

## **Reading Male Voice Choir**

### **Minutes of a committee meeting held on 23 November 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), Allan Crisp (AC), David Ewens (DE). Officers: Clive Waterman (CW), musical director; Andrew Evans (AE), assistant secretary/publicity officer; John Clarke (JC); Jeremy Jones (JJ). Minutes: Peter Blake.

**Apologies:** Alan Broodbank (AB)

	<b>Action by</b>
<p><b>32/17 Minutes</b> of the meeting held on 28 September 2017 were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman.</p>	
<p><b>33/17 Matters arising from the minutes:</b></p> <p>a) <b>CD Sales Support:</b> Additional volunteers have come forward to help on the CD stand. AE advised that new display panels should be available by Christmas.</p> <p>b) <b>New Christmas CD:</b> CW provided copies of a proposed CD for committee members to review. Once the CD is approved AE will prepare the cover and arrange production - ideally in time for Christmas.</p> <p>c) <b>Support Acts for Concerts:</b> JP has received a number of proposals.</p> <p>d) <b>Taplow Court Concert:</b> JP has pencilled this in for May/June 2018.</p> <p>e) <b>Feedback from SL's Meetings with Musical Director:</b> This is now underway.</p> <p>f) <b>Alex Turner Induction:</b> AT feels he has had a suitable introduction to the choir.</p> <p>g) <b>Sponsorship:</b> AE is investigating options.</p>	<p>AE</p> <p>CW/AE</p> <p>AE</p>
<p><b>34/17 Secretary's Report:</b></p> <p>The secretary's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>a) <b>2016/17 Programme:</b> JP detailed the programme for the remainder of the season. He reminded members that our next concert will be at Reading Minster, jointly with A440 and Occasions. This will be followed in January 2018 by a concert at St Mary's Purley - a new venue - and the first of three new venues for the choir this season. JP then highlighted a number of informal concerts in which we will be involved, pointing out that for these concerts to be effectively planned it was important to know how many singers would be taking part in each of them.</p> <p>b) <b>2018/19 Programme:</b> Three bookings have been made to date, one of which may give us an opportunity to sing with a choir from Dusseldorf. Other possible venues include St Francis Xavier Church in Maidenhead and Taplow Court.</p> <p>a) <b>Overseas Tours:</b> AE advised that we had received an email from the Dervio choir advising us they would like to move the concerts forward a week meaning that our tour could now be from 21-25 June. This would clash with the St James's concert which will have to be rearranged. JP will email members to advise and GG will raise at Friday rehearsal. The number of members in each section who are available to go to Italy on each of these dates is to be determined.</p> <p>JP also advised that he continues to work on the possibility that we might receive an invitation to go to Poland to sing with the Warsaw MVC in 2019.</p>	<p>SL's</p> <p>JP/GG SL's</p>
<p><b>35/17 Treasurer's Report:</b></p> <p>The treasurer's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>JK advised that his latest projection for the year to 31 May 2018 would now show a</p>	

small positive figure, rather than the small negative figure he forecast at the 2017 AGM. In addition he advised that our reserves would show a small increase to stand at £6,402 above our long term target. JK then detailed a number of recent receipts to choir funds, the largest being £1,202 from the Trinity Church concert.

**36/17 Musical Director's Report:**

CW pointed out a number of areas on which he is focusing at present: a seamless as possible integration of AT into the choir as he and AT learn how best to work with each other; the disruption, but also the benefit, of taking part in a Christmas concert; and with 12+ concerts a year the limited rehearsal time available to learn new music. CW went on to say, however, that the choir was in good fettle and that some of the singing in rehearsal at the last concert was very good indeed.

Regarding the forthcoming Christmas concert, the question was raised as to whether or not the event properly showcased the choir. In spite of some limitations, however, the general feeling was that last year's concert was a great success and also showed the RMVC as a choir involving itself in a community event for the enjoyment of all. DA then raised the question of why it was that AT arrived after the beginning of rehearsal each week. CW advised that AT had a number of other commitments and that we had to expect this sort of arrangement if we wanted to enjoy working with someone of his calibre. SR pointed out that this was part of the original agreement and that members had been informed of the arrangement at the beginning of the season.

**37/17 Chairman's Report:**

a) **Announcements at Rehearsal:** There had been feedback from some members that announcements at rehearsal were taking too long. However there are important items to discuss such as Dervio, though clearly such briefings should always be kept to a minimum. After some discussion it was also agreed that announcements should continue to be made at the beginning of rehearsal so as not to reduce the time AT was able to spend with the choir.

b) **Informal Singing Requests:** These are entirely voluntary events. SR felt they were a good thing so long as they did not take over our main programme. GG was concerned about the number of requests being received, other members with the need to distinguish between events supported by the RMVC (i.e. with CW or AT and some element of uniform), and those that are even more informal. SR will prepare a paper which after discussion and agreement will be incorporated into the choir handbook.

c) **Loan/Hire Agreement:** The committee agreed the choir should not hire out its equipment for a fee. A decision on whether or not to loan our equipment was deferred. SR has prepared a draft loan agreement which he will circulate to committee members for comment.

**38/17 Health and Safety Update:**

a) **PAT Testing:** AB had circulated a note confirming that the PAT testing had now been carried out and that the choir's electrical equipment had been deemed safe and fit for purpose.

b) **Member Safety at Concerts:** Following a potentially serious event at our last concert AB has advised that, as standard practice, a member should remain behind at either end of the front row, whilst the choir is dismounting the stage, in order to give assistance if required.

c) **Audience Safety:** AE advised that some audience members were stumbling in poor light at the Trinity concert and that greater care should be taken at future venues.

SR

SR

NS

NS

**39/17 Social Programme:**

DE reported that the Christmas Dinner is now all done and dusted and paid for. Once this is behind him DE will be preparing a social programme for next year. He already has a number of ideas but will be asking choir members for further suggestions.

DE

**40/17 Any Other Business:**

a) **Subscriptions:** DE pointed out that there did not appear to be a policy on subscriptions for the long term sick. JK proposed, and it was agreed, that this matter should continue to be dealt with on an informal basis through section leaders and the treasurer.

SL's/JP

b) **Promotional Leaflet:** DE had circulated a brochure which he and AE had put together, and asked the committee to approve both the brochure and the cost involved of printing an initial quantity of 2000. *Agreed.*

AE

c) **Data Protection Regulations – May 2018:** JP advised that it is not clear how these regulations apply to voluntary organisations and charities and is investigating further.

JP

d) **Peach Quest:** AC advised that we had been offered an opportunity to take part in this quest which takes place in the morning of 23 December. The team would be based in a studio at Radio Berkshire. It was agreed this could be put to members at rehearsal and an RMVC team put together. A carol may be sung by team members at the studio, and our involvement in the event could have the additional benefit of promoting our Reading Minster Concert that afternoon.

GG/AC

**There being no further business the meeting was closed  
The next meeting of the committee will be held at 1930 on  
Thursday 1 March 2018  
at Hawkedon School**