

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 1st March 2022 at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT Mr Bob Jenner Mr Keith Jones Mr Neil McArthur
Mr Robert Owens Mr Bryan Peak Mr John Powell (Chair)
Mr John Robinson

1 Welcome

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the main topics for discussion would be the first two strategy items at 6.1 and 6.2.

2 Apologies Mr David Collins Mr Mike Devaney

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 1st February were agreed and signed.

4 Matters arising

- **Uniform Secretary** – BP advised that it was important that someone be found to take on this rôle after the distribution of the new uniform by the uniform sub-group. It should not be an onerous task, dealing mainly with new members and storing the few items of stock. **Action: JP & JR will approach potential candidates**
- **Piano** – JP has obtained a crime reference number and is awaiting further contact from the police. The next likely step will be an insurance claim, which will need details for the piano. **Action: RO to discuss with Tatyana**
- **Dragon's Den** – The Committee received Laurie's information and suggestions about an approach to this fund. Any proposal at the moment would undoubtedly be for a small part of a relatively small pot. It was decided that it may be better for the choir to formulate a longer term project and then seek funding for specific aspects of the project. Suggestions include the setting up of a youth choir or involving the choir in more community based activities. **Action: NM & JP will discuss with Laurie**

5 Events

5.1 Rainow

This concert is being organised by the church at Rainow and does not require significant input from the choir, other than coordinating the sale of tickets to members. BP was asked to approach Graham to request that he continues to be the liaison person for the event. **Action: BP**

5.2 A Night at the Opera

KJ volunteered to take the lead for this event. There is still a need to decide upon a venue. All possibilities have pros and cons. BJ will produce a financial comparison document for consideration against various "aesthetic" aspects before a decision is made. **Action: BJ**

5.3 Llandudno

Following the misunderstanding around the dates and times of the concerts, these have definitively been confirmed as Friday and Saturday evenings. The precise timings are still to be agreed. Currently, we have a confirmed booking with the Chatsworth Hotel but formal agreements with the two churches are not yet in place. Laurie has obtained several quotations for a coach but all are expensive at around £1,000, meaning an individual cost of about £40 each. The committee agreed that this was not a practical option for members and could lead to people dropping out. All members wishing to attend will be asked to make their own way, arranging car sharing as appropriate. Anyone who does foresee a transport problem is asked to speak to Robert. **Action: RO**

6 Strategy

6.1 Repertoire development

All agreed that a wide and varying repertoire was necessary to maintain the interest of both members and our audiences. RO said his view was that the choir needed to be able to perform different types of music according to the nature of the concert e.g. as per the successful Songs from the Shows (which we hope to repeat this year as a "Christmas" concert), Remembrance, the proposed Night at the Opera. It is important that we continue to reach a wider audience and it is not expected that all audience members will wish to attend all concerts. Communicating which items tick which category boxes is not always easy and it is therefore equally important to maintain one-to-one dialogue within the choir. RO will update members at appropriate intervals on the rational and nature of the repertoire development. **Action: RO**

The list of items currently being rehearsed is quite varied and there is more to come. NW will incorporate an update in the next newsletter. **Action: NM & RO**

KJ reminded the committee of the Strategy Group's view that there should be short, medium and long term aspirations for how and where we perform. Overall, our concerts would include those with a specific focus, joint concerts, a competition or festival, trips away, our own large fund-raising events and events as "hire-outs" for other organisations.

6.2 Events publicity

There is a definite need to expand our range of publicity and it is recognised that this may involve a fair amount of effort as demonstrated by the very positive result from the Songs from the Shows. There is potential to advertise events via other cultural organisations and also to tap into the newer platforms such as Instagram and Tiktok. We

could consider an online ticketing service which would also then allow the promotion and advertising of concerts. We need to be mindful of overall ticket sales when selling through multiple channels to avoid over-selling.

Action: BJ will investigate ticketing services

7 Section Representatives

There were no specific comments via Section Reps. As regards the current programme, it is recognised that the new year always presents challenges as new items are introduced.

8 Any other business

There is a need to reconsider our storage of equipment at Broken Cross in the light of the piano incident and also what appears to be other use of items – to be determined when a replacement piano is obtained.

9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12th April – all committee members are asked to let JP have their view as which of the strategy issues should be the main focus for the meeting.

Action: All

Signed

John Powell.....12th April 2022