

# Reading Male Voice Choir

## Minutes of a committee meeting held on 27 September 2018

**Present:** Members: John Painter (JP), chairman; Geoff Gale (GG), deputy chairman; Martin Butler (MB), secretary; John Kay (JK), treasurer. Section Leaders (SLs): Dave Allen (DA), Alan Broodbank (AB), Allan Crisp (AC), Paul Smallman (PS). Officers: Clive Waterman (CW), musical director; Andrew Evans (AE), assistant secretary/publicity officer; John Clarke (JC), Librarian. Minutes: Peter Blake.

### Apologies:

<p>JP welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new season.</p> <p><b>24/18 Minutes</b> of the meeting held on 7 June 2018 were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman.</p> <p><b>25/18 Matters arising from the minutes:</b> a) <b>New RMVC CD:</b> CW (within the next two weeks) will provide draft copies of the new 17 track CD for review by selected choir members. The CD will be entitled 'Reading Male Voice Choir in Concert'.</p> <p><b>26/18 Secretary's Report:</b> The secretary's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. During the summer months MB had looked in detail at each concert in the 2018/19 programme. As a result he was able to present the committee with a detailed report including the charity involved, the support act and the level of staging required. A particular highlight of the new season will be a new venue – Taplow Court; CW advised this was a magnificent venue both inside and out and that it should be made a particular feature of this season's planning and promotion. MB advised the meeting that a sub-committee was to be formed to plan the event, and also to plan for the choir's visit to Warsaw which would be taking place in the same month (see Minute 29/18 below). JK pointed out that there was no concert at present in May - MB advised that there was an opportunity which he is exploring. Looking on to 2019/20, MB already had bookings for two dates and was in discussion for a possible third. In addition to arranging the concert programmes MB had been looking into further venue options, had arranged for Thames Valley TV to visit the choir in rehearsal and had also arranged for the interview of a choir member on Radio Berkshire. He added that two new members had attended choir rehearsal with another new member expected. JP congratulated MB on his comprehensive report which had clearly involved an enormous amount of work during the summer break.</p> <p><b>27/18 Treasurer's Report:</b> The treasurer's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. JK said that as far as the figures were concerned there was very little to report and that we remained on track against the budget approved at the AGM; however, it remained a concern that the choir's core income did not cover its core expenditure. Looking at the figures JK believed we had 18 to 24 months to get ourselves back into balance. This could be achieved simply by recruiting 10 new members. However it was important we did not lose our focus on this and it was therefore agreed that</p>	<p><b>Action by</b></p> <p><b>AE</b></p> <p><b>CW</b></p>
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<p>'Fund Raising' should become a regular item on the agenda of this committee. <u>The committee discussed fundraising.</u> AB queried the number and cost of overseas tours particularly as the recent tour had been partially subsidised - in reply JK said that choir tours should always be self-funding. On sponsorship, AE advised that we are in the process of investigating opportunities, particularly with the choir's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary approaching. JP asked SLs to go to their members and ask for any fund raising and membership recruitment ideas they may have. He went on to suggest that a 'bring a friend' initiative should be revived and it was agreed this should take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. DA suggested, and it was agreed, that a small, tailored music pack of the songs to be rehearsed on the 12th should be prepared and handed to any potential recruits.</p>	<p>PB  SLs  JP  JC</p>
<p>JK then asked the committee to pass two resolutions in order to allow the <u>RMVC bank mandate</u> to be brought up-to-date:</p> <p><b><i>It was resolved that:</i></b></p> <p>(1) <i>The authorised signatories in the current bank mandate, for RMVC Accounts held with NatWest Bank Plc., be changed by removing the following individuals: John Gary Jones, John Beverley Clarke, Geoffrey Stephen Million.</i></p> <p>2) <i>The authorised signatories in the current bank mandate, for RMVC Accounts held with NatWest Bank Plc., be changed by adding the following individual: Martin Butler.</i></p> <p>- This would leave us with three signatories: John Painter, John Kay and Martin Butler.</p>	<p>JK JK</p>
<p><b>28/18 Musical Director's Report:</b></p> <p>CW advised that a number of the items he had intended to discuss had already been dealt with. He then advised members that he had arranged a meeting to discuss the detail of the Christmas concert, including the fee, with our fellow performers.</p>	<p>CW</p>
<p><b>29/18 Chairman's Report:</b></p> <p>JP raised the matter of <u>choir policies</u>: firstly the policy on 'Membership Fees' and secondly the policy on 'Informal Singing Events'. These policies had been reviewed by members and JP asked that they be endorsed, <b>Agreed.</b></p> <p>Now they have been approved these policies will be put up onto the RMVC website. We still do not have a <u>Social Secretary</u>. The organisation of <u>this year's Christmas Dinner</u> has therefore fallen to MB who provided SLs with a form to send to their members to enquire who would be attending; SLs will next be asked to enquire who would be interested in providing a part of the evening's entertainment. JK advised members that Ryland Lee had agreed to compere and co-ordinate the evening. Due to a number of events which will require more organisation than usual JP proposed that we should set up an <u>event planning working party</u>. Committee members will form the core of this; JP proposed GG, AE, MB, NS, AE, CW plus S Richardson, J Carr, and A Stankiewicz. Other interested members of the choir will also be welcome to become involved.</p> <p><u>Short-sleeved shirts</u>: JP asked if every member had received their own shirt. AE advised that all members will have their own shirt in time for the next concert. These shirts will then become an official part of the choir uniform and Robin John will take responsibility for them.</p>	<p>JP SLs MB/SLs  JP AE Robin John</p>
<p><b>30/18 Health and Safety Update:</b></p> <p>AB advised that there had been no accidents or dangerous occurrences since his last report. He and John Adams had also checked the staging, making a small repair in the</p>	

process, and considered it fit for use for another year. JP thanked AB and said it was comforting to know that our equipment was being checked each season and was safe to use.

**31/18 Social Programme and Christmas Dinner:**

Covered above under Chairman's Report above.

**32/18 CD Production and CD Display Panels:**

AE presented a new design he had prepared for our new CD banner, this will be incorporated into a roll-up cassette unit which can easily be put on display in support of our CD sales. This means that the heavy black box containing our current display panels will no longer be required.

AE

AE will handle all aspects of the design, print and production of the CD panels and also of the CDs and the CD packaging. JP emphasised it was most important the new CD should be available before Christmas.

AE

**33/18 Fund Raising:**

Covered in the Treasurer's Report above.

**34/18 Membership – Recruitment:**

Covered in the Treasurer's Report above.

**35/18 Meeting Dates 2018/19:**

Following this 27 September meeting the remaining meeting dates for the season will be 22 November 2018: 7 March 2019: 6 June 2019: AGM – 5 July 2019

**36/18 Any Other Business**

i) **Afterglow:** GG showed members a booklet he had been given by a member of another MVC which included a range of songs suitable for use at an afterglow; he proposed that we prepare a similar booklet for ourselves. This was agreed and AE offered to prepare a draft version; he will ask members for suggestions of songs to be included.

AE

ii) **Music Returns:** JC asked for it to be minuted that he was most grateful to members for passing discontinued music back to him so promptly.

**There being no further business the meeting was closed  
The next meeting of the committee will be held at 1930 on  
Thursday 22 November 2018  
At Hawkedon School**