

ECC AGM MINUTES

Monday 11th September 2023
Freston Village Hall
19:30

Attendance

Ben, Andy, Brian, Lou, Harold, Bob F, Michele, Karen, David, Janet, Dan

Apologies

Fiona, Caroline, Wendy

Chair's Report

We have had a roller coaster year, a year in which we gained members, and unfortunately lost some, we went out and sang for the public, in a pub, and in the streets of Ipswich.... And of course we entered BABS 49th convention at Bournemouth

Events in the last year

- ECC Open Day/Celebration of Music, at Freston Village hall
 - On September 10th 2022, we had a successful day showing off what we do, joined by The VIPs and Fever Pitch, to provide a day of entertainment. With buffet food, plenty of hot and cold drinks, and a raffle. A good time was had by all, one comment we got was that it all felt very comfortable
- Buttermarket Shopping Centre
 - On Sunday December 11th 2022 we sang, in the Buttermarket Shopping Centre. It went very well, was very well received by public and the management of the Buttermarket themselves. We even managed to attract a new member.
- Buttermarket 28th March- Much the same but no new members
- Steamboat Tavern 23rd Feb
 - We sang well and received some great feedback
- Convention 28th May
 - We sang 2 songs; Come fly with me and When somebody loved me
 - I think I speak for everyone when I say it was a good weekend
 - We had many many good comments
 - Last week we had Bob Croft came and give us our evaluation, and there were a lot of positives... Still a way to go, but we're heading in the right direction
- Ipswich Waterfront busking 22nd July
 - We had a good time doing this, the waterfront wasn't very busy but we got a positive response from the public

There have been some ups and downs this year, which at one point had the future of the chorus in doubt, we were the proverbial swan... Nice and graceful on the surface... legs going like the clappers underneath where they can't be seen!!

However, for the foreseeable future we are secure, and we hope to make progress and see us go from strength to strength.

It is with all your hard work that we will be able to achieve this and it has been all your hard work to get us to where we are now.

East Coast Collective seem to getting known, we are making a name for ourselves, whatever we are doing, we are doing it right, so let's keep doing it!!!

MD's Report

It has been an eventful year. We started with an enjoyable Music Day, and are looking forward to the next one at the weekend.

Ben is happy with the progress of the chorus. He pushed us hard before Convention and this made a big difference.

Ben is looking forward to the continued development of the chorus with more input from other chorus members.

The last year has been up and down for Ben and his thoughts about his future, but he is more settled now and is looking forward to staying local.

Treasurer's Report

- All members are currently paying £12 straight into the bank account
- Our Total as of right now is £889.93
- Accounts are now self-managed via the bank account
- All we need to do is check the figures every quarter (EXCOM Meeting)
- Any expenditure is seen on the statement
- Any expenditure has to be authorised with 2 people, myself and Lou

Membership

- Our membership is at 16, which is disappointing and more effort needs to be done to build up membership. This time last year we had 27 so we are 11 down
- Average attendance for the last year is 12 and so far this year it's 11, with last week being a high of 14

Election of Officers

- Notice of intent was given and officers reappointed unopposed were:
 - Andy - Chairman
 - Brian - Vice Chairman
 - Lou - Hon Secretary
- The following were nominated and elected unanimously:
 - Karen - Performance Director Proposer:Lou Seconder:Andy
 - Janet. - Treasurer Proposer:Lou Seconder:Caroline
 - Dan. - Music Officer Proposer:Andy Seconder:Brian

Wendy wanted to step down as Music Officer if there was someone else willing to take it on

Confirmation of MD

Ben Topliss was appointed unanimously

New officers' statements

None

Matter arising

(initials in brackets indicate person responsible for taking action)

- Ideas were discussed for promoting sing outs (KH), including Open Mike Nights (BC). These should be brought to the next ExCom meeting.
- We need to chase up the videos made at the last sing out (BT)
- We should make sure we invite local people to the Music Day (JW BT)

A.O.B

- Music Day
 - This year it has been rebranded "Music Day" to try and attract all sorts of acts
 - This year's Music Day is on the 16th and hopefully it will be bigger and better
 - As usual we will be asking for donations, hand having a raffle to raise money
 - Please can everyone bring something for the buffet which will be laid out on the snooker table
 - And if you have anything that we can use as raffle prizes, please bring them along too
- Convention 2024
 - Harrogate, 24th-27th May
 - BABS 50th Anniversary
 - Music City Chorus & Instant Classic are headline guests
 - Do we want to take part?
 - If we don't take part who wants to go anyway?

There were 8 in favour and 3 unsure. Karen suggested that it may be better to spend longer developing our songs and aim for 2025. There was some agreement with this point of view.

Ben proposed that we do one new song and improve one of last year's songs. He talked about having more retreat days.

There is a need to grow the chorus to ensure we would have enough members for Convention.

There are members interested in attending even if we are not performing.

Brian reminded us that. new songs need to be suitable for a mixed chorus.

It was decided to sign up for now and withdraw later if appropriate (BT AW)

- Sing outs
 - We are in a position, I believe to start looking for paid gigs that aren't asking for a long set

It was suggested that we look at joint performances with other groups such as VIPs and Fever Pitch (AW BT) Hadleigh choir (KH) Felixstowe Choir (BT)
That we put on events to raise money for charity(BF)
MF volunteered to organise and promote an event.

- Social Events

- Do we want to have regular social events, pub, picnic, meal, whatever!
- What do we want to do for Christmas?

It was agreed that social events can be subsidised to a certain extent, without depleting funds needed to buy music and subsidise events such as Convention
It was agreed to try to have social events coincide with sing outs
We will have an informal Christmas meal after the busking at the Buttermarket (LA)

- Uniform

- All members are expected to have an ECC Polo shirt for informal sing outs and events -Purchased through Andy
- For Formal sing outs and events the uniform is;
 - Blue Shirt/Blouse -Purchased through Lou with a discount
 - Black Trousers/Skirt/Bottoms
 - Funky Socks (ladies not expected to wear socks, depending on footwear)
 - Yellow Belt (Men) -Purchased through Andy (No discount but it's cheap anyway!)
 - "Approved" Yellow Accessories
 - Black Shoes (or yellow!)
- Bob Croft mentioned a "balance" of the colours, we can look at that

Meeting closed at 20:21