

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 6th December 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.

2 **Apologies** Mr David Coggan Mr David Collins Mr Mike Devaney
Mr Paul Nadin

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meetings held 8th November were agreed and signed.

4 Matters arising

- **Dragon's Den** – carried forward to January. **Action: NM/JP**
- **Website photo** – Arranged for prior to the December concert. **Action: BP to confirm**
- **Social Media** – KJ confirmed that Shane will liaise with Dai to take over maintenance of the Choir's social media presence.
- **Concert Programme** – to be picked up within item 5 below.
- **Skills survey** – agreed to issue the survey now to allow any follow up before the AGM. **Action: BP.**

5 Financial Update

The balance as at 5th December was £6,631, excluding ring fenced funds of £390 re uniform, £1,512 for the piano and £800 Llangollen deposits. We are still awaiting ticket sale proceeds of £138 from Macclesfield TIC (figure already included above). Provided SftS produces a net profit of £2,600, we shall end the year with funds of c. £7,700 – depending upon number of rehearsals post 10th December and including Gift Aid of about £300 which won't be received until after the year end.

JP asked what the biggest financial risks are for the choir. These were identified as:

- Uncontrolled costs
- Reduction in concert attendance
- An ongoing deficit budget

Other than cutting costs – effectively, reducing the number of rehearsals – the main mitigating action is to ensure a good and varied concert programme. This, as ever, means selling more tickets. Increasing membership would also be desirable. Varying venues, including finding suitable venues outside Macclesfield, in order to access a wide audience should also be considered as a mitigating action. It is though clear that any increase in concert income – whether through more concerts, increased ticket sales, advertising, patrons – does not in itself impact our fixed costs and will not eradicate the deficit without significant input from all choir members.

BJ submitted an initial budget for 2023 which predicted an operating deficit of £2,000 following the earlier proposals, i.e:

- Reduce rehearsal weeks from 48 to 44
- Obtain patrons to the value of £1,000
- Increase in subs by £25

This however was based upon there being income from three major concerts. Following discussion on performing four/five concerts, BJ will revisit the concert program and the above three planning assumptions, which were not specifically accepted, and revise the budget for future discussion.

6 Events

6.1 Songs from the Shows

BJ advised that arrangements are in hand. Income from advertisements is down. The programme is being produced and will again contain a full description of the performers and items being performed. Price is set of £3.00.

6.2 The Bridges

This has been deferred until February.

6.3 Mottram Hall

Will be very informal with however members can attend plus soloists. It is proposed that full uniform will not be used. David Jones will provide accompaniment. BP will provide use of keyboard though transport is needed.

6.4 Clayton Manor

This has been rescheduled for 16th January but BP will enquire as to whether 18th is possible to allow for Anna's return from holiday. **Action: BP**

6.5 Chapel Ladies Choir

Still on course for 25th March. Details will be confirmed in the new year.

6.6 Llangollen

RO is in touch with the organisers relating to our entry. No further decisions will be taken until a response is obtained.

Action: RO

6.7 RNCM

RO would still like the choir to take part in an event being staged for possible sponsors for the ENO move out of London.

Action: RO

6.8 Cheshire A Cappella

KJ advised that a date of 3rd June has been proposed at Wilmslow URC. The concert would be staged and managed by MMVC, with tickets at £15.00. Cheshire A Cappella would be allocated 50 tickets initially and would retain 50% of those sales. Once KJ has agreed the basic format, BP will confirm the room booking.

Action: KJ & BP

6.9 Venues

- Fallibroome – A provisional booking has been made for 20th May. Costings are still awaited.
- Academy – Still waiting on a site visit.
- Congleton area – the committee reviewed the detailed report that PN provided covering many venues in and around Congleton. Several of the options can easily be ruled out but there would appear to be a number that are worth considering. The benefits of going “out of town” would be the potential for a different audience and the option of reusing music from other concerts, thereby minimising the demand for learning whilst at the same time increasing ticket sales.

JP will thank PN for the work put in and the committee will use the information when formalising next year’s programme.

Action: JP

7 Section Representatives

DCn advised that he has again been asked about a “members’ directory”. JP will reinforce the previous decisions not to produce this document because of the need to adhere strictly to GDPR rules. These stipulate that any personal data held by an organisation must be securely controlled and, most importantly, may be used only for specified and recognised purposes. The production of a list that is outside the control of the choir management runs the danger of falling foul of those rules.

RO has been asked about the policy of free tickets to concerts, specifically in relation to ex-members. The committee restated its policy, i.e. paid-up patrons are eligible for one free ticket p.a. for a concert of their choice; life members are invited as guests to all concerts; depending upon the nature of specific concerts, VIPs – e.g. the town mayor – may be invited as guests. No other free tickets are made available.

Action: JP will speak to the relevant person

JP mentioned that B2s are currently (relatively!) happy about the way that information on concert programmes is being managed.

8 Any other business

- We have received an invitation to send a representative to the town civic carol service. BP will ask Harry Newton if he wishes to attend.
- Following reading an article from the mayor who attended a recent KEMS event, Graham wondered if we should also be inviting the mayor to our events. BP will enquire.
- Laurie has suggested “name your favourite song” as a potential fund raising idea. Audience members would be invited to pay a small sum to pick a song, one of which will then be included in a future concert. Whilst thanking Laurie for the suggestion, the committee thought the amount of money potentially raised would be too small to make it worthwhile.
- The committee agreed that the 2023 AGM would be held on Monday 30th January at 7:00. BP will issue the necessary notification. All committee members other than the chair will need to be (re)elected.

Action: BP

9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 17th January at 7:30pm.

Signed

John Powell.....17th January 2023