

# ECC AGM MINUTES

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Freston Village Hall

19:30

Present: Andy, Lou, Wendy, Michele, Harold, David, Dan, Jon, Graham, Bob F, Keith

Apologies: Ben, Brian, Squeaky, Sarah

- **P&P Document**

The AGM did not start until everyone in attendance had signed or acknowledged the P&P document.

- **Chair's Report AW**

We have had a great year, a year in which we gained members, and unfortunately lost some, we went out and sang for the public, in a pub, at an event, and in the streets of Ipswich.

Our membership is at **27**, and obviously we would welcome more members.

ECC is fun, the way we interact with each other, the jokes, and the silliness at times, keeps the whole ECC experience an enjoyable one... And we learn!!

Our first sing out told us a lot, mostly about our song choices.. In the policy and purpose document we set out that we aim to do less traditional barbershop stuff and more contemporary songs that people know.. This seems to have been the right choice, as when we did that first sing out at Mannings, we had great applause for the "popular songs", and muted applause for the more traditional stuff. Our formula is working.

Even the convention songs that we've picked are two "known" songs, so we're staying on track. Don't think that we won't do some more traditional stuff, if the right one comes along, we will do it, the traditional stuff tends to be better for tuning and chords, so every now and then one of those will help in many ways.

I wish to thank Lou for her great work behind the scenes, we haven't had any arguments about the chorus.... Yet!

And also, I'd like to thank Ben for his efforts, and the time he puts in away from rehearsals, and I must say he's a bloody good teacher!!

And I'd like to thank you lot, the members of East Coast Collective, without you we wouldn't have a chorus, that's obvious, but without you we wouldn't be who we are. You all make coming to rehearsals a joy.... And that goes for this table too!

- **MD's Report BT**

In Ben's absence his report was presented by Andy. Please see attached document for the text.

## • Treasurers Report AW

- Just for clarification the ECC year runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> as per IBHC, so that we are aligned in our workings.
- The money collected for subs each week is aimed at covering the cost of the hall
  - The hall is £20 for the session
  - If we have 10 full members turn up, we have covered the hall
  - Any extra money is put into ECC funds
- Last year's accounts closed at **£281.03**
- This year to date our account is at **£18**
- So the total to date is **£299.03**
- **Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report**
- A proposal was made to change to a monthly membership fee of perhaps £12. This will enable us to subsidise BABS membership for members who don't already have it, as well as other ECC activities.
- A proposal was made to charge perhaps £5 per night for non-members
  - Both passed unanimously
  - To be reviewed annually
  - Andy to check viability and advise members accordingly
  - Ben to be exempt from paying
- We still need to open a bank account. Suggestions below to be explored further (Andy, Lou, Michele, Dan)
  - *This could be done through collaboration with VIPs, under the IBHC umbrella*
  - *Michele raised the question of the ECC financial status - do we want to explore Charitable Status or Community Interest Company before we open an account*

## • Membership Report AW

- As mentioned in my statement, our membership is at **27** which on paper is very healthy, it's just a shame that not all members turn up all the time, but what can you do, people have lives.
  - This membership figure includes the sometimes members
  - If we look at the membership, the figure for the ones that turn up is around **16**
  - Average attendance so far this year is **13**
- There has been an influx of members, while at the same time some seem to have fallen to the side, without actually saying if they've quit or not.
- I have started this financial year, a system that records absences, with apologies or notice, or just plain "didn't turn up, don't know why"
  - We can then hopefully keep on top of things and offer help and guidance should it be needed.
- We need to have definitive answers from non-attenders as ECC are now registered with BABS, and membership of BABS means all members have to be members of BABS

## • Election of Officers

- Notice of intent to continue in post was received from:
  - Andy - Chairman
  - Ben - Musical Director
  - Brian - Vice Chairman
  - Lou - Hon Secretary
  - Wendy - Music Officer

- Daniel Wesley - Membership Secretary

- Two new committee members were elected unanimously:

- Dan J -Treasurer
  - Proposer Wendy
  - Seconder Bob F
- Keith -Recruitment Officer
  - Proposer Andy
  - Seconder Dan J

- **Confirmation of MD**

Ben was reappointed unanimously

- **BABS**

- East Coast Collective, are now members of BABS, with ECC registered under the "Ipswich Barbershop Harmony Club" umbrella.
- "Since you're putting yourselves under the umbrella of an existing club there are no formal requirements from BABS in terms of registration, so you can consider East Coast Collective acknowledged and registered as the mixed chorus under Ipswich BHC!
  - Of course, you'll need to ensure that all members of ECC are registered with BABS in the normal way and that their membership subs are paid."
- *So our next step is to get all members registered with BABS (AW)*
- BABS membership costs £45 per year, or £11.25 per year for those aged 25 and under. Your membership gives you:
  - Harmony Express digital magazine
  - Harmony College discounted rates
  - Music Online Discount
  - Access to Making Music resources
  - Member rates with the Barbershop Harmony Society
  - Eligibility to enter BABS Contests, subject to the eligibility rules for each contest

- **Convention**

- Convention 2023 is on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023, it is in Bournemouth, there has been a letter sent out previously about convention and costs involved, I can send them out again should anyone require a reminder
  - The sooner you can think about it, the better. I know that ECC members that are in the VIPs are probably going, but ECC members need to think about it. For a chorus to participate there needs to be a minimum of 12 people.

- **Matters Arising**

- Lou agreed to act as convention co-ordinator
- There is an Air BnB available which would accommodate up to 8 people if willing to share rooms. Less than then cost of a hotel, but price depends on numbers. Contact Lou if interested

- **Uniform**

- It was noted that the formal uniform should not be expensive as it will only be needed occasionally
- We looked at all the uniform ideas that can be sourced locally. Some unfortunately couldn't be sourced
- There was a consensus on the turquoise shirt as the basis of the uniform
- We preferred the idea of an enamel pin rather than an embroidered logo

- We liked the shirt with tan bottoms, as it reflects our costal theme and our fun ethos, however it might be more practical to have black bottoms
- The gold waistcoat was well liked, but might be something to add at a later date
- The consultation will remain open for another few weeks - please make your comments to Lou
- The Executive Committee will make a final decision in due course

- **AOB**

- Recruitment
  - We are still recruiting new members and welcoming back previous members
  - The publicity on Social Media is working well
  - Other forms of media need to be developed
    - Please send ideas and contacts to Lou to collate for Keith

- **Meeting closed at**

- 20:51

- **Provisional meeting schedule**

- 12 Dec 2022 ExCom - Please note change of date
- 6 Mar 2023 ExCom
- 5 Jun 2023 ExCom
- 4 Sep 2023 AGM