

# Crystal Palace Band

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 24 April 2019

**Present:** Bob Barnes, Tom Whittaker, Peter Forbes, Alex Patterson, Richard Lovett, David Storey, Alison Charlesworth, Kim Golson, Brian Cowlin, Barbara Eifler, David Gillman, Hannah Leslie, Bernard Akinyamoju, Anne Taylor, Mike Gray, Mike Cook, Dave Howell, Ross Dunsmore, Roger Morton, Margaret Larkin, Heather Pearse, Adam Payn, Rachel Bleach, Roger Bleach, Carol Maher, Chris Maher, Martin Garnett, Nikki Maher, Alan Murdoch, Ben Ward, Catherine Tinker, Laura Channell, Maurice Gourd, Ben Dowsett, Luke Thompson, Ambrose Gibbons, Graham Lunn.

**Apologies:** Danny Wakefield, Kenneth May,

Tom Whittaker opened the meeting at 8.07pm and thanked everyone for attending. Tom explained that Dianne would like a chance to speak to the band.

Dianne apologised to the band for resigning a week before the Area contest at Stevenage. She explained that her daughter's health had deteriorated and she is now her full time carer which is why she has had to leave the band. Tom thanked Dianne for all the work she has done for the band over the years.

Tom explained that the aim is to review the year, elect a committee and talk about any issues.

### **Approval of Minutes of last AGM**

No comments from last year – minutes agreed

### **Reports from Committee Members**

**All reports are on the band website for all to read**

#### **Secretary - Rachel Bleach**

- One additional job since the report was written – Clapham Common.
- Unfortunately we will not be playing at Ruskin Park this year.
- Roger B asked if the number of jobs booked for the year (quite low) was unusual for this time of year. Rachel said it was a couple of jobs down but more were likely to come in.
- Tom thanked Rachel for all her hard work.

#### **Treasurer – David Charlesworth**

- We have spent more money than normal this year; External jackets, banners for the Progress Band,
- Most of the income elements are the same as last year.
- We have made a saving on the insurance and it's now a package that fits our band better than previous ones.
- Rent for the museum is the same this year as last year - £1800.
- Tom thanked David for all the work he has done as treasurer this year and for the work he does for the Progress Band.

#### **Librarian - Richard Lovett**

- Richard thanked everyone for looking after the music.
- He explained how the main band pads had been split into two pads; a gig pad and a practice pad.
- We haven't spent much money on music this year as we've had a lot of arrangements done by Kenneth May.
- The list for music suggestions is on the website if anyone wants to make music suggestions.
- If people want to buy music please check with Richard to see if we already have the piece.
- David Gillman asked if there was a list of all the music we have. Richard explained that there is an excel spreadsheet on the website that can be downloaded that has all of this info.
- Tom thanked Richard for all his hard work as the librarian.

#### **Progress Band – Dave Howell / Bob Barnes**

- Band is vibrant and full of enthusiastic people.
- Starting to reach saturation point as so many new members have joined. The PB committee is going to review their open-door policy.
- Maurice suggested having a junior band. Bob explained that this was a possible solution but we would need a MD to take this band.

- Peter said one of the most enjoyable elements of the PB was the variety of ages of people who play. He said it would be a shame to separate the younger people from the older people.
- Alison thanked Dave Howell for giving up his time for free to take the band
- Tom thanked Bob for all the work he does for the PB.

#### **Property – Ben Ward**

- Following a lot of work we now have a complete asset register of band equipment.
- A lot of work has also been done on retrieving band jackets from members who have left.
- Ben thanked David C for all the work he has done on putting together the asset list.
- Ben also thanked David, Richard and Dianne for moving all the instruments out of the undercroft and checking them all out.
- Tom thanked Ben for all the hard work he has done this year.

#### **Musical Director - Mike Gray**

- Mike thanked both bands for the enjoyable Christmas concert.
- Mike said the main band is going from strength to strength and he thanked Danny and Dave for all their support.
- Tom said a very big thank you to Mike for all that he does for us.

#### **Chairman's Report – Tom Whittaker**

It's been a fantastic year and a privilege to be the Band's Chairman.

