

## 2018-19 AGM Year ending September 2019

**Chairman's Opening remarks.** John Mallinson welcomed all members and declared the meeting open. The meeting would follow the format as set out in the Constitution.

**Apologies:** J. Senior, C. Turner, S. Hill, S. Broadbent, R. Gooch, R. Coombs, E. Hambleton, T. Ashworth, F. Sims, D. Haigh, J. Rotchell

**Minutes of the last AGM.** These had been posted on the website and, there being no issues raised from the floor, he asked for formal approval. **Proposer-** Graham Dawson, **Seconder-** Doug Shuttleworth

### **Chairman's Report :-**

The Chairman reported that the Committee, all standing again, had all worked very hard and well this year, always willing to take on work and always supporting each other. He gave sincere thanks to the many Members who contributed in a host of different ways. He gave special thanks to Robert Coombs and Ray Thompson for organising the Music Library so effectively and to the Music Sub Committee who have once again worked very hard in the interests of the to select music to add to the repertoire. The Chairman also gave special thanks to Emma who is in integral part of the team. He then turned to Alan to give him special thanks for his nine years of outstanding leadership as only our third Musical Director. He will be a very difficult man to replace when he stands down in October as he has always given his time unstintingly. Much more tribute will be paid in due course. We are determined to find a worthy successor. The camaraderie of our choir is remarkable with 90% attendances at rehearsals. Alan deserves credit for this and we are committed to finishing his term of office well to give him a good year to remember.

The Chairman gave special mention to the contribution made by Steve Flynn in marketing and publicity work. There were no changes to the Constitution during the year.

### **Secretary's Report:-**

Andy Johnston pledged to be briefer than at the previous AGM with formal reports and brief views on where we stand. He reported that we had lost and gained members during the year and that Membership continues to hover around 60. Big recruitment efforts have been led by David Haigh, and we learned from a mini survey which confirmed that new members usually join when they are brought along as friends to sample what we have to offer. Andy said that the Management Committee exists for two main reasons- (1) to ensure compliance with Charity Commission requirements and (2) to effectively manage the business of the choir in such a way as to secure our future musically, financially and socially. We are in good shape. The Committee has met monthly and only once was inquorate (decisions being endorsed at the following meeting). We have conformed to the requirements of the Charity Commission, and Annual Submissions for 2018-9 will be made following the AGM. The only Sub Committee is the Music Sub Committee who will be looking to introduce more 21<sup>st</sup> Century pieces to the repertoire. The Main Committee has worked well without change of persona with the exception that Tony Clayton Smith had resigned during the course of the year. Andy gave his personal thanks to Emma and to Alan who both work unstintingly on our behalf. We owe Alan lasting gratitude- he has given us heart and soul over the years.

### **Treasurers Report and Accounts presentation:**

Steve said that the Accounts had been posted for several weeks to allow members to comment and there had been no questions or issues raised. The Accounts were accepted unanimously as a true record.

Steve said that the overall financial position was strong and that budget forecasts for the year had proved accurate. Costs are predictable, revenue less so, but have been around forecast. Income from concerts other than the Town Hall do not vary far from forecast and the Huddersfield Town Concert well met expectations. The Chairman thanked Steve for his hard work- much more than people recognise, and said that it was a blessing to have a professional Accountant to look after our finances.

## **Musical Directors Report:-Alan Brierley**

Alan first thanked all those who contributed the success of 2018-9 and said that the choir built on the successes of 2018 to reach greater heights. We launched 'One Moment in Time' at the concert with Denby Dale Ladies, which was followed by Netherton Methodists concert in April where we hosted a young soprano , Charlotte Brown we all enjoyed seeing the progress of a young performer. Alan recalled one of his worst moments when, close to the concert venue he realised that he had forgotten his tuxedo. Somehow he made it! In September we had a very enjoyable concert at Penistone Paramount when The Mastersingers were our guests. The choir were able to take seats to watch them give a great performance. The Huddersfield Town Hall Concert with the Temperance Seven was great fun and a great success, but one lesson learned was just how much work was required to learn a joint piece. It was complex and took up too much rehearsal time. Our Christmas Concert at Penistone Paramount went well and we benefited from better changing facilities. But Low Moor was a bit disappointing in that compared to previous years, there were only a handful of school children, who have always been a delight in the past. Also it was not a full house. Our own concert at New Mill Church was memorable and we were able to give Charlotte Brown a solo spot.

Alan's special memory of the year was sadly the funeral of his mother. He gave thanks to the choir for a very special and emotional performance in her memory.

Alan looks forward to his last seven months as the Town Hall Concert with UOGB will be his last as MD. He gave thanks to all for the support he has received.

**Other Reports:-** none

**Election of Officers:-** The Chairman reported that all members of existing the Committee had offered themselves for re-election and been proposed and seconded. A vote was duly taken and the proposal accepted unanimously.

## **Amendments to the Constitution**

No changes were proposed or made to the existing written Constitution

**Any Other Business** *(all items will be discussed at the first meeting of the new Committee) :-*

**Rupert Wilson:** Rupert asked whether a process for selection of a new M.D. had been agreed. John Middleton replied that advertisements had been carefully worded and publicised. The exact selection process has yet to be determined as we have no idea yet of the size of response. It will involve shortlisting and most probably, shortlisted candidates will be asked to rehearse the choir. It is likely that there will be a Member voting process. **Rupert** asked if we had a choir sponsor. The Chairman that we have not had one since our beneficiary Edgar Dickinson died. The choir is on a sound financial footing and has no plans for an external sponsor

**Alan Hicks** asked why we advertise the HTH concert price at £25 . It is a decision made by Committee. The price is very reasonable for Ukulele Orchestra of GB who often command £40 seat prices. Nobody like it but it has become the norm for booking charges to be applied.

Ray Thompson made suggestions about linking new pieces to events e.g 50 Years of the Beatles. The Chairman said that The Committee have agreed to make two suggestions of recent music each at the next MC Meeting

**The Committee for 2019/20 will be:** John Mallinson (Chair), Steve Davies (Treasurer), Andy Johnston ( Secretary), John Middleton ( Website & Communications), David Haigh ( Membership), Howard Samuels ( Secretarial and General), Derek Holman (Concerts and Music), John Clay (Social)

**There being no other business,** the Chairman declared the AGM closed at 7.40pm.

Andy Johnston Choir Secretary 11/3/20