

MINUTES

CHIPPING NORTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting – held Wednesday 14th October 2015

Sarah Cobb welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES:-

Apologies had been received from Roger & Marian Stein, Liz Leffman, Jenny Welsh, Susannah Howe, Simon Bartlett, Vicki Pike, Julia Hall and Louise Barnes.

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF AGM MINUTES HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2014

After circulation, it was proposed by Naomi Brookes and seconded by Andrew Vaile that the minutes be signed as a correct record and all were in favour of this. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

MATTERS ARISING:-

- Under “Treasurer’s Report” it should read assistance “from” and not assistance “for” – corrected
- The December 2014 should read December 2013- corrected
- Musical Director – December 2014 should read December 2013- corrected

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – SARAH COBB:-

- There are currently 112 paid members and 14 new singers started in September 2015 which is a record.
- Sarah thanked everyone for selling tickets, buying raffle tickets, supporting the Sing Day and those who have given donations – it all helps to keep the finances in good financial health compared to many other choral societies.
- The tickets for Messiah (December 2015) will remain at £15.00 on the door and £12.00 in advance, with refreshments and programmes in addition to this.
- The level of local publicity needs to be increased – Liz Leffman does a great job but all members can play their part by displaying Caroline’s fabulous posters in and around the area.
- Subscriptions will remain the same this year but will be reviewed in Autumn 2016. The committee has received a number of enquiries regarding termly membership only but this is not possible as it would increase administration and planning would be more difficult.
- The Music Committee met in July and a five year plan has been drawn up until 2019.
- Election of committee – sadly, two people are leaving the committee due to other commitments. Both have done a fantastic job – Vicki (Librarian, Vice Chair and much more) and Christophe who was our fantastically organised concert manager – you will both be missed. All remaining members willing to stand for another year and were thanked for their very hard work “behind the scenes”.
- Thanks too to everyone else who has assisted this year including concert stewards, concert clearer-uppers, Rosemary & Hilda for organising refreshments and servers and Jenny for her sterling work on the raffle.
- Peter and Bernard were thanked for all their efforts put into the Society which is simply amazing.

QUESTIONS – NONE – Vivian Woodell thanked Sarah for all her hard work as Chair.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Year Ended 31st August 2015 – NICK WATKINS

- The accounts for 2013/2014 had been signed off by the Independent Examiners. These accounts are different to those presented at the last AGM due to an incorrect classification which had now been rectified. A surplus of £1,589.85 had been made and not £1,383.29.
- The accounts for 2014/2015 are final as all income & expenditure is accounted for but they remain draft as they are not, as yet, approved by the Independent Examiners.

- *Christmas Concert 2014, Chipping Norton* – with the concert being so close to Christmas and having “Christmas” in the title, it was well attended and generated a revenue of just over £1,750.00.
- *Spring 2015 – Dream of Gerontius, Banbury* – As expected there was a loss of £5,700.00 which was better than expected (£3,000.00 income and £8,700.00 expenditure). It was a fabulous concert with fantastic support from the Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, brilliant soloists and NC3 providing the semi-chorus. The venue was also expensive.
- *Summer Sing Day* – The day was hugely enjoyable and a small profit of £80.00 was made (£530.00 income and £450.00 expenditure) – this figure would have been higher (£250.00) were it not for rescheduling the event which meant that we had to hire the scores twice and there was the accompanist’s cancellation fee. Thank you to those who organised the day.
- *Subscriptions* – These have increased to £6,300.00 from £5,700.00 last year which is of great benefit for the Society.
- *Concert Receipts* – These have increased by 20 %
- *Raffle Income* – this had decreased
- *Programme & Refreshments* – slightly increased despite St Mary’s, Banbury, taking the refreshments proceeds at the Gerontius event. Thank you to everyone involved. Please remember to pay for the programmes.
- *Music Hire* – income decreased as cheaper music was hired, there were increased costs due to hire of copies for the music festival and unused hire for the sing day. Many thanks continue to the excellently efficient librarians, Vicki and Caroline.
- *Benefactors* – thanks to all those who have donated in the past year.
- *Summary* – The Society is just £950.43 less well-off than August 2014 which is amazing considering the expense of Gerontius.

