

# UK SACRED HARP CONVENTION 2019

## *Business Meeting Minutes*

*15<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

Officers: Steve Brett (Chair), Helen Brown (Vicechair), Ted Brown (Treasurer), and Matthew Parkinson (Secretary)

Approx. 40 singers in attendance.

Steve Brett opened the business meeting with 74b.

**20.1 Approval of 2018 Business Meeting Minutes – approved and ratified as correct.**

**20.2 2020 Convention Venue**

Ian West introduced details of the 2020 convention venue in Derby. Ian took questions from the floor and confirmed that, in the event of a rainy day, there is additional indoor seating to use during the lunch break. He also confirmed that the closest airports for singers to travel from the convention to Camp Fasola Europe would be East Midlands Airport and Manchester Airport. Steve Brett proposed that we use the venue for 2020; motion carried with all in favour.

**20.3 2021 Convention Venue**

Emily Verrier and Richard Mayers summarised the results of their hunt for convention venues in York/Leeds. They've found a possible venue in Rothwell, but have concerns about its capacity of 150 people. **Emily and Richard agreed to send the details of the venue to the locations committee.**

Steve Brett motioned to accept York/Leeds as hosts of UKSHC 2021 on the understanding that **(1) a suitable venue will be found by the time of the East Midlands Convention in April 2020 and (2) Lomas Hall would be provisionally booked as a fall-back.** Motion carried with all in favour.

The Sacred Harp singers from both Bristol and Brighton expressed positive sentiment about hosting the convention post 2021.

**20.4.1 UKSHC Lunch Preparation (i)**

Helen Brown raised the issue of preparing the lunch and having a kitchen team for UKSHC. She explained that having a kitchen team heating food and washing up crockery is unnecessary and is unfair on those singers. An adequate lunch can be prepared using only cold dishes and slow cookers, and dirty crockery can easily be cleaned at home. The requirement of kitchen facilities to heat food and wash up has been limiting our choice of venues for future conventions.

Helen motioned that UKSHC moves to a model similar to that used at Southern singings in the USA: Singers are expected to prepare and heat their own food, and they are expected to take home their dirty crockery to wash at home. Motion carried.

#### **20.4.2 UKSHC Lunch Preparation (ii)**

Matthew Parkinson motioned that UKSHC should use eco-friendly, compostable, disposable cutlery and crockery rather than the plastic plates and cutlery that were purchased in past years. Some of the plastic plates have started to crack and will have to be dumped – defeating the purpose of avoiding landfill waste – and washing up all the crockery and cutlery for the convention is a mammoth task that places undue strain on those responsible for the task. Steve Brett added the caveat that, depending on a venue's facilities, the plastic crockery and cutlery could still be used until it is in too bad repair for further use. Motion carried.

#### **20.5 UPDATE: New Website for UK Sacred Harp Community**

Seth Dickens summarised the progress made in replacing [www.ukshapenote.org.uk](http://www.ukshapenote.org.uk) with an alternative. He specifically thanked Steve Brett for his work and success in creating a new website. The entire team working on the website – Steve Brett, Seth Dickens, Eimear O'Donovan, and Robin Bisson – were thanked for their joint work. The archiving of [www.ukshapenote.org.uk](http://www.ukshapenote.org.uk) is progressing with help from Edwin Macadam and Sheila Girling Macadam.

Steve directed singers to the new website, [sacredharp.uk](http://sacredharp.uk), and explained that the domain name will eventually be changed to match the old website. One person per singing will be given login details, enabling them to edit the details of their respective singing event. Steve will continue to take feedback about how singers want to use the site.

#### **20.6 UKSHC Code of Conduct**

On behalf of Ed Johnson-Williams, Vicki Elliot thanked the UK Sacred Harp community for its feedback on and support of his draft Code of Conduct. Due to family circumstances, Ed cannot continue to work on this for the next few months, so he invited volunteers to help him with the project. Rachel Wemyss and Emily Verrier expressed interest in volunteering for this. Matthew Parkinson motioned that Rachel and Emily should join Ed in writing a suitable Code of Conduct for UKSHC. Motion carried with all in favour.

#### **20.7 Appointment of Treasurer, Locations Committee and Standing Committee**

Steve Brett motioned to keep the treasurer (Ted Brown) and the members of the locations committee (Hannah Land, Karen Turner, Ian West and Judy Whiting) unchanged, and he motioned that the new standing committee should be himself, Helen Brown and Ted Brown. Motions carried with all in favour.

There being no further business, Helen Brown closed the meeting by leading 49t.