

UK Sacred Harp Convention

Business Meeting, East Midlands Convention, Kegworth, 27th April 2019

Chair: Hannah Land

Present: 15 singers

1. Apologies for absence

Steve Brett

2. Report for 2019 Convention

No report has been received from Bristol but it is believed that all necessary arrangements are in hand. The chair will be Steve Brett.

3. Locations Update

2020: The East Midlands team (chair Helen Brown) have a firm booking for the Lomas Hall, Stannington but have not yet paid a deposit. Helen has two other possible locations to view around Derby. A final decision will be taken in the summer and confirmed at Bristol.

2021: Emily Verrier is offering to lead the organisation of a 2021 Convention in York. She is proposing to use a school, which appears to have suitable singing and eating spaces on the ground floor; a trial of the acoustics will be conducted in the next few months. Hire of the school kitchens is unaffordable but the school is happy to let them use the food technology classrooms, which are on the floor above; there is a lift connecting the floors and plenty of trolleys for conveying food, crockery etc. With this in mind, it was agreed to propose to the meeting at Bristol that, starting in 2020, Conventions should not offer facilities for cooking or heating food – if singers wish to bring hot food, they should bring their own slow cookers or other heating appliances (with appropriate PAT certificates). Emily will compile details of the proposed York venue for presentation at Bristol.

4. Code of Conduct

Ed Johnson-Williams has circulated a draft Code of Conduct document but not many people have seen it. Hannah will ask Ed to re-circulate it more widely for further comment. The draft was read out. It proposes that the point of contact for any complaints would, in the first instance, be the Convention Chaplain. There was some concern that Chaplains will need to be appraised of this responsibility and some may not be comfortable with it. It was also considered that more thought needs to be given to options (if any) for action in the case of a reported breach.

5. Web site

An archive of the existing UK Shape Note web site has been created; it will continue to be live until the new site is up and running. A trial version of this will be launched by the end of June and user comments invited. The annual running cost is expected to be between £68 and £133 per year.

6. Finance

Total funds held were £2,377.90 at August 2018. The accounts will be updated for the Bristol meeting.

Ian West 03/05/2019