

Crystal Palace Band

Minutes of Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 29 April 2020

Present: Bob Barnes, Tom Whittaker, Peter Forbes, Richard Lovett, Alison Charlesworth, Kim Golson, Barbara Eifler, Bernard Akinyamoju, Mike Gray, Mike Cook, Dave Howell, Ross Dunsmore, Roger Morton, Heather Pearse, Adam Payn, Rachel Bleach, Roger Bleach, Martin Garnett, Alan Murdoch, Ben Ward, Catherine Tinker, Laura Channell, Ben Dowsett, Graham Lunn, Andrew Rixon, Richard Clifton, David Charlesworth, Colin Robinson, Richard Edney, Alice Garcia-Rodriguez, Rebecca.

Apologies: Hywel Jones, Graham Cornish, Hannah Leslie, Kenneth May

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

This meeting was held online over Zoom due to the lockdown occurring because of the coronavirus. All members were muted with only people giving reports or asking questions being unmuted. Agreement was given by visual clapping or thumbs up.

Chairs Report – David Charlesworth

- We need to think about how we appoint new officers to the committee - there are currently a number of vacancies. A couple of people have volunteered but we need more volunteers, The band is at a crossroads and a number of committee members want to either step down or move roles. If anyone could consider volunteering then this would be much appreciated.
- David thanked all the committee members from both bands who keep the bands going.
- David thanked both the music directors for the tremendous amount of work they do for us each year.

Secretary - Rachel Bleach

- We have another gig in October. The two gigs in the summer might not happen because of the virus. We will wait to see what happens.
- Roger Bleach asked what will happen to the regional finals this year. Rachel confirmed that our area won't attend the final. Our grading will stay the same this year.
- Rachel suggested that we take the area contest piece to the SCABA contest in the autumn so that the work we have done isn't wasted. The band confirmed that they would like to do this.

Treasurer – David Charlesworth

- We made a loss of £80 this year. This is because our concert fees went down this year. We also spent more money on deps, rehearsal venues and music than other years which has impacted on the finances.
- The museum has agreed to halve the rent for the period that we can't use the museum and we will delay paying our performing rights society fees until we can perform again. These two things will save the band around £800.
- Roger asked if the dep fee cost was because the dep fee was up or because we needed more players. David Charlesworth confirmed that across the two bands we have needed more deps over the year.

Librarian - Richard Lovett

- Richard is looking to get a more interactive music library on the website so that band members know what music we have and which band has the music.

Property – Ben Ward

- Good year in terms of property. We've tidied up the store room. We've got back a number of jackets and band instruments.

- Not been able to do the instrument refurbishment yet. But this will be done as soon as possible once the lockdown ends.
- Ben said a big thank you to everyone who transports band property around to rehearsals, jobs and contests.
- Dave Howell said Philippe was still working and could do the refurbishment of the instruments as soon as needed.
- Roger Bleach asked if we have a full complement of jackets and if we could redistribute them so that people have better fitted jackets. Ben said he was planning to do this and get additional jackets made so that we have a set that fits. David Charlesworth said we need to consider being careful with money this year.

Musical Director - Mike Gray

- Mike is pleased about the continued cooperation between the two bands. The collective meeting of the two bands online during lockdown is really lovely.
- Mike wanted to say a big thank you to Ross and Peter on cornet who have helped the main band out this year.
- David Charlesworth said a big thank you to Mike for all the work he does.
- Laura Chanell also said a massive thank you to Mike for all he does and all the hard work he puts in. Everyone clapped in agreement.

Progress Band – Dave Howell / Bob Barnes

- Progress band have had a fantastic year. Dave is hoping we can get back up to speed quickly once the lockdown is over.
- Dave said it was great that, during lockdown, we are still being able to do things online with Mike and Bob's help.
- Laura Chanell said a big thank you to Dave Howell for all that he does and for doing such an amazing job. Everyone clapped in agreement.
- Bob Barnes thanked Dave Howell for his efforts with the Progress Band.
- Bob spoke about the new 6B band on behalf of Richard Harber. This band has only just recently launched but take-up had been good and approximately 5 new faces were being seen each week. Very early days but very promising progress so far. Thank you Richard and the team for all the work you do for this band.
- David Charlesworth has said that a Progress Band member has asked if the Progress Band could wear bow-ties for gigs. This wasn't discussed further.
- Peter Forbes wanted to propose a big thank you to Bob for all the efforts he puts in for the Progress Band and for all the work he has put into pulling together the online recordings. Everyone clapped in agreement.

Any Other Business

Proposal for 2020 subs

- Subs year begins on the 1st May
- As we can't meet at the moment David Charlesworth proposed that subs were payable but the first three months were voluntary in the circumstances.
- Barbara said that it was a lovely idea but that some people might want to consider paying subs on a voluntary basis. The band does still have outgoings and people should be able to pay their subs if they wanted to.
- Ben Dowsett said he agreed with Barbara and that it would be more of a hassle to change his direct debit.
- Kim Golson also agreed with Barbara and Ben.
- Bernie asked for a reminder of the subs cost. David confirmed that subs were £90 per year. These can be paid on a standing order or in one lump sum. Students and certain concessions pay £45.
- Bernie asked if we were a registered charity. David Charlesworth confirmed that we weren't.

- Peter Forbes asked where the details for setting up a standing order for subs were. David Charlesworth said they were on the website but that he could send around the details.
- David amended the subs proposal to say that subs would be suspended for the first quarter but that people could continue to pay if they wished to.

Playing Together.

Roger Morton asked if there were any other software platforms that we could use to play together.

- Barbara said there were work around options
 - MD is unmuted and plays a backing track. Band members are all muted and play along to the backing track.
 - People use breakout rooms to discuss certain pieces
- Cath suggested that it might be a good idea to try Barbara's first work around option - Mike conduct along to a backing track, muted band members play along in their house. It was agreed that we could try this with the Floral Dance.

David suggested suspending the AGM at 8.37 pm until we were in a position to meet again to elect committee members. The meeting agreed with a thumbs up.

8.37pm – Meeting was suspended.