

Gramophone sells for £1,200

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BY [ALICE MCKEEGAN](#)

IT'S played many a tune in its long life. But now an old gramophone - like the famous His Master's Voice one with the white dog - could be belting out 'We're in the money' after it was sold for £1,200. It also revealed a secret about its horn.



Howard Hope from Thames Ditton Kent checks out the sound as he take delivery of gramophone from (l-r) Dick Badami and Gordon Barlow

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The EMG handmade instrument was bought by the Rochdale Gramophone Society in 1936.

But, owing to the high cost of insurance and a lack of somewhere to display it , the committee decided to sell it to

raise funds for the group, which meets to play vintage records.

The reserve price was set at £650 but to the society's surprise it sold for a staggering £1,260.

The buyer, Howard Hope, one of the largest collectors of antique gramophones in the country, travelled nearly 250 miles from his home in Thames Ditton, Surrey, to collect the gramophone from committee members.

He was also presented with a dossier of information revealing the instrument's history. He was invited to return in the future to browse through the society's archives.

And Mr Hope gave the members some surprising news about the gramophone.

He said the horn was made from old London phone directories.

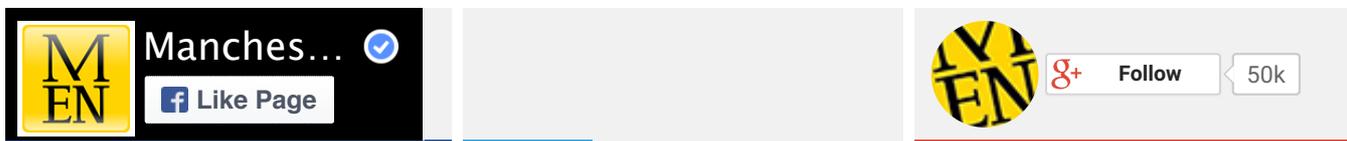
But the only way of proving it would be to break it open - which he was unwilling to do given the price that he paid for it.

Gordon Barlow, secretary of the Rochdale Gramophone Society, said: "We were very pleased to see it raise so much money and all proceeds from the sale will go towards our group. But we were all sad to see it go.

"I've known about it for at least 25 years but I'm glad it's gone to a good home."

The society is one of the oldest of its type in the country and celebrated its 75th anniversary earlier in the year.

As for the gramophone, it could also be playing that hit by another Rochdale music legend, Gracie Fields - 'Wish me luck as I go on my way'.



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