

Macclesfield Male Voice Choir

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 24th January 2022 at 7.00pm.

Broken Cross Methodist Church.

1. Chairman, Harry Newton, opened the meeting at 7.00 and welcomed members.
2. Apologies for absence were received from; M. Batson, D. Hollick, N. Mc Arthur, A. Clarke.
3. Minutes of previous AGM and SGM – Minutes had been sent to all Members by email. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by C. Fleming, seconded by W. McWalter and unanimously approved by the meeting.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Treasurer's Report – Bob Jenner gave the following report on the accounts for the period to 31st December 2021. Copies had previously been sent to all Members.

We set our financial stall out as "run a balanced budget over the year and maintain a reserve of c£5000 as measured at year end". The reason for the latter is demonstrated in this year's performance where we carried forward a balance of c£8000 and actually overspent by c£2000 (largely due to an unexpected removal of revenue streams that were forecast). These issues are mainly due to the referred effects of C-19 but have their root in a constant within our budget – we do sing for our supper and have done for as long as I can remember. Our only fixed source of significant income is subscriptions, and these have never covered our fixed costs, so we really do need to make money on our concerts.

Financial Highlights:

The Annual Subscription was unchanged at £150.

Donations although not as significant as 2020 were nevertheless much higher than our expectations supporting the notion of inclusiveness and popularity amongst members and friends.

Two Social events held; the Restart BBQ was a subsidised affair to allow members to reacquaint after the lockdown; the Christmas meal was a successful event that actually broke even because several people who were unable to make the event converted their payments into donations. Thanks to John and Jan Wilkin and Robert for all the work they put in to making it a success.

As mentioned above we did "sing for our supper" in that the events that were held contributed c£3500 to choir funds's. The Christmas Concert was a huge success on all fronts; enjoyed by Choir, guests and audience alike, and massively successful on a financial front. Big thanks to Keith Jones and Dave Collins for their work and to Robert for constructing such an entertaining event.

The Mottram Hall experience was really enjoyed by the Choir and very well received by Mottram Hall and their guests. At this stage they are very keen to repeat the event next year".

Financial Lowlights:

Membership was slightly down. This is a trend that has recently been reversed - a big success for the Committee and Choir to reverse trends seen elsewhere.

Several events had to be cancelled removing a projected £4000 from our funds.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions.

R. Gould and N. Skelton questioned the payment of £140 to Mottram Hall. The Treasurer explained that this was a cost to the Choir of staging the event, not a payment to Mottram Hall. The explanation was accepted by both members.

M. Lovatt raised a question regarding Gift Aid. Mr. Lovatt accepted the Treasurer's answer that he would be dealing with the issue.

- 6a. Appointment of auditor

The Treasurer proposed that Jeremy Bostock be appointed to continue as our Auditor. The meeting unanimously approved.

- 6b. Subscription 2022

The Treasurer explained that in drawing up a budget for 2022 (and therefore identifying the required level of subscription) he had worked with a membership of 45 people and a forecast balance of c£6500. We had deliberated long and hard on the 2022 event list with a degree of optimism that they would return c£9000. The forecast balance was slightly over optimistic; the membership list is about

right but the 2022 event list has already had some additional risks imposed on it; Inflation being the biggest of these but the wherewithal of members to sell tickets for future events is also significant.

Provided 2022 proceeds with some semblance of normality and we are not hit by unforeseen financial impacts he felt it reasonable to recommend that the subscription for 2022 remain unchanged for the third year running at £150.

The proposal that the subscription for 2022 be **£150** was put to a vote and unanimously approved.

7. Chairman's report – H. Newton delivered the following to the meeting:

First of all, I would like to thank your Committee and all Choir Members for the work you have put in since I had the honour to be elected as your Chairman for three years, extended to four years, particularly over the last two difficult years. My job has been made much easier due to the fact that the Committee and other Choir Members have worked as a team with only the best interest of the Choir at its heart.

The lockdown periods have made it very difficult for us to get together for rehearsals, but thanks to the efforts of our Director of Music Robert, accompanist Tatyana and Choir Members, we have been able to organise Covid-secure rehearsals for many months and we were able to put on a concert in December which was well up to the standard our audiences have come expect.

At the commencement of the lockdown your Committee took the decision to keep the Music Team together to enable the Choir to get back together as early as possible. With the lack of concert income this would not have been possible without some very generous donations from Choir Members, Patrons and Supporters to whom I say, "Thank you very much". It is only due to these donations that we have been able to keep a balanced budget over the last two years.

During the downtime we did plan for the future with some long overdue projects. After being delayed by the Covid lockdown the New Uniform project is now nearing completion.

We looked at ways to develop a Choir strategy for the future focusing on maintaining our core principles whilst attracting new choristers, audience members and supporters by improving our image and concert appeal. We have rebranded the choir as MaccMVC and developed a new website maccmvc.co.uk and social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to appeal to a wider audience and potential new choir members, whilst continuing to support our existing Members, Friends, Supporters and Patrons.

Whilst we have sadly lost some members during the last two years, we have recently had new members joining the Choir to whom we offer a very warm welcome. We should all be doing our best to encourage new members, to keep up the strength of the Choir.

There are too many members who have gone beyond the call of duty to thank individually but, I would like to thank your retiring secretary Graham Waters for the dedicated work he has put in over the past three years. Also, I thank Bob for his work in keeping our finances on an even keel. And not forgetting John Robbo whose support as Vice-Chairman has been invaluable.

Looking at the nominations, I think we will be in very safe hands with our new Committee. I am sure you will give them your full support in the challenging times ahead.

8. Election of Officers:

Chairman – John Powell was elected unopposed
Vice Chairman – John Robinson was elected unopposed
Treasurer- Bob – Jenner was elected unopposed
Secretary- Bryan – Peak was elected unopposed

9. Election of General Committee members:

Keith Jones was elected unopposed
Neil McArthur was elected unopposed

10. Election of Section Representatives.

T1 Representative – Dave Collins was elected unopposed
T2 Representative – Mike Devaney was elected unopposed
B1 Representative – There were no nominations for this position
B2 Representative – There were no nominations for this position

11. Newly elected members took up their posts.

12. Director of Music's Report – Robert Owens delivered the following to the meeting:

I think it's fair to say that 2021 has been an extremely difficult year for our Choir. Our singing has been heavily restricted due to the pandemic but with the help of many we have managed to improve in other areas. For example, we have been able to focus on our Website, Social-media, Concert and Future Event Planning. The work we have done on Recruitment has paid off and we have many new members to prove this. Our first themed night 'Songs from The Shows' was great, and I would like to

thank all of you for the work you put in to make it such a success. In particular I would like to thank and congratulate our new members who took part in this concert. It took a lot work and you showed great commitment and determination. I know that our audience and Members really enjoyed the night and I look forward to the next one. This may well become an annual event. This year we will be focusing on getting our singing technique back to what it was before Covid and working towards our large summer concert 'A Night at the Opera'. With Covid still around, this year is still going to be a little different, but I believe we should plan and aim for the best-case scenario.

13. Chairman J. Powell thanked the retiring officers and expressed his gratitude for being given the opportunity to serve as Chairman which he considered an honour. He then confirmed that the following Appointments will be made at first committee meeting on 1st February 2022.

1. Musical Director.
2. Principal Accompanist.
3. Librarians
4. Fire Safety/security Steward
5. First Aider
6. Padre
7. Membership Secretary/Registrar
8. Uniform Secretary

He also asked that Members advise their Section Representatives of any matters they want raised at the meeting

There being no other business of the AGM the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Chairman.....

Date.....