

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 7th November 2023 at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT Mr Chris Cromar Mr Ciaran Fleming (Chair) Mr Laurie Kennard
Mr Neil McArthur Mr Paul Nadin Mr Tim Neale
Mr John Robinson

1 Welcome – CF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies Mr David Coggan Mr Keith Jones Mr Robert Owens
Mr Shane Owens Mr Bryan Peak

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 3rd October were agreed and signed.

4 Matters arising

➤ **Grant Applications** - Having received a detailed application form from Macclesfield Town Council, NM is drafting an application for funding activity aimed at attracting new, and particularly younger, members. Previous application details and advice will be sought from members.

Action: NM

➤ **LK** – MaccMVC have been unsuccessful in securing funding from the Co-op for 2023/24. It is proposed that we apply for 2024/25.

Action: LK

➤ **Choir photos** – Ongoing, the target is completion by the end of year.

Action: NM and TN

➤ **Recruitment** – The Committee discussed Graham Water's thought-provoking suggestions and recommendations on chorister recruitment. It was proposed that the next stage would be to create a questionnaire for choir members to identify their views on what attracts and concerns potential choir members.

Action: CF and GW

CC offered positive comment; 1) that Macc MVC performs very well compared to the majority of amateur choirs, 2) The Choir should widen its use of, and visibility on, social media, 3) recruitment activity and fundraising must work hand in hand (CF comment – free of charge = free of value), and 4) we should clearly identify and support a recruitment champion.

➤ **Schools Involvement** - LK reported that no further progress has been made in the month, with no communication Kings or Fallibroome re the December concert, or indeed for 2024. LK requested direction on next steps from the Committee who firstly thanked him for the valuable work he had undertaken so far, and asked if he would continue his work with schools as he feels appropriate.

Action: LK

➤ **Choir Recording** – To be progressed in November to completion.

Action: PN and LK

5 Financial Update

5.1 Forecast 2023

There has been little change since last month, with the projected end of year balance now being £8,496 (Oct £8,787) including restricted funds of £587. This still presumes net concert income of £2,000 for the rest of the year.

5.2 Budget 2024

Draft budgets were presented based on three operating cost scenarios, identifying that up to £4,000 of concert income was required to ensure a break-even for 2024. It was agreed that a formal budget should be prepared for the next meeting based £4,000 of concert income and including updated music team costs as arrangements become clearer.

Action: PN

6 Events

6.1 Prestbury

The concert made a net contribution to funds of circa £700. The Committee thanks Harry Newton for organising the event.

6.2 Joint concert with BackBeat

LK reported that several audience members complemented the choir on the musical performance and mix of musical styles. Whilst attendance numbers were a little disappointing, it was anticipated that attending 2 concerts in two weeks was likely to be difficult for our regular supporters, friends, and families. The Committee thanks Laurie Kennard for organising the event.

6.3 Remembrance Concert –

As event organiser, TN updated the meeting on progress;

6.3.1 Tony W and NM will install chairs and boxes on the raised platform.

6.3.2 A request will be made to use the acoustic (rather than digital) piano.

Action: CC

6.3.3 It has been agreed that the ticket price will be £10, and the net profit will go to SSAFA.

6.4 Songs from the Shows

As event Organiser Mike Batson updated the meeting:

6.4.1 In the absence of Anna, Rachel Fright has been approached as accompanist. It was agreed pre-event publicity could be prepared without details of accompanist or soloists.

6.4.2 As communicated by BP, the Macc MVC email address on publicity should be checked as a non-functioning web email has recently been used **Action: MB**

6.4.3 Give the short lead-time to recruit advertisers and agree artwork, MB proposed to print a simple one-page program.

6.4.4 A ticket price of £15 for adults and £5 for under 18s was agreed.

6.5 Mottram Hall

In progress for Christmas Eve. A designated rehearsal date of 20th December 2023 has been set.

6.6 The Bridges - Monday 29th January 2024,- instead of a normal rehearsal.

6.7 Joint concert with Bollington Singers

Bollington has proposed dates of either 15th or 16th March 2024 for which neither CC nor Poynton Methodist Church are available. Options continue to be being reviewed. **Action: BP**

6.8 Joint concert with Côr Melbion Colwyn

Colwyn choir unable to agree a suitable, no further contact.

6.9 Joint concert with Côr Melbion Maelgwn

Awaiting response to a proposed concert in May 2024. **Action: BP**

6.10 Joint concert with Audley

Awaiting confirmation of a date being agreed with soloist Wyn Evans. **Action: CC**

6.11 Concert in Astbury Methodist Church / with Russell Watson –

The initial response from Astbury Church is that it is only available on a Saturday afternoon from middle June to the end of August. It was agreed to investigate possibility of a Saturday evening concert. **Action: PN**

Russell Watson is not available for a concert at Astbury Church, but his management are investigating options for Macc MVC to perform with him elsewhere. **Action: PN**

7 Section Representatives

Nothing that is not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

8 Concert Platform and Seating Arrangements

It was recognised that in Wilmslow the arrangement of the choir on the platform and when moving back to seats was not. Whilst this was partly due to the weather and the location of the waiting area, it will be a focus for improvement future concerts. **Action: CC and Section Reps**

9 Concert Pricing

LK raised concerns from choir members that a £15 ticket is expensive in the current economic climate. Based on high level research he suggested that this price was at the dearer end of charges for similar events. Taking everything into consideration, particularly the quality of our musical offering, the Committee concluded a £15 ticket price was not excessive for our premium concerts.

10 Any other business

10.1 PR Photo

Arrange for photo pre December SftS Concert. **Action: CF**

10.2 Carol Singing

Requests received from the Tytherington Club and a Care Home for Carol Concerts to be followed up. It was agreed that the carols need not be in song in TTBB arrangements. Benchmark fee; commercial entity £500 plus expenses, Care Homes free. **Action: CF**

11 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 5th December.

Signed

Ciaran Fleming..... 5th December 2023