

**MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
Held 2nd September 2025 at Macclesfield Methodist Church**

**PRESENT**      Mr Ciaran Fleming (Chairman)      Mr Keith Jones      Mr Laurie Kennard  
                 Mr Neil McArthur                      Mr Paul Nadin              Mr Tim Neale  
                 Mr Shane Owens

1. **Welcome** – CF welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** - Mr Chris Cromer, Mr Max Hartley
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – The minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025 were agreed.
4. **Matters Arising** –
  - 4.1. **Improved effectiveness of rehearsals:** The agreement to hold one additional Wednesday sectional rehearsal each month has been implemented. Guidelines on best practice for effective rehearsal are being discussed. **CF & CC**
  - 4.2. **Vacant committee positions** – It was agreed that NM would take the position of Vice Chairman up until the January AGM. Committee members will continue to ‘sound out’ volunteers for the Baritone Rep position. **All**
  - 4.3. **Choir Hire Fee** – It was agreed that “From £350” should be used on the website and in response to preliminary enquiries on the cost of hiring the choir for events. Final cost would be dependent on specific requirements.
  - 4.4. **Music survey** – The committee agreed to circulation of the proposed Recruitment Project Music Survey with a deadline for completion by members before the end of the month, ideally in two weeks from receipt. **PN**
5. **Events Actions / Status** -
  - 5.1. **St Bartholomew’s, Wilmslow – 20th September**
    - 5.1.1. LK raised concern about audience attendance numbers given the break in rehearsals. Focus required on timely event promotion and ticket sales. **ALL**
    - 5.1.2. The committee agreed to offer a £10 ticket to RNCM students and residents of the nearby Carrs Court community. **CF / PN**
    - 5.1.3. LK asked if Amber Owens would be available to oversee front of house (FOH) arrangements. SO offered to check. **SO**
    - 5.1.4. It was agreed that at the interval wine should be on offer, and FOH team be available for the audience to make donations to choir funds. **LK/SO**
  - 5.2. **Cottons, Knutsford - 17<sup>th</sup> October**
    - 5.2.1. Choristers to be asked to confirm their availability to sing at the rehearsal on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. **CF**
    - 5.2.2. Confirmation required of items for audience participation, with details of who would prepare / print handouts. **LK / CC**

### 5.3. Remembrance Concert – 10<sup>th</sup> November

5.3.1. Baritones to provide Concert Coordinator **LK/MH**

### 5.4. 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert - 29<sup>th</sup> November

5.4.1. Liaise with CC to discuss ideas on repertoire in advance of preparing publicity. **CF/LK**

### 5.5. Groobarbs “Sing for Christmas” – 21st December

5.5.1. Confirm chorister numbers. **LK**

### 5.6. Mottram Hall – 24th December

5.6.1. Booking accepted / fee agreed. **PN**

### 5.7. Events - 2026

5.7.1. United Reformed Church with Caravanettes - Confirm 18th April 2026. **LK**

5.7.2. Congleton / Biddulph – Propose 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026. **LK**

5.7.3. November Concert – Book URC for end November 2026 **LK**

## 6. Financial Update

**6.1. Update** - Bank balance end August 2025 - £12,100 (2024 – £11,329). Year to date concert income of £2,600 compared to the £4,000 full year budget. The lottery is making a small profit YTD.

**6.2. Lottery Focus** – It was agreed to highlight the lottery draw each month and encourage participation. **PN**

## 7. Section Reps Reports

**7.1.** B2 - Raised the importance of feedback (both positive and negative) after a concert.

## 8. Choir Recruitment –

**8.1.** The meeting appreciated the significant progress and achievements of the Choir Recruitment Project members to date and was in support of the proposed plans going forward.

## 9. Other Business

**9.1. Choir Keyboard** – Check the state of the current keyboard. If working satisfactorily, does it need a protective case, and an output suitable for an external amplifier/speaker. **TN**

**9.2. Disposal of Staging** – For logistical and operational reasons it was agreed that purchasers will be sought for the choir staging. The staging will be “sold as seen”, with the choir disclaiming responsibility for the safety of the staging erected by any other party. **NM**

**9.3.** A proposed choir trip to the Cornish International Male Choral Festival 2026 was discussed. Taking into consideration the logistics and cost of the 6+ hour coach journey to Truro, transport to venues over the weekend, and a minimum 3 nights accommodation, it was concluded that the Choir Committee was not in a position to organise such an event.

**11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Signed: Ciaran Fleming .....