

Reading Male Voice Choir

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 28 September 2017

Present: Members: Steve Richardson (SR), chairman; Geoff Gale (GG), deputy chairman; John Painter (JP), secretary; John Kay (JK), treasurer. Section Leaders (SL's): Alan Broodbank (AB), Allan Crisp (AC), Dave Ewens (DE) Officers: Clive Waterman (CW), musical director; Andrew Evans (AE), publicity officer. Minutes: Peter Blake.

Apologies: Dave Allen (DA)

21/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017 were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman.

22/17 Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) **CD Sales Support:** Additional support still needed. SR will raise at Friday rehearsal. AE preparing roll-up display panels by Christmas to help promote the CD stand.
- b) **CD Recordings:** CW advised that the tracks for the new CD, 'RMVC in Concert', have been selected and a temporary disc will be prepared for review. Ideally the CD should be available in time for Christmas. AE will prepare a cover.
- c) **Choir Handbook - Updates:** SR has now incorporated the two new policies.
- d) **Reading FC Song:** See AE initiative under AOB.

SR
AE
CW
AE

23/17 Secretary's Report:

The secretary's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

- a) **2016/17 Programme:** JP reported that we had a full programme and some new ideas for further concerts. The first full concert will be at Windsor Methodist Church where due to access problems Personal Evacuation Plans may need to be prepared. JP emphasised that the Trinity concert is for choir funds and would need particular support from members; in addition a small group is needed to organise the event and supporters will be asked to help with this. JP then pointed out that we do not have support acts for a number of concerts. Members to be asked for ideas at rehearsal.
- b) **2018/19 Programme:** Three bookings have been received to date. In addition John Carr has had positive a response for a concert to be held at Taplow Court in aid of the Alexander Devine charity, probably on a Friday evening. JP to liaise.

AB
SR/JP
SR
JP/JC

24/17 Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

- a) **Updated Projection:** JK advised that it was now likely we would break even at the end of the year as opposed to having a £1000 deficit.
- a) **Subscriptions:** To date 30 members have paid their subs. Members are to be reminded to pay at the next rehearsal.

SR

25/17 Musical Director's Report:

- a) CW, supported by the committee, began by saying how delighted he was that Alex Turner had decided to join the choir as Deputy Musical Director. CW was looking forward to AT taking on an increasing proportion of the choir's conducting and accompanying workload as the choir settles into its new season.

26/17 Chairman's Report:

a) **AGM – Should we Invite Supporters:** All award winners to be asked specifically if they would like their partner to attend the AGM, but more broadly all members are to be invited to ask their partner to attend should they wish to do so. JP to include in AGM agenda papers.

SR
JP

b) **Afternoon Concerts:** David Lloyd suggested RMVC might hold some of its concerts in the afternoon as it would make it easier for both ageing choir members, and ageing audiences. The general feeling was that we might struggle to find a sufficient afternoon audience and possibly also a full choir. However JP suggested we might hold some of our evening concerts, especially in the winter, a little earlier and will in any case ask sponsors if they have any preference.

JP

c) **Dementia Club:** SR received a request from a choir member for the choir to sing at this charity's Christmas party in Swallowfield Park. CW is not available but enquiries will be made re the availability of AT. It may not be understood that the choir would require a fee and this should be made clear.

CW/SR

d) **Staging Hire:** To take this forward a contract hire agreement will be needed. This to be sourced. JK highlighted the question of insurance which SR will also address.

SR

e) **Bucklebury Beerfest:** John Clarke was concerned that the number of singers may be low. The matter will be raised at Friday rehearsal. DE then made the point that a number of members felt this type of event (also e.g. the WI concert) was not appropriate for the RMVC and that it had been in part the reason that a number of choir members have left recently. Other members have the same view and DE believed the matter should therefore be addressed urgently. JK cautioned that we should take care not to lose the goodwill of local organisations in finding an appropriate solution. SR to raise at rehearsal.

SR

SR

27/17 Proposed Additions to Standing Items:

JP proposed that two standing items should be added to future committee meeting agendas i) Health & Safety Update (AB) and ii) Social Programme (DE). **Agreed** AB then advised that our staging has now been inspected and one or two repairs carried out, and is considered safe. However the inspection of electrical equipment is overdue. This will be dealt with as soon as possible.

PB

CW

28/17 New Member Recruitment:

DE proposed that we put a promotional leaflet together to recruit new members which should then to deliver it to say 1000 homes locally. AE is in the process of preparing a new leaflet and DE will prepare copy to be incorporated.

DE/AE

29/17 Section Leader meetings with CW:

Having just taken on the role of tenor two section leader DE asked whether SL's meetings with CW were taking place and were effective. The answer was that they were not. CW suggested that members be encouraged to email section leaders who would liaise with CW, and he would then report back at committee with any issues.

CW/SL's

30/17 Choir Visit to Dervio:

This tour takes place in Italy between June 15-17. AE outlined the programme which over three days will incorporate three concerts together with a mass on Sunday. Detailed planning is needed and an organising sub group needs to be set up. Volunteers to be sought from the choir membership.

SR

31/17 Any Other Business:

- a) DE advised that Rex Fenn will be returning to concert performances from November and would need a safe support stool.
- b) GG suggested that a system should be in place to ensure AT is properly introduced to all committee members and section leaders. JK further suggested that we should provide RT with a proper induction providing him with some detail of the structure, management and operation of the choir. Both suggestions to be implemented.
- c) AE advised that he is talking to a number of potential sponsors with a view to their providing funds to the choir in exchange for some beneficial support from the choir, e.g. singing at a football or rugby match.

SR/DE/RF

SR

AE

**There being no further business the meeting was closed
The next meeting of the committee will be held at 1930 on
Thursday 23 November 2017
At Hawkedon School**