catherine Roberts of Brighton was welcomed to the committee as next year's convention chair. The newly-constituted standing committee: Vicki Elliott (2017 chair), Catherine Roberts (2018 chair) and Ted Brown (UKSHC treasurer).

There being no further business Catherine Roberts closed the meeting leading 114.

Adjunct:

17.11 Chairmanship of mid-year meeting.

On September 20th the standing committee resolved that the mid-year business meeting would be chaired by the outgoing (i.e. previous year's) convention chair.