**London Sacred Harp AGM - Minutes**

Thursday 31 January 2019

Approx 25 singers attended

Chair thanked attendees for a good year, brilliant All-Day, and remarked on the growing numbers of singers.

**Finances**

* London Sacred Harp currently has [redacted for security] in the bank.
* Teresa is in the process of sorting out signatories for the bank account, taking off Ed Johnson-Williams. [nb now done 05.02.19 ] Andrew Clark asked to be taken off as well, Joe Jones offered to take on Andrew’s role if needed.
* All voted to keep Co-Operative Bank as the current bank
* Teresa asked for assistant to help review the account

**Venues**

* Brockley: heating during colder months should be addressed. Joss to send Jacoba contact details for Sheridan.
* Bloomsbury:
  + Fee increasing to £70, then to £85. No plans to change venue, but singers are asked to keep an eye out for a venue for £80/session or less with teabreak facilities and easy access.
  + The venue is difficult to sing in, a call out was made to regular singers to attend at least the second half to help give new singers a good experience
  + All agreed a venue with a central location is key to encouraging (new) singers to come along

**Singing school**

* Rachel Jordan was acknowledged for her generous teaching of the London singing schools
* All agreed by vote to offer Rachel paid expenses for her travel into London to teach the singing school
* Other teachers from outside London are invited to teach when visiting
* Joe offered to teach the occasional lesson, agreed to negotiate with Rachel

**Loaners**

* It was agreed that London Sacred Harp need more SH loaners as each singing has recently run out of loaners. Joyce will look into buying additional books.
* Joyce will also look into selling off older loaners at a reduced price to those singers who do not have the means to buy a new book.

**All-Day Oct 2019**

Chair - Diane

Vice-chair - Robin

**Shenandoah All-Day early 2020**

Chair - Robin

Vice-chair - Amy

Venue options:

* St Mary’s following a test singing in the middle of the church
* Wandsworth Quaker Meeting House: £200, 60-90 capacity. Concerns were raised over lack of parking spaces.
* Hampstead: no parking space

**Safeguarding policy**

* I.e. a statement that makes it clear what an organisation will do to keep vulnerable individuals safe. This issue was raised at the 2018 convention business meeting. Cf minutes: <https://ukshc.org/business-meeting-minutes/>
* Local singings will be responsible for safeguarding accommodation, a possible solution could be a code of conduct. Fred Langridge circulated a template following the UK business meeting.
* The national working committee consists of Catherine Roberts, Steve Brett and Ted Brown. LSH agreed to set up a local working committee: Amy, Joss and Diane volunteered. This will be discussed at a further meeting.

**Publicity & outreach**

* Has been primarily managed by Joss and Joyce.
* It was agreed the weekly Facebook notifications are helpful for new/casual singers
* Merchandise: Diane has acquired 38 LSH tote bags, which Joyce will publicise
* Joss continues to manage the website
* The group agreed the recent outreach singing at Cafe Oto was a great success and a similar singing would be good, perhaps with more audience participation.
* Singing at Woodgreen Cultural Quarter tbc by Diane: there would not be a fee, but any income on the door would be split
* Joss, Joyce and Teresa are happy to continue carrying the bulk of the publicity work; however, anyone who is keen to step in and organise/do something was invited to do so, no need to seek approval.

**Additional singings**

* Concern was raised that the 4 Shenandoah singings currently planned would not be enough to prepare for the 2020 Shenandoah all-day. Robin suggested extra singings to create regularity. Group agreed Sunday afternoons at St Mary’s would be best.
* Diane mentioned the possibility of organising some keying workshops at her house: Michael Walker and Callum Woods have offered to teach. Further details tbc.

**Officers**

* Teresa mentioned it was her 3rd year as AGM chair. She gave a brief explanation of chair role, which includes among other: attending most singings and organising new initiatives: the Shenandoah & Cooper singings.
* The group thanked Teresa for all her work chairing the group and encouraged her to delegate more tasks. Teresa was re-appointed as chair. Teresa asked if
  + Singing school teachers could function as a self-organising group
  + Individuals could take responsibility for each singing (Teresa and Andrew - Bloomsbury, Marjorie - Primrose Hill, Tom & Jacoba - Brockley, Teresa & Joss - Hampstead)

**AOB**: singers are encouraged to chair a meeting at future singings to discuss any issues that might come up ahead of the next AGM.