- Thanks to the committee for all the hard work over the year.
- Thanks to all band members for the support and help at rehearsals and at band concerts.
- Please do help with the percussion, putting chairs away, tidying up the band room at the end of rehearsals etc.
- Please can everyone have a read of the band child protection policy. All members should know about child protection.
- Please make sure you are listening to the conductors during rehearsals and not talking. Talking can be very distracting for everyone.
- There are a few things we will be looking at as a committee this year
  - We are going to have a meeting with the museum to talk about improvements.
  - Last year we talked about moving rehearsal venue. There were lots of good things about the church venue but there were a couple of sticking points and, as a consequence, we will be staying at the museum.
  - We are going to get new chairs for the band and will be purchased after the meeting with the museum.
  - We are going to look at applying for charitable status for the band.
  - Going to have a "work / social" day. This will involve sorting out the storeroom, sorting out the undercroft, cleaning up the band areas within the museum. This will finish with a BBQ.

#### **Election of New Band Committee**

**No new nominations were received and all current committee members happy to stand again.**

- Band Chair - Adam Payn proposed Tom, Laura Channell seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Property Master – Roger Morton proposed Ben Ward, Laura Channell seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Librarian – Brian Cowlin proposed Richard Lovett, Ben Ward seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Publicity officer - Cath Tinker proposed Laura Channell, Ben Ward seconded. Vote unanimous. Tom thanked Nicci Maher for all the work she has done this year.
- Treasurer – Tom Whittaker proposed David Charlesworth, Kim Golson seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Secretary – Tom Whittaker proposed Rachel Bleach, Laura Channell seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Assistant Secretary – Ben Ward proposed Cath Tinker, Nicci Maher seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Progress band chair – Ben Ward proposed Bob Barnes, Hannah seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Ex officio - Laura Channell proposed Heather Pearse, Alex Batteson seconded. Vote unanimous.
- Ex officio - Cath Tinker proposed Ben Dowsett, Ben Ward seconded. Vote unanimous.

#### **Any Other Business**

##### **Change to band subscriptions**

The committee proposed the following

- To keep subs at £90 per year

- Removing the unwaged and pensioner 50% discount and change this so that unwaged and people on benefits pay no subscriptions. Children would still have the 50% discount. Pensioners who could afford it will be asked to pay the full sub price of £90 Changing the family discount so that a family is only charged for 2 school aged children
- Creating a discretionary fund (using 5% of yearly subscriptions) to support band members who currently cannot afford to come on band trips.

Bob asked if these changes would be broadly subscription neutral. David said that there possibly would be a slight increase in subscription takings. He also asked if the discretionary fund could apply to both bands. This was agreed.

Alan said that in all other groups in which he is a member, the pensioner discount doesn't apply. However the change in the band sub price for him may mean he may not be able to be part of the band.

Anne asked if 5% of subs taking would be enough. Tom said that it was.

Roger Morton asked if we really needed the fund. Could we not just use the money in the bank and save the bureaucracy. David said that the fund meant that there is a limit the chair could spend without having to address the committee. Roger also asked if it would be held in a separate account. David said yes.

David Storey said he was concerned that children would be charged 50% to be a member. What are we going to do if a parent can't afford this. It was agreed that if parents have difficulties we could discuss it as a committee.

A vote was taken on the proposed changes to subs -

- Keeping subs at £90 – the majority agreed
- Removing the unwaged and pensioner 50% discount and changing this so that unwaged and people on benefits pay no subscriptions. Children would still have the 50% discount. Pensioners who could afford it will be asked to pay the full sub price of £90. – The majority agreed
- Family discount withdrawn and a family is only charged for a maximum of 2 school aged children – the majority agreed.
- Creating a chairs' discretionary fund (using 5% of yearly subscriptions) to support band members who currently cannot afford to come on band trips. – the majority agreed.

### **Work / Social Day to clean up the museum**

- There are instruments in the undercroft that need to be cleaned, maintained and some that need to be disposed of.
- Some of the instruments could be given to "Instruments for Africa"
- Ben to propose a date for this to happen.
- Kim asked if Ben could put together a list of jobs so that people could volunteer to do specific tasks. Ben agreed.
- There would be a social at the end.

### **Thank you's**

- Adam said a thank you to everyone who helped him with the percussion every week.
- Roger Bleach said a thank you to Adam for making the tea each week.
- Mike Cook said a big thank you to Alison for being the librarian for the Progress Band.

**Meeting closed at 9.12 pm**