

Reading Male Voice Choir

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 2 March 2017

Present: Members: Steve Richardson (SR), chairman; Geoff Gale (GG), deputy chairman; John Painter (JP), secretary; John Kay (JK), treasurer. Section Leaders (SL's): Dave Allen (DA), Alan Broodbank (AB). Officers: Clive Waterman (CW), musical director; Andrew Evans (AE), publicity officer; Nigel Shaw (NS), concert coordinator. Minutes: Peter Blake.

Apologies: Allan Crisp (AC), Ray Sansum (RS).

<p>01/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2016 were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman.</p> <p>02/17 Matters arising from the minutes: a) First Aid Refresher Courses: Are underway. b) Influencing Musical Choice: CW meetings with SL's now taking place.</p> <p>03/17 Secretary's Report: The secretary's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. a) 2016/17 Programme: JP advised we had raised £7,156 by end February and then described the remainder of the programme. There followed a summary of the Harfa choir visit from 8-12 June during which there will be a full concert at the Polish Church in Reading on Saturday, and a short concert at St James' Church on the Sunday. The possibility of a 'flash mob' event with the Polish choir in Reading centre on the Saturday afternoon was discussed as a possibility - JK described his experience of this with another choir and CW agreed to give the idea some thought before making a commitment. b) 2017/18 Programme: JP highlighted that whilst we have a fair number of bookings already, there are still gaps to fill. It was proposed that choir members should be asked if they had a particular charity they wished to support, though JP made it clear that any proposals should also include the ability to promote ticket sales. JP finished his report by advising that Gwyn Arch had a great deal of personal, RMVC archive material which he had now offered to the choir; it was proposed that this should be added to our own archive material which is currently being reviewed and digitised through Jim Grufferty, John Adams and AE.</p> <p>04/17 Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. JK highlighted that the present 2016/17 net profit forecast is about £1,700 greater than put forward at the AGM, and that this has been achieved through a variety of non-core activities. He also pointed out we have a policy that our core income should cover our core expenditure, though for 10 years this has not been achieved. In addition the choir has a policy that it should hold reserves of £5,000 (at 2002 prices), however, should the present year-end forecast be correct our reserves will be twice this amount. Whilst these are a good problems to have they highlight clear mismatches with choir policy which JK suggested the committee might wish to review. Initially SR to speak with JG re any archive references to these policies.</p> <p>05/17 Musical Director's Report: CW started by saying that the choir had progressed markedly and that he had been very impressed by the last two concerts. He was also</p>	<p>Action by</p> <p>CW</p> <p>SR</p> <p>JG/JA/AE</p> <p>All SR</p>
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<p>very pleased to note that there was a lack of tension amongst members as each concert approached. So far as the repertoire is concerned CW is working on some interesting material and will continue to build up its extent in order to increase our flexibility. CW then pointed out that it was difficult at times for he and Lucy to see all of the choir at concerts and he proposed that he buy a collapsible block to stand on to overcome this. The cost would be about £140 and could possibly be shared with the A440 choir.</p>	<p>CW</p>
<p>06/17 Health & Safety Risk Assessment – Rehearsals: Following comments and suggestions on his earlier draft policy AB will produce a final version for approval.</p>	<p>AB</p>
<p>07/17 Chairman’s Items: Privacy and Data Protection Policy: Following circulation to choir members of a draft policy SR received a number of comments. None of these comments required the draft wording to be changed. SR therefore asked the committee to approve the policy as worded. <i>Approved.</i></p>	
<p>08/17 Secretary Role Feedback: A consultation paper had been sent out to choir members. The preferred option proposed by the committee was to create the new role of ‘Assistant Secretary’, who would be an officer rather than a trustee, and would support the Secretary who would remain as a trustee. A number of responses had been received and were reviewed. There were a number of suggestions and some interesting perspectives, but broadly speaking there was agreement with the secretary/assistant option. SR agreed to prepare a proposal to put to the July AGM that a new post of Assistant Secretary should be created. Further discussion led to the belief that an ideal arrangement would be for two members to apply together to take on this new format role. It was agreed that the SL’s sound out their sections and that SR should brief the choir on the proposal at the next rehearsal.</p>	<p>SR SR</p>
<p>09/17 Charitable Funds from Co-op: Response awaited.</p>	<p>RS</p>
<p>10/17 Any other Business: a) Certificate of Appreciation: DA raised the question of how the retirement of long-serving members of the choir should be recognised. It was agreed that the earlier proposal of the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation should be retained, but that the time served should be reduced from 30 years to 25 years. <i>Agreed.</i></p>	
<p>AE was asked to prepare a certificate to mark Bob Pitts’ 26 years of service. b) Bearwood Opera: AE asked if it would be alright to ask interested choir members to take part in the chorus of this opera. It was agreed he should ask members at the next choir rehearsal.</p>	<p>AE AE</p>
<p>c) Choir Competition Brighton: AB reminded the committee of the invitation we had received to take part in this new festival/competition. Whilst we are unable to attend this year he suggested we should seriously consider attending next year. <i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>JP</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">There being no further business the meeting was closed The next meeting of the committee will be held at 1930 on <i>date to be arranged</i> At Hawkedon School (proposed date of 8 June clashes with Harfa Choir arriving)</p>	

