

# MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

## GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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 Paul Nadin

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> December were agreed and signed.

4 **Matters arising**

- **Dragon's Den** – NM and JP will start a proposal. **Action: NM/JP**
- **Skills survey** – There has been a poor response to the request with only five replies received. It was agreed to reissue the survey as a reminder. **Action: BP**

5 **Financial Update**

5.1 **Report and Accounts**

The balance as at 16<sup>th</sup> January was £5,651, excluding ring fenced funds of £390 re uniform, £1,512 for the piano, £169 c/f music donations and £800 Llangollen deposits. We are still outstanding £200 advertisement payments from SftS, which, providing it arrives, will mean that the profit from the concert was £2,334. BJ/NM will submit a Gift Aid claim for second half of 2022 for a further £326.

The accounts for 2022 have been signed by the independent examiner and will be presented for acceptance at the AGM. BP will circulate the accounts to members in advance of the AGM. **Action: BP**

RO has been able to acquire a piano/keyboard for £250 which will suffice for small venues. This will be funded from the ring-fenced insurance monies. The committee agreed to keep £500 ring-fenced to go towards any subsequent purchase of speakers. The balance will be released to general funds.

5.2 **Budget and subscription**

The budget has been updated in line with the revised proposed concert programme. In order to maintain a balanced budget and keep the desired level of reserves, the two main criteria that need to be agreed are the subscription level and the number of planned rehearsals. Following considerable discussion and taking into account views from members, it was agreed to recommend a subscription of £175 and to plan for 88 rehearsals. RO will draw up an outline schedule for rehearsals, with an initial upfront loading of two per week to aid learning of new items. The number of rehearsals will be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the initial concerts – if net income is greater than budgeted then more rehearsals may be affordable.

**Action: RO**

6 **Events**

6.1 **Mottram Hall**

We again received positive feedback from the event. Approximately 15 members attended which is sufficient for the space available though the choir balance could have been better to enable a more varied programme.

6.2 **The Bridges**

This has now been deferred until April with a suggestion of 17<sup>th</sup>. RO will confirm.

**Action: RO**

6.3 **Clayton Manor**

At their request, this will now take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 6:00.

6.4 **Chapel Ladies Choir**

Still on course for 25<sup>th</sup> March. Because of issues with their normal venue, this will take place at St John the Baptist Church in Buxton.

6.5 **Llangollen**

RO has been asked to resubmit our entry.

**Action: RO**

6.6 **RNCM**

RO has been advised that it would be of benefit to the choir's visibility to take part in this competition, which is a day event on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. It will be attended by several key arts supporters who may be open to requests for funding/sponsorship etc. Section reps are asked to obtain availability from members.

**Action: BP to advise reps**

6.7 **Cheshire A Cappella**

KJ advised that they have agreed the proposed ticketing arrangements. BP will make a formal booking for Wilmslow URC.

**Action: BP**

## 6.8 Venues

- Fallibroome – Following repeated difficulties encountered in trying to agree hiring arrangements, it was agreed that this will not be pursued.
- Academy – Still waiting on a site visit. **Action: BJ**
- Kings – RO is still trying to make progress with them but it is likely their costs will be too high.
- Astbury – Our return concert with Audley will be at Astbury and RO suggested we review the church as a potential venue for us, especially as it came out well in the review undertaken by PN.

## 6.9 Other future concerts

- RO is hoping to arrange an October concert at St Peters Prestbury with Chris on the organ.
- The proposed G&S concert is provisionally booked for 27<sup>th</sup> May at St Michaels.
- Disney concert – July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Remembrance – November 11<sup>th</sup> probably at Macc Methodist.
- Songs from the Shows – November 25<sup>th</sup> at St Michaels.
- Christmas carol concert/service – either December 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>.

RO will confirm dates and venues so that bookings can be made, especially for St Michaels where there is doubt as to availability. **Action: RO**

## 7 Section Representatives

A suggestion has been made to employ an assistant MD to cover in emergencies. RO explained that, where possible, he would always arrange for a stand-in. Realistically though for concerts, a substitute MD is not feasible as the individual would not be aware of the specific way the choir performs each item. We can't afford the cost of someone to be at rehearsals as a paid extra "just in case" and we don't have anyone with the necessary skill set within the choir itself.

There is concern that information and decisions by the committee are not always disseminated to members in a timely fashion. BP noted that the minutes to all meetings are available for all to see within a few days of each meeting. It was though agreed that JP will prepare a summary briefing for Section reps which they can then share with their members. It was also agreed to include a proposed concert/events list in the members only section of the website. **Action: BP/JP**

Laurie Kennard has indicated willingness to do some grant funding research and also to be the lead for concert in May. The committee expressed their gratitude for the offers which are very welcome.

## 8 Any other business

### 8.1 AGM arrangements

BP advised that he has received nominations for: Vice Chair, Secretary, two General Reps and T2 Section Rep. In addition, DCs has since confirmed his agreement to continue as T1 Rep. DCn is willing to continue in an informal position re B1s and JP has possible candidates for Treasurer and someone to cover B2. BP pointed out that in due course we need new names for some of the other non-committee appointments. The agenda, accounts and a statement re the proposed subscription rate will be issues in advance of the meeting. **Action: BP**

### 8.2 Strategy

JP said he wanted to set up a small group to review the choir's future direction, especially in view of the apparent lack of engagement from some members. KJ advised that this must include a substantial element on recruitment and mentioned open days organised by Peterborough MVC with prostate cancer charities as beneficiaries. RO pointed out that these were high cost events that we couldn't match but the principle was sound. **Action: JP**

## 9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm.

Signed

John Powell.....7<sup>th</sup> February 2023