

Reading Male Voice Choir

Minutes of a committee meeting held on 7 March 2019

Present: Members: John Painter (JP), chairman; Geoff Gale (GG), deputy chairman; Martin Butler (MB), secretary. Section Leaders (SL's): Dave Allen (DA), Allan Crisp (AC), Paul Smallman (PS). Officers: Clive Waterman (CW), musical director; Andrew Evans (AE), assistant secretary/publicity officer; John Clarke (JC), librarian; John Carr (JCa). Minutes: Peter Blake.

Apologies: John Kay (JK); Alan Broodbank (AB).

	Action by
<p>01/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018 were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman.</p>	
<p>02/19 Matters arising from the minutes:</p> <p>a) RMVC Display Boards: No longer required. To be disposed of.</p> <p>b) Christmas Dinner: MB reported that the response to his review of this event was varied with no clear pattern emerging. Providing our own entertainment was generally well received. JP suggested alternative venues should be investigated.</p> <p>c) Business Cards and Afterglow Booklets: These will be available shortly.</p> <p>d) First Aid Courses: The setting up of a new course(s) to be pursued.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>MB AE AC</p>
<p>03/19 Secretary's Report:</p> <p>The secretary's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The next concert will be on 16 March jointly with the visiting <u>Abertillery Orpheus Choir</u>. MB advised that arrangements for this concert had been more complex than usual, refreshments are being provided by RMVC members for both Abertillery and for themselves and RMVC Friends have agreed to help with these on the day; in addition both before- and after-glows have now been arranged and following significant promotional work ticket sales are going well.</p> <p>John Carr then updated the committee regarding the <u>St Edmund Campion</u> concert of 6 April; he provided RMVC with flyers for distribution, and tickets to be sold, both of which he had had printed himself. An attendance of 150-200 is anticipated. Refreshments are being provided for the choir.</p> <p>At this point JP clarified the matter of who was responsible for the printing costs associated with each concert by saying that the cost of all posters, tickets programmes and any other printed material was the responsibility of the charity which had commissioned the concert. AE proposed the printing cost of programmes should be £25 per 100, which the charity can more than recoup by selling programmes on the night, and £50 for printing flyers and tickets.</p> <p>MB then outlined arrangements for the 18 May concert at <u>St Nicholas Church</u>, Earley which are largely in hand. Again refreshments will be provided for the choir. The support act was discussed.</p> <p>Our June concert will be held at <u>Taplow Court</u>, a magnificent, theatre type venue which can hold up to 500 people. JCa informed the committee that three charities will be sharing this concert and helping to sell tickets. He advised that the venue is set in</p>	<p>Friends</p> <p>MB</p>

beautiful grounds and that people will be encouraged to picnic before the event from 5.30 onwards. Refreshments will not be provided. A special 8-12 page programme is to be produced for the event.

Arrangements for the trip to Warsaw from 13-17 June were in hand.

The remainder of the concert programme was then touched on with brief discussions on possible support acts, potential new concert venues and van hire.

Finally we were reminded that a further payment of £200 from all of those going to Poland should be paid to the treasurer before the end of March.

JCa/AE/JP
AE/MB

All Poland

04/19 Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer was unable to attend the committee meeting but had circulated his report in advance. No queries were raised.

05/19 Musical Director's Report:

CW began his report by describing the arrangements he was putting in place, for both rehearsals and concerts, to cover the assistant musical director (AMD) role until a new appointment could be made. He then told the meeting that four quality applications had been received for the position of AMD, that interviews would be taking place shortly, and that the preferred two candidates would, as part of the process, be asked to take part in an upcoming Friday rehearsal.

CW

06/19 Chairman's Report:

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

JP began by outlining the changes that had been made to the choir's Uniform Policy and asked for the approval of the committee to these changes. **Approved**

JCa reported that that he had received comments at our recent Phyllis Court concert that a number of choir members' uniforms looked quite scruffy. JP suggested SL's should have a word with the members within their sections. There was also a suggestion that, in the near future, members should be asked to wear their uniform to a choir rehearsal for a more detailed check.

JP then highlighted that the choir's 50th anniversary, due in November 2021, was fast approaching. He asked SL's to sound out members for any ideas they may have. There was general support for marking the event by holding a grand gala concert in a major venue in Reading, with the backing of a significant sponsor - or an appropriate charity, and a recognition that we should begin our planning now.

JP advised that he had been approached by a Financial Advisor about sponsorship for the Choir's annual flier, in return for a promotional advert. There was general support in principle for this. AE to be the point of contact for further discussions.

On an associated front MB advised the committee of an opportunity currently being provided by Reading Lions, which is giving grants of up to £750 to small charities through a Dragons Den type bid. PS suggested we consider making an application for a podium for CW. It was agreed this was a good idea and JP invited CW to obtain quotes.

JP

SL's

JP

SL's

JP/MB/AE

AE

CW

07/19 Recruitment of Accompanist:

Already covered in musical director's report in 5/19 above.

08/19 Health and Safety Update:

AB was unable to attend the committee meeting but had advised there had been no accidents or dangerous occurrences.

09/19 Social Programme:

A number of activities are currently being planned including a visit to the British Airways Heritage Centre at Heathrow through John Adams, and a walk organised by Geoff Crabb. MB is hoping to arrange a visit to the cinema to see Fisherman's Friends.

10/19 Fund Raising:

MB reported that the RMVC is one of the charities being supported at Woodley Waitrose through their Green Token scheme.

11/19 Social Media and Website:

AE advised he has been discussing with Jim Grufferty how best to introduce additional functionality to our current website.

12/19 Any Other Business:

a) **Booklet for 50th Anniversary Celebrations:** AE reported that the Voice Team will be preparing a substantial booklet to mark the choir's 50th anniversary. The cost will be significant at around £2,000. Some return would be made by selling the booklet as the programme for the proposed gala concert. It was also noted that The Earley Charity made a contribution to the cost of the choir's 40th anniversary booklet and should be approached to see if they would be prepared contribute to the 50th.

b) **Commission a Piece of Music:** AB suggested we should arrange for a celebratory piece of music to be written to mark our 50th anniversary. It was agreed that Gwyn Arch should be asked to undertake this. CW to approach Gwyn.

d) **New 50th Anniversary CD:** JP proposed that we should also produce a brand new high quality CD to mark the occasion.

d) **Long Service Badges:** GG proposed that in addition to our long service badges marking 30 and 40 years membership of the choir, we should introduce a badge for 20 years membership. This idea was widely supported by members, subject to determining whether this should be instead of the engraved pint mug now presented to mark 20 years' service. JP asked in the first instance for this new badge to be costed.

AE

Voice Team

JP/JK

CW

CW

SR

**There being no further business the meeting was closed
The next meeting of the committee will be held at 1930 on
Thursday 6 June 2019
At Hawkedon School**