

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 2nd August at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT	Mr Mike Devaney	Mr Bob Jenner	Mr Keith Jones
	Mr Neil McArthur	Mr Bryan Peak	Mr John Powell (Chair)
	Mr John Robinson		

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

2 **Apologies** Mr David Collins Mr Robert Owens

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 28th June were agreed and signed.

4 **Matters arising**

➤ **Dragon's Den** – Still to be actioned. The “piano” is an obvious option to pitch. **Action: NM/JP**

➤ **Newsletter** – NM hopes to publish the revised version soon. **Action: NM**

➤ **Choir Objectives working group** – JP will aim to bring proposals to the next meeting and welcomes any views for items for consideration. **Action: JP**

➤ **Ticket sales etc.** – We must have member buy-in to the need to sell tickets for concerts but equally important is non-ticket income, e.g. advertising, sponsorship, and the need for someone to manage this across concerts. See also item 5 below. **Action: JP**

5 **Financial Update**

As at 2nd August the balance stands at £7,200 which excludes ring fenced uniform funds of £190, £1,512 for the piano and £800 Llangollen deposits. We are still hoping for another £100 from NATO advertisements and have possible outstanding invoices for £150 piano tuning and £176 for the church. The balance includes the recent Gift Aid claim for £3,850 and BJ anticipates a further claim for the second half of the year for c. £350.

Allowing for all this and some other minor adjustments, our operational balance is £7,354 meaning we are now not spending from reserves. However, although we have sufficient to cover costs until the year end – estimated at £5,500 – it does still mean we shall spend from reserves again, ending the year at c. £2,000. *Unless.....* we turn in sizeable profits from the remaining events, currently forecast at £4,500.

BJ emphasised that we must have realistic plans in place to cover costs up to first quarter 2023, i.e. increasing sales or reducing costs. JP will present a message to members stressing the need for volunteers to undertake various tasks as, without the associated income, the only other method of raising income is to levy an increased subscription. **Action: JP to address members**

6 **Events**

6.1 **Massed Choirs**

Although RO is leading the musical side for this event and investigating sponsorship, we still need a coordinator. It was emphasised that that the co-ordinator does not need to “do” everything but rather ensure others are covering the required elements, e.g. tickets/posters, refreshments, front of house. If sponsorship for this event is not forthcoming, there is a need to find advertisers. Graham Waters also needs tickets and posters to be available quite soon for distribution to sales outlets. **Action: RO to confirm sponsorship**

6.2 **Backbeat**

DC is managing advertising but there is still a need for an event co-ordinator.

6.3 **Remembrance**

Co-ordinator needed.

6.4 **Songs from the Shows**

Co-ordinator needed.

6.5 **Llangollen**

The urgent aspect here is that we must place a confirmed booking with the hotel by 8th August in order to secure the places. In response to a query, the committee confirmed that members are quite welcome to attend only for the day of the competition. There is ample car-parking available at the hotel and it is not considered cost-effective to run a coach. Members will be encouraged to arrange car shares to reduce travel costs. NM suggested that we should ensure our participation is advised to local press and media and will draft a strategy for publicising our preparation and appearance at the Eisteddfod, with the objective of increasing the profile and appeal of the choir to potential audience members, choristers, sponsors, and supporters. **Action: NM**

6.6 **Venues**

➤ Fallibroome – still no progress through the formal contacts route. It was agreed to send a letter to the Chair of Governors, expressing our frustration at the lack of progress when we are keen to explore the use of the building and they presumably are keen to obtain the income. **Action: BP/BJ to write**

➤ Academy – BJ thought another site visit was worthwhile to explore possible use of their theatre though this may be difficult to arrange pre-school holidays. **Action: BJ**

➤ Another option to consider is Clonter Opera.

Action: ??

7 Life Members/Patrons invitations policy

Recorded in order to emphasise the need to seek new patrons via all possible methods – again something that members can assist with through their own contacts. **Action: JP will include in message to members**

8 Section Representatives

T1 Nothing to report.

T2 Nothing to report.

B1 JP has received a repeat of the questions raised at the last meeting re the **events diary list** and the **list of members**. The committee re-confirmed that the former is available on the website and the latter was withdrawn a few years ago in order to avoid any GDPR issues.

Can we have some non-themed concerts? – a concern that the themed concerts do not appeal to everyone. The committee noted that RO had already specifically explained that the idea of themes was just a way to attract new audiences and it certainly wasn't the intention for all future concerts. Indeed, the next three concerts do not have themes.

It would be good to have guest soloists who are not sopranos. Whilst recent concerts have featured sopranos, we also had tenors and instrumentalists just before lock-down. Much depends upon availability and costs.

Can we restart care home informal concerts around Christmas? MD advised that, at present, in view of the ongoing concerns around Covid, it is highly unlikely we would be allowed into care homes. The situation will be kept under review.

The website photograph needs updating. The committee was aware of this – it is important so that we can show the Town Council and the National Lottery how their grants have been spent. The difficulty is purely arranging it. JP will liaise with RO to organise a pre-rehearsal photo session. **Action: JP**

B2 Nothing to report.

JP advised that Dave Coggan has agreed to be Section Rep for B1s and Paul Nadin for B2s. The committee confirmed their appointment.

9 Any other business

9.1 Glyn Jones – memorial music

JR and RO are considering what new music can be purchased with the donations received. **Action: JR & RO**

9.2 Football opera

MD is part of a group of 40 football fans who will undergo classical singing training to prepare them to sing in the chorus of a football related opera called "The Gods of the Game". It will be in a documentary format which will film the group's progress culminating in a performance that will be recorded and broadcast during the world cup in November 2022. It provides an excellent opportunity for local promotion of the choir.

10 Date of next meeting

Provisionally Tuesday 6th September.

Signed

John Powell.....6th September 2022