

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 7th March 2023 at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT	Mr Keith Jones	Mr Paul Nadin	Mr Neil McArthur
	Mr Tim Neale	Mr Shane Owens	Mr Bryan Peak
	Mr John Powell (Chair)		Mr John Robinson

1 **Welcome** – JP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies** Mr David Coggan Mr Graham Jones Mr Robert Owens

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 7th February were agreed and signed.

4 **Matters arising**

➤ **Dragon's Den** – JP has produced an initial “story board” with a summary of objectives for the choir. NM will now draw up a potential target list of organisations to approach. Anyone wishing to contribute to the exercise should contact JP or NM. **Action: NM/JP**

➤ **Skills survey** – A few more responses have been received. BP will advise reps which members have responded so they can chase as felt appropriate. The summary information can be fed into Graham Water's members' survey. **Action: BP & Reps**

➤ **Sponsorship options** – SO has discussed the possibility of approaching the Emerson Group. He will draft a letter for consideration, recognising that we shall need to offer something in return e.g. a concert supporting a charity of their choice. **Action: SO**

➤ **Members' list** – BP advised that most had responded to the request to check personal details held by the choir. It had proved a useful exercise, highlighting a few errors in the data.

5 **Financial Update**

PN advised that there is c. £11,270 currently in the bank including ring-fenced funds of c £1,770. The projection going forward currently does not include any income for Bridges, Disney or G&S which are still to be confirmed. There is only a handful of subscriptions outstanding – members who have not yet paid are asked to contact Paul. It was agreed that there should be a discussion at the next meeting regarding whether the number of rehearsals needs reviewing in the light of concert planning.

6 **Events**

6.1 **Chapel Ladies Choir**

BP will issue information received from them regarding the logistics of the concert. As we are not taking any ticket proceeds, members wishing to buy tickets in advance should approach Chapel Ladies direct or they can buy on the door, cost is £10 each. **Action: BP**

6.2 **The Bridges**

Confirmed for 17th April; time tba.

Action: RO

6.3 **Audley MVC at Newcastle**

Provisional date is 22nd April but we are still awaiting confirmation of member availability.

6.4 **Cheshire A Cappella**

KJ advised that they have confirmed agreement to our suggested arrangements. No further action at present.

6.5 **Llangollen**

Our entry resubmission has been accepted.

6.6 **Other Concerts and Venues**

We are still waiting on confirmation of venue availability for the remaining concerts in the year. It was agreed that these details need to be confirmed as soon as possible so that the finances for the year can be reviewed.

6.7 **Venues**

Coupled with item 6.6 it is important that we expand our concert footprint in order to maximise concert income potential. There are major benefits to be gained through for example being able to repeat concert programmes whilst attracting new audiences. **Action: all to consider**

7 **Section Representatives**

T1 – TN said that most comments had been covered by the agenda. There was a suggestion that we should revert to compering by a member. As a minimum, perhaps the Chair should introduce the choir initially.

T2 – Nothing specific to report.

B1 – Nothing specific to report.

B2 – Nothing specific to report.

8 Strategy Review

JP will bring a small group together and tie in debate with the outcome of the survey to be undertaken by GW, hopefully in 3-4 weeks. Anyone wishing to assist in the review should contact JP.

9 Any other business

9.1 Members' photos

TN advised that this exercise was progressing well.

9.2 Funding

SO asked whether we should seek a grant from the Community Fund of the Lottery. We did of course have money from the Lottery for the new uniforms but any future request would need a specific project e.g. outreach programme to care homes so that we could undertake concerts without the need to charge.

9.3 Music

PN asked if music is returned from resigning members. JR advised that this did happen in the majority of cases.

9.4 Recruitment

KJ pointed out that we still need to take firm action on the issue of member recruitment. T2s in particular have lost several members in the last twelve months which means that there is the danger of concerts not being able to go ahead with a sufficiently balanced choir.

10 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 11th April at 7:00pm.

Signed

John Powell.....11th April 2023