QUESTIONS:-

- Andrew Carter queried the re-claiming of Gift Aid monies – the rules of how to claim this changed four years ago and Andrew wondered whether the Society could reclaim some of these as the monies are now split. The Society had not claimed back gift aid since the untimely death of Betsy Tyler-Bee. The underlying issue was that a proportion of each subscription is deemed to be “tuition” by Making Music which affects that portion of monies for the claiming of gift aid – **the Committee need to look into this further**
- Vivian Woodell queried whether gift aid could be claimed on concert tickets, similar to tickets sold at The Lido – Vivian would ask Claire who is a Trustee of The Lido about this. If this was possible, several thousands of pounds of gift aid monies could be reclaimed each year and it would be worth paying someone to look into this further.
- Pauline Walker asked what the current balance is – it is £13,872.00 and asked that the accounts be put onto the website before the next AGM.
- **It was agreed that the Committee would look into gift aid further.**

The accounts were proposed by Wendy Guest and seconded by Brian Jones. All were unanimous in this and the draft accounts for 2014/2015 were duly adopted.

Sarah thanked Nick for all his hard work with the accounts.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR – PETER HUNT:-

- It had been Peter’s most enjoyable year.
- The Christmas programme was delightful and being so close to Christmas it added to the atmosphere and performance of the *Britten Ceremony of Carols & Chilcott On Christmas Night*.
- Gerontius – it was the Society’s toughest challenge and drew a level of rehearsal and learning that had not been experienced before – the pressure was on for we managed a very competent and faithful performance. Congratulations to everyone! It was a magnificent concert – thank you to the teams of contributors – to

Vicki and Caroline for music, Caroline for posters and an excellent programme and Roger for his notes. The committee for admin infrastructure and Sarah for making sure everything gets done and on the day, Christophe, Jon and various helpers for stage management. Finally to Bernard – we could not have learnt this piece so thoroughly without such assured accompanying and occasional rehearsal.

- Peter thanked Caroline for producing such lovely programmes which are simple, nicely styled, well laid out and which have set a high standard to which we are now accustomed and part of the public face of the society.
- Mass in Blue Singing Day – this was well attended with a lovely atmosphere and a well-balanced group, although the concert was a bit short.
- Musically and overall it has been a very good year – everyone has been committed and worked hard – we met every challenge and performed to a high standard. Peter is very proud of the choir’s achievements.
- *General Points* – The weekly rehearsal blog helps with planning and preparation
- *Attendance* – please ensure that members attend as many rehearsals as possible
- *Committee* – thanks go to the committee for its organisation and administration, for continuing to be open to ideas and being flexible
- *Sarah* – a special thank you to Sarah for being an outstanding Chair and for being so willing to stay in post for so long.
- *Plan* – An exciting programme has been planned for the next five years and the influx of new members is very welcome.

QUESTIONS – None

NEW CONSTITUTION – SARAH:-

- Sarah explained that all members had received a copy of the updated constitution for review, to be approved at the AGM. A lot of effort had gone into this with particular thanks to Bernard and other choir members.
- This constitution will make the society easier to run and should not impinge on the enjoyment we get from rehearsals and concerts.
- The constitution had not been updated for many years and as a Charity, the society has to adhere to the requirements of the Charities Commission.

QUESTIONS:-

Under “Objects” there were several commas missing – to be corrected

Under “Membership” – termination of the membership of any individual – **it was agreed that this agreement be met by 2/3 of the committee and not unanimous. The member would also have the right to appeal to a general choir meeting.** To be corrected.

Subject to these amendments it was agreed to adopt the constitution:-

Proposed by Wendy Barber and seconded by Vivian Woodell – all members were in favour

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:-

Jon Drake and Keith Ravenhill were welcomed onto the committee during the past year and have been very welcome additions. Brian Jones will rejoin the committee which is wonderful news! The rest of the committee have agreed to continue but in line with the constitutional changes, we will be seeing a new chairman, treasurer, librarian and subscription secretary at the next AGM. We do need to co-opt people to shadow the current committee. The proposed committee for 2015/2016:-

Sarah	Chairman and subs; stepping down October 2016
Beth	Secretary, stepping down October 2016 and being replaced by Liz Leffman
Nick	Treasurer – stepping down October 2016
Caroline	Librarian - stepping down October 2016

Liz Vice Chair & publicity – **secretary from October 2016**
Jon)
John) Concert managers and tickets
Keith)
Brian

Committee proposed by Rosemary Wilson and seconded by Wendy Barber – all members in favour

AOB:-

- Vivian Woodell queried the vicar at St Mary's Chipping Norton inviting everybody to pray. He did not feel that this was appropriate as the venue was for a performance and not a service and some people might not feel comfortable doing this. *In general, this was agreed and the Committee to take this forward*

With no further business the meeting ended at 9.40 pm with thanks to everyone for attending.