

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

General Committee Meeting – Date: 7th December 2021.

Venue –Macclesfield Methodist Church / 7:30 –pm

Meeting called to order by Chairman at 7:35pm

1- Present: H. Newton (Chairman), G. Waters (Secretary), R. Jenner (Treasurer), J. Robinson (Vice Chairman), J. Powell (B2 Rep), K. Jones, N. McArthur, R. Owens (Director of Music).

2- Apologies for Absence: M. Batson (B1 Rep), D. Collins (T1 Rep), B. Peak (T2 Rep),

3- Approval of Minutes from previous Meeting:

Approved – Keith Jones

Seconded – John Powell

4- Songs from the Shows:

K. Jones reported:

What we sung appealed to the audience. It was modern, varied and recognisable. Having a clear ‘theme’ meant the audience could relate.

We should implement a form of ticket control to avoid overselling.

The ticket price was about right but we could consider an increase. The possibility of Family Tickets, free entry for minors and other avenues to make our offerings attractive were discussed. This subject will be reviewed again in more detail. Full details of the sales breakdown are still in preparation, but it is clear that the introduction of online purchasing and the ability to pay at the door by card made a positive impact.

Depending on the venue and Covid restrictions, it may be useful in some circumstances to have ‘Seating Stewards’.

The quality and content of the programmes was excellent. We could easily have sold them at higher price, eg £3. We should maintain this standard in our future major events because it will encourage advertisers to take space.

A raffle should be included in future. However, the quality of the prizes should be of a high order. Perhaps vouchers from local suppliers or restaurants? Programmes could be numbered and used as raffle tickets which may encourage sales.

A number of contact sheets were given out.

Promotion, Advertising and Ticket sales – We had virtually a full house and the Committee thanked all those involved for their efforts. We need to expand the distribution of information and involve local outlets such as the Town Hall Information Centre. It has become clear that banners are not cost effective,

As always Setting-up and Breaking-down of the staging fell on ‘The Few’. For future events we MUST find a way to share the responsibility. It was proposed that a team of two or three were trained up so that we weren’t totally reliable on one person’s knowledge.

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties the Streaming option wasn’t available.

The piano – Unfortunately the church piano is not of a suitable standard for what we ask Tattiana to perform. We need to seriously consider having our own high-quality equipment. Various ideas were put forward and will be pursued.

5- Upcoming Events

A) Social Evening – Everything is on track. Parking is more than adequate. Robert asked that wherever possible those attending should first do a Lateral Flow test.

B) Mottram Hall - Our brief is to sing a few sets between 4 pm and 6 pm. We are ‘to be heard and not seen’ Robert will issue us a list of the music we are to sing.

C) Gala Concert 2022: Robert is working on a ‘themed’ evening of a similar style as Songs from the Shows with guest artists.

D) Llandudno: The plan is to have 2 concerts, one on a Friday afternoon / evening and one on the Saturday afternoon / evening. Each will be in a different venue.

We would also aim to have a Choir ‘get-together’ on the Saturday evening.

GW brought the meeting up to date with the hotel situation. The meeting agreed he should now go out to the Members with details and get a feel for how many will commit. Robert will handle the choice of venues and music.

6- Financial Update- As of today, our current account balance is c£9900. this includes our ring-fenced uniform fund of £5000. With the final accounting of "Songs from the Shows" still to be completed and our known outgoings for the rest of this month, it appears reasonable to assume that our Year End balance will c£6500.

The 2022 Forecast was discussed in detail, specifically the challenges around the proposed Concert Programme. The Treasurer will revise the 2022 Forecast in light of these discussions. The revised Forecast will inform any proposal to amend the subscription for 2022.

7 - Section Rep reports:

B1:

The programme was largely familiar to the audience and took into account their age and profile. It had a recognisable theme and a good balance of Choir / Guest performances.

A small group disliked the image of the choir without ties.

The speech and some singing could not be heard at the back of the church.

Comment has been made that donations made in lieu of sending Christmas Cards to members should go to charity not choir funds.

B2:

All members seem happy.

T1:

Extremely positive feedback with everyone hoping it will become an annual event.

Some comments that we looked "scruffy" without our ties and it was cold.

All the T1's would have preferred being together as a group and not mixed with the T2's.

T2:

Nothing to report.

8- AGM 2022

a) The Meeting approved the Secretary's proposed timeline for AGM –

Dec 13th – Send out Notification email & Nomination Papers

Jan 10th – Closing date for Nominations / Send out 'un-audited accounts' / Send out AGM Agenda

Jan 24th – AGM.

9 – AOB.

Keith Jones raised the question of whether we should hold a Charity concert. The meeting agreed that the answer was, in principle, yes. This year had been unique and various constraints prevented us.

Bob Jenner raised the urgent need for the Choir to find a 'Uniforms Manager'. It is clear that this will become evermore vital as the uniforms are issued, used and membership changes.

Robert Owens confirmed that Singing Lessons will resume in 2022. He also asked for clarification of the criteria for members to perform in events. The Meeting confirmed that it is at the sole discretion of the Director of Music.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Committee for their support and efforts during his term of office.

Date and venue of next meeting. - 1st February 2022

Meeting closed at – 9:35pm.