

North Swindon Big Band

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Monday 6th September 2021 at St Margaret's Centre

1. Present

David Baker, Roger Britton, Karen Cordon, Fran Cowley, John Drew, Ken Emerson, Graham Frampton, David Hide, Ken Jell, Bob Jones, Beryl Maguire, Dave Maguire, Dave Prosser, Paul Richings, Nina Stimson, Eddie Woodgate

2. Apologies for Absence

Roger Burn, Brian Harris, Adrian Lincoln, Ed Sexton

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM (28/09/20) & Any Matter Arising

The Minutes were accepted as a true record, with two outstanding matters to be carried forward:

- Our own Concert
- Continuing to strive for increased professionalism

Proposed: Nina Stimson

Seconded: Eddie Woodgate

4. Chairman's Report

Graham spoke to his Chairman's Report, which had been circulated in advance. He particularly wished to thank David Baker for his hard work throughout the year, Ken Emerson for his attention to detail in monitoring & implementing the Covid rules, and Nina Stimson for establishing the link with St Margaret's. Graham highlighted the Committee's long-term aim to strive towards increased professionalism within the Band. This will be a continued focus for the foreseeable future, with changes to facilitate this objective implemented as required by the Musical Director and Committee. There were no questions and the report was proposed to be accepted as follows:

Proposed: Bob Jones

Seconded: John Drew

5. Musical Director's Report

David B spoke to his Musical Director's Report, which had been circulated in advance. He praised the speed at which Band members are returning their Muzodo responses and shared his vision for the future. He particularly acknowledged Paul for his assistance with moving & transporting the drum kit, as well as Eddie and Karen for their attendance at the Bath Park Concert in difficult circumstances.

David talked about the importance of encouraging & supporting inexperienced players and also proposed a programme of new music to be worked upon during the winter months, so that we could start the new year in a position whereby we were able to put a concert together.

A full discussion took place concerning the Band's vocalists. David confirmed that he is keen to have four good quality singers in the Band, each with a different repertoire. In that way, selected vocalists might feature in concerts which would best suit their individual singing styles. David also acknowledged the important contribution made by the singers in the Band and the additional role that they play as 'entertainers'. Both Beryl and Ken J are valued Band members and David is keen to work with them to bring new pieces to the Band's repertoire, alongside the Big Band standards that are popular with our audiences. Graham will join them as a member of the vocal team and an additional female singer may be sought to perform some more contemporary repertoire. At the end of the discussion, Fran Cowley was asked if he could make contact with Mo Squires, in order to ascertain the whereabouts of the music formerly owned by Swindon Big Band, some of which were vocal items purchased by and belonging to Ken J.

David wished to note the considerable progress made by the Band, especially in recent weeks and echoed Graham's comments regarding the push for improved professionalism, which has the full support of the Committee. Fran Cowley asked that a vote of thanks should be recorded to David for his significant contribution over the past year, this was seconded by Roger Britton. There were no further questions and the report was proposed to be accepted as follows:

Proposed: Eddie Woodgate

Seconded: Fran Cowley

6. Treasurers Report & Accounts

Ken E spoke to his Treasurer's Report & Accounts, which had been circulated in advance. He noted the high expenditure in order to make us 'Covid safe', in contrast to the low income generated in the past twelve months. However, in view of the short term nature of the expenditure for Covid, none of the purchases (eg moisture guards) have been included in the Band's Asset Register as they have no resale value. He also stated that although the Band does not have many assets, it is fortunate to be able to make use of a lot of assets.

Ken confirmed that the Band received remuneration for each of the performances given this summer and that in the matter of Performing Rights, we are fortunate that concert and venue organisers normally have responsibility for this. Additionally, if required to do so ourselves, 'Making Music' supports us by making it easy!

There were no further questions and the report was proposed to be accepted as follows:

Proposed: Roger Britton

Seconded: Ken Jell

7. Future Rehearsal Venue & Potential Costs

Ken spoke on behalf of the Committee regarding a proposal that had been circulated in advance. In short, the Committee members recommended that, in light of the recent and potential future problems regarding Covid, we would like to retain our membership of the Rodbourne Club, whilst moving to St Margaret's Centre as our rehearsal venue on a permanent basis. The St Margaret's Centre incurs a weekly cost which, although very favourable, cannot currently be met by performance income. There was an additional proposal for a £1 per week voluntary contribution to be made by Band members, or £5 each month if that would be less onerous for individuals to facilitate. Both the move to St Margaret's and the voluntary contribution were proposed to be accepted as follows:

Proposed: Paul Richings

Seconded: Ken Jell

Carried unanimously by the Band

8. Election of Officers

The current Officers had all previously indicated that they were willing to stand for a further twelve months and there were no other nominations. Consequently, the Committee for 2021/22 was elected as follows:

Chairman – Graham Frampton

Proposed: Eddie Woodgate **Seconded:** John Drew - carried unanimously

Musical Director – David Baker

Proposed: Roger Britton **Seconded:** Nina Stimson - carried unanimously

Treasurer – Ken Emerson

Proposed: Paul Richings **Seconded:** Ken Jell - carried unanimously

Secretary – Karen Cordon

Proposed: Fran Cowley **Seconded:** Bob Jones - carried unanimously

9. Welcome Pack, Constitution & Application Form

These items had all been circulated in advance and were received positively by the Band members.

Further amends will now be required, as a result of the permanent change to our rehearsal venue, as well as an additional statement relating to the fact that the Band holds insurance: Karen will undertake these and recirculate. David B stated that all Band members should now complete the application form, so that we have up-to-date contact information, as well as knowledge about any other musical talents that may be useful within the Band. The Documents were proposed to be adopted as follows:

Proposed: Paul Richings

Seconded: Nina Stimson

Carried unanimously by the Band

10. Future Events

David B raised the importance of future events for the Band, both in respect of having something to work for and generating income.

The matter of putting on our own concert was discussed again and Band members were also asked to think of any possible venues/contacts that they might have which could lead to new performance opportunities. Eddie mentioned the possibility of corporate venues such as STFC and the Madejski Stadium in Reading. Additionally, hotels such as Blunsdon House and The Marriott may also provide ideal concert locations. (We have already approached the Vicar of St Margaret's Church and offered our services for a future Church fundraising event). The importance of promoting ourselves more rigorously was raised, along with a suggestion that Business Cards may be a valuable marketing tool. All Band members to give this matter some thought please.

11. Questions Submitted in Advance

There were no questions submitted in advance.

12. Any Other Business

- a. David B reminded Band members of the sad and untimely death of David Dale, our 2nd Tenor Sax Player and Librarian, and spoke about his contribution and commitment to the Band. A moment of silence was held, allowing for individuals to contemplate and reflect upon their memories of David D.
- b. David Hide asked if the Band needed public liability insurance and Ken confirmed that we already have it – this information will be added to the Welcome Pack.
- c. Ken Jell gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the Band for the hard work of the Committee members and especially David, for their endeavours this past year.

- d. Graham concluded the meeting by thanking everyone that had attended and reminding Band members of the overriding focus upon increased professionalism in every respect, which would be receiving the committee's attention in the coming months.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14.45