

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 11th April 2023 at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT Mr Keith Jones Mr Paul Nadin Mr Neil McArthur
Mr Tim Neale Mr Bryan Peak Mr John Powell (Chair)
Mr John Robinson

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

2 **Apologies** Mr David Coggan Mr Shane Owens Mr Robert Owens

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 7th March were agreed and signed.

4 **Matters arising**

➤ **Dragon's Den** – This is progressing. NM will liaise with Laurie around potential sources to target once the future direction of the choir has been clarified as regards MD. **Action: NM/JP**

➤ **Skills survey** – DC reported that he has obtained some general offers of help for specific aspects but members didn't want to be committed to long term roles. This view was shared by other sections. BP reiterated that the survey was intended to create a pool of people with certain skills, precisely so that no individual would be overburdened. It has also been suggested that responsibility for a specific concert could be allocated to an individual section but the committee felt that sections were not big enough to ensure that all required tasks/skills could be covered. We do though now have a small list of people who have volunteered and could be called upon as necessary.

➤ **Sponsorship options** – Nothing further to report. Further options may arise from the offer from Laurie to assist with targeted grant applications. **Action: SO**

5 **Financial Update**

PN advised that there is c. £10,327 currently in the bank including ring-fenced funds of c £1,770. PN presented two cash flow forecasts to September; one presuming full Wednesday rehearsals and one with Mondays only. The former clearly shows a non-viable option as a worst case scenario and does emphasise the need to continue with a sensible concert schedule. As well as needing the concert income, we also need to continue to perform so that members can keep "active". (See also item 6.5 below.)

The committee agreed to continue the agreed rehearsal schedule, i.e. Mondays plus Wednesdays as necessary in advance of concerts. This will also fit in with Chris' availability – he cannot commit to all Wednesdays. The important issue will be to continue to monitor the finances in the light of concert income.

6 **Events**

6.1 **Chapel Ladies Choir**

All agreed that the concert went very well despite the last minutes problems. Feedback from Chapel Ladies was also good.

6.2 **The Bridges**

Confirmed for 17th April; time 7:00pm.

6.3 **Audley MVC at Newcastle**

The concert has been postponed by Audley as their proposed guest artist isn't now available through illness. We await their advice for a revised date.

6.4 **Cheshire A Cappella**

KJ asked that reps establish numbers for the concert. KJ will not be available for the two weeks immediately before the concert. The committee agreed to keep planning under review and provide any last minute support as needed. KJ will approach Harry N/ Bob re tickets. He will ask Alice about the programme but avoid the request unless essential. JR will discuss the singing programme with Chris. As already agreed, items will be taken as far as possible from those in current use, supplemented by other recent pieces.

Actions: BP to ask reps re numbers; KJ to speak to Harry/Bob; JR to discuss programme with Chris

6.5 **Other Concerts and Venues**

Generally, we need to continue performing, for morale, reputation and finance reasons. Because of the obvious current uncertainty re Robert, it doesn't make sense to start a host of new pieces but equally we cannot sing the same pieces repeatedly for the same audiences. Over coming months, we shall aim to perform in differing locations so that we can use similar programmes. PN believes there are options for something in Congleton area, plus we have Wilmslow and hopefully something to replace G&S in Macclesfield. **Action: JR & JP will investigate venues.**

7 **Section Representatives**

Generally, there is unease around the current uncertainties, especially concert schedules and programme content. It is important therefore that both elements be clarified sooner than later and the decisions advised to members. Failure to do so risks alienating both members and our audiences.

8 Strategy Review

JP proposed putting the detail of the review on hold until things stabilise. In the meantime, he believes we have put in place sufficient risk mitigation to enable us to go forward.

9 Any other business

9.1 Choir phone

PN queried the continuation of this contract. BP advised that the phone has been known to ring and receive the occasional message! It was agreed to continue with the service for the moment as it provides a contact point that doesn't need changing if choir personnel change.

9.2 Performing Rights

PN asked what the process was for conforming to these regulations. Generally, we expect the venue to hold any licence and sometimes we receive a bill to pay towards this. It is unclear however, what happens if the venue does not hold a licence.

Action: PN will speak to Bob; TN and JP will also investigate.

10 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th May at **7:00pm**. BP is not available for the meeting but will issue the agenda. NM volunteered to produce the minutes.

Signed

John Powell.....9th May 2023