

**2023 United Kingdom Sacred Harp Convention Business Meeting
16th September 2023**

Seth Dickens and Catherine Roberts called the meeting to order leading 34b St Thomas.

1. Review of the 2022 Business Meeting Minutes

Copies were circulated and approved.

Emily Verrier has found the missing 2019 minutes and these were approved.

2. Review of the 2022 Convention Accounts

Accounts were circulated without page 2. In summary, 2022 convention was £500 in deficit. £200 deposit in the accounts was for the 2023 venue.

The accounts were approved by all present.

3. Location for 2024

Kate Kirwan, on behalf of the Bristol singers, confirmed Trinity Centre booked. No changes to the venue are known of.

4. Location for 2025 and beyond

Claire Welford shared on behalf of the Tyneside singers that they are struggling to find a suitable venue and not able to confirm until a satisfactory venue is found.

Locations Committee suggested keeping the bid open until January 2024. In meantime provisionally book the Lomas Hall in Sheffield, with no expectation that the Sheffield singers would run it.

4. 1) Clarifying to wider community anyone can host if meet criteria

Locations Committee to re-share the document about criteria for a venue.

Vicki Elliott and Joe Vickers have set up a UK mailing list. Suggested that we move from using UKSH Facebook Group to using the Mailchimp account and website as a place to share such information.

5. Ted Brown to Stand Down as UKSHC Treasurer.

5. 1) A motion of heartfelt thanks for Ted's years of supporting UKSHC

Warm and heartfelt thanks given to Ted for his 25 years as Treasurer. Ian West said some words and Catherine presented a gift on behalf of the whole community.

Ted shared that once some issues with Barclays Bank are resolved the signatories can change on the bank account.

5. 2) Expressions of interest welcomed for the role of UK Treasurer

Ted confirmed main role of Treasurer is to ensure the group running the convention do their own accounts then send them on to the national Treasurer.

Joe Jones suggested 3 years as a limit for the role with possibility to stand again for a further 3 years, but no expectation of doing so. This proposal was seconded and the motion was carried in a vote.

It was proposed that previously written guidance by which the standing committee exists be reviewed in time for next year's meeting to see if it is still fit for purpose. Ian confirmed having a copy of the document and confirmed that the Treasurer should be appointed at the yearly Business Meeting.

It was proposed Joe Jones become Treasurer, the motion was seconded and carried by vote.

In future a call for volunteers will be put out the year before needed.

6. Opportunity for future requests and feedback on current convention structure and organisation

- It has worked well not having an event on Friday evening before the Convention.
- Given high numbers attending this convention the Locations Committee should revise the capacity guidance on their criteria document to more than 140.
- Positive impact of not heating food or cleaning dishes brought by singers in reducing the workload for organisers.
- Importance of ensuring that local singers aren't solely responsible for all the jobs on the weekend of the convention.
- A new singer celebrated the clarity of the convention website and Code of Conduct in helping them know what to expect.
- Purpose of the Code of Conduct discussed, in setting out the kind of community we want to be, to enable us to be as inclusive as possible.
- Suggestion that Covid testing should be part of the organisers' decision making, Code of Conduct reflects this in 'Health and Wellbeing' section.
- Discussed whether to include "I accept the Code of Conduct" on the registration cards, or to have a sign saying "By registering you are agreeing to our Code of Conduct". No objections raised, some expressed a preference for actively opting in. Agreed to leave the decision with the Bristol team as organisers for next year.

6. 1) Review composition of Locations Committee

Role was confirmed as managing the issues around finding a venue and providing support for groups that need it, making bookings where necessary e.g. Lomas Hall for 2024.

Ian happy to stand down. Committee to talk with Judy to confirm whether she intends to continue. Proposal that the 3 year terms should be brought in for this committee too.

It was proposed that Emily Verrier join the locations committee, the motion was seconded and carried by vote.

7. Confirmation of Appointments

Standing Committee: Chairs of Most Recent Convention: Seth Dickens and Catherine Roberts, Chairs of Approaching Convention: Kate Kirwan and Samantha Cole, Treasurer: Joe Jones

Locations Committee: Emily Verrier, Ian West, Karen Turner, Hannah Land and Judy Whiting.

8. Any Other Business

Steve Brett confirmed that from Jan 2024 the website will go back to listing any regular annual singings as confirmed (Not TBC until announced, as since the pandemic).

Thanks was expressed to Steve for all his work on the website.

Kate Kirwan led 36b Ninety-Fifth to close the meeting.