



Wayfarer's AGM 2024 Minutes

Following the traditional rendition of 'The Old Songs', the 2024 AGM commenced with apologies for absence from Bob Myers.

Chairman's Report – Gerry Smith

In many ways, 2024 has been a sad year for the chorus. During the year, a number of long standing and valued members have resigned. Paul Smith, our latest MD, left due to work and family commitments. Jeff Colligan, Ray Robbo and Pete Dawson left in the second half of the year and lastly, Eric and Colin decided the time had come for them to hang up their pitch pipes.

Colin was one of the earliest chorus members and was our MD for a good number of years. Eric, who never wanted to be an MD, has done a fantastic job of conducting the chorus during his time with us.

On a brighter note, in October we took the decision to open our doors to ladies and Ian sent out an invitation to ex-members of 'Just Voices'. Four of these singers have accepted and visited us in November. They loved the welcome they received and will start coming to rehearsals in January.

I have been Chair now for a number of years and it is time to pass the role to a member who has more energy than I have. I will continue to do the role until we have a volunteer, but I would ask members to seriously consider stepping up.

Music Director's Report

There was no MD report this year.

Note from IH: In the current absence of an MD, the chorus will continue to keep our repertoire songs strong and try to bring our latest songs (Ghostriders, Nevertheless, Ain't Misbehavin) up to performance standard. In addition, we will make sure that 'Happy Together' does not fall by the wayside. Even though some chorus members do not like it, it is a crowd pleaser. Whilst not perfect, it is of a standard that no audience would be able to spot any small mistakes made.

Treasurer's Report – Frank Hughes

In the year 2023/2024 we took over £1,000 in donations. Our accounts showed a surplus of £250 and we have £4,300 in the current account, with £3,200 in our charity account.

We currently have 20 members, 19 of whom pay subs.

There has been no response yet from the Champion's liquidators.



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Election of Officers

There being no alternate nominations, the existing committee will continue in their roles.

The committee has asked for a volunteer to assist with organising our bookings. This role would involve diarising the performances, liaising with the venues and compiling a register of which members are available for each performance. No volunteers were forthcoming at the meeting, so the responsibility will remain with the Treasurer until such time as a chorus member comes forward.

Barbershopper of the Year.

Ian Homewood was voted the 2024 'Barbershopper of the Year'.

A.O.B.

Referring to our current lack of an MD, Frank suggested that each member of the chorus choose a song from our repertoire, that they would be willing to learn how to conduct.

Rob Winrow suggested that we take a speaker to rehearsals, which would be used to assist with sectionals. There was general agreement that resurrecting sectionals is important, even more so with the ladies joining us. It was agreed this would be done in the new year.

Stuart wished to record his thanks to the committee for their continued work on behalf of the chorus.

Date of next AGM

The 2025 AGM will take place on a date to be decided in November 2025