

CHIPPING NORTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the *Annual General Meeting* held in the Music Room at Chipping Norton School on Wednesday 28th September 2005; Roger Stein in the Chair.

APOLOGIES

Action

MINUTES OF AGM HELD 22.9.04 – Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING:-

It was proposed by Andrew Vaile that the minutes for the AGM were produced as soon as possible for all choir members following each AGM.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:-

- Christmas Concert 2004 excellent with musical variety from Vivaldi, Haydn and Hummel. Venue at Hook Norton was well attended and profit made. Comments on how well-organised the concert went were received.
- 4.6.05 – Tippett's "A Child of our Time" – eighty members of choir sang in the concert – biggest number to date. Well-deserved praise given to all who had participated. The church at Banbury was a wonderful venue for the concert.
One of the "Friends" of the choir had written to say how excellent the concert had been and enclosed a donation of £100 to the Society – received with grateful thanks.
- On a negative note, not enough tickets were sold for the concert.
- The Choir Festival in March – all felt that the choir should have received a certificate.

The Chairman thanked all those on the committee for their hard work throughout the year. The Chairman (Roger), Librarian (Marian) and Treasurer (Betsy) shall all be standing down at next year's AGM. Roger reiterated the need for new members to join the committee.

Thanks went to Peter Barber for his entertainment and enlightenment in *Leading Notes* and to Jocelyn Allard and John Catling for running the Raffle – also grateful thanks to Helene Barratt and Jean Westley who have taken this on.

The choir have sadly lost three members this year – John Prentice, Nancy Scott and Margaret Cable.

The choir are indebted to Peter, Shauni and Bernard for all the work they do for the Society – we are grateful to them all and must not take them for granted.

Roger ended by apologising for those choir members whose names he tends to forget!

Questions – there were no questions

TREASURER'S REPORT:-

- The Accountant, Ian Charles, had no queries regarding the budget or any of the financial transactions.
- The Society is now up to date with Gift Aid reimbursements from the Inland

Revenue – a further £2,063 had been received this year.

- Ticket sales down from last year
- The choir have still made a surplus of £2,500 over the year
- The new CAF account (Charity Aid Foundation Account) – this year £300 interest had been received compared to £29.00 received from the Barclays Deposit Account.
- Putting our funds in to this new account has proved most beneficial.

QUESTIONS:-

- Michael Terry congratulated Betsy on what a wonderful job she had done managing the accounts for the Society
- Liz Leffman queried why the “Friends” contributions had halved this year – Betsy explained that it is not because we do not have as many Friends but that some of the Friends had not been invited to pay their fee – the Committee will be discussing how to promote “Friends” further at the next Committee meeting.
- Graham Canning suggested that there may have been fewer tickets sold as the venue was in Banbury, which is remove for some people, even though the venue was fantastic – the “Live Arts” organisation in place at Banbury do a fantastic job publicising future events.
- Hire of the school hall for rehearsals – Betsy explained that despite several reminders to the school, the Society had not been invoiced for the past two years – the figure expected is approx £2,000 and had this invoice been received and paid, the choir would still have been able to “break even”.

John Bowers proposed the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Sarah Cobb. Accounts unanimously adopted by the choir.

CONDUCTORS' REPORT:-

- Peter thanked the choir for being invited to speak and agreed that it had been another successful year for the choir
- The Christmas concert was taut and musical and worked really well at Hook Norton church, being well-attended.
- Peter thanked the society for the excellent concert management and great thanks went to Toby and the team – Peter explained that this makes a huge difference to him as he does not have to worry about the organisation of the concerts.
- Peter thanked the committee for their hard work
- Peter realised at the Christmas concert how much he would miss the choir and thankfully, decided to stay on!
- Thanks went to Shauni, Bernard and Roger for covering when Peter unable to be there
- The Tippett concert – triumphant, stunning, moving, full of character and commitment – it had been the greatest challenge so far, being an extremely hard piece and all needed to have faith.
- The spirituals without copies was a “masterstroke” – Peter had received lots of feedback about this from the audience. The timing of the concert, being Tippett’s anniversary and centenary made it more moving.
- It had been the largest choir at a CNCS concert – unsure as to why the subscriptions have, therefore, not increased
- Peter thanked those who supported his concept of the performance being held at Upper Heyford in an Aircraft Hanger – however, if people had difficulty getting to the concert at Banbury, there would have been more difficulty for the audience to go as far a field as Upper Heyford!
- Peter thanked those who did the initial site visits and ground work.

- How do we follow Tippett? – not to do any difficult pieces for a while. The music committee shall be meeting soon to discuss the next four to five years – careful programme planning is needed as it makes a big influence on the finances. A bit part of the costs for COOT was the orchestra as an extra day’s rehearsal was necessary – the orchestra cost £5,000 (what a wonderful orchestra!)
- Music Festival – Peter thanked choir for their tenacity and persistence – feels that we should have been awarded a certificate as we performed really well.
- Peter would like to invite, on occasion, a guest conductor to rehearse as it is good for choirs to learn from this experience.

QUESTIONS:-

- John Bowers – Peter suggested not to have anything too challenging for a year or two – he hopes the choir can get their “teeth in to something” next year – PH agreed – not to have anything too extravagant or expensive
- How can the Society draw in new younger members to avoid them joining choirs in Oxford – marketing and publicity paramount. RS suggested a subcommittee for this type of thing – websites, brochures, leaflets etc. Excellent idea that the committee shall review.
- Peter Barber queried whether “Making Music” funds are available and enquired whether the committee had put in an application – PH agreed that we are members but that we probably do not use it enough – needs the initial enthusiasm and energy to instigate – this does not need to be a committee member but the opportunity to instigate this is available to anyone.
- Rosemary Wilson suggested having bookmarks for promoting the choir detailing choir concerts with contact telephone numbers.
- Andrew Vaile queried the subcommittee for marketing – RS explained that the committee have no extra time to do this and that the committee is already short of two members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:-

- All present members willing to continue
- Proposed by Joanna Rigg and seconded by Jocelyn Allard
- Unanimously approved with no abstentions
- Roger reiterated the need for new members to join the committee
- The committee meet around six times per year at The Fox Inn.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

- Graham Canning offered a huge thank you to the committee for all their hard work, what a wonderful job is being done and to “keep up the good work”
- RS spoke on behalf of the committee to say that it is a very worthwhile role and all the committee members thoroughly enjoyed their time on it.