

Macclesfield Male Voice Choir.

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at Macclesfield Methodist Church on 7th November 2019 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance- H. Newton (HN), J. Robinson (JR), R. Jenner (RJ), G. Waters (GW), D. Collins (DC), D. Hyde (DH), K. Jones (KJ), J. Wilkin (JW).

Apologies for absence. F. Furnage (FF), G. Jones-David (GJ-D).

1. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 22nd August were approved. Proposed by J. Robinson seconded by G. Waters and agreed unanimously by the committee.

2. Martin Tute- Concert Secretary's Update:

Future Events/Concerts-

2019 – Remembrance Concert. 16th November, Macc. Methodist Church, All in hand. Organiser- H. Newton.

Christmas Concert. 6th Dec. Langley Church. Tickets now on sale. Organiser-F. Furnage.

Care Homes. (date?) Belong.

2020 – January. No Events.

February. No Events.

March. 21st Joint with Flint Ladies. Venue St. Peters Church Congleton. Organiser D. Collins.

April. 25th Gala Concert. St Michaels Macclesfield.

May. Tribute Concert. Endon. No progress.

June. 13th Bridlington / 14th Whitby. MT getting costings to put to Choir. (done-13 Nov)

July. 11th. Joint with Low Fell Singers.Macc URC (to raise funds for Christies)

August. Llandudno (Provisional) R. Owen investigating.

September. 19th Joint with Chester Ladies (Provisional)

November. 8th Remembrance Concert. Macc. Methodist Church

Tatton. Possibility only at this stage.

2021 – May. Cornish MV Competition (Registration fee £270). This was approved and MT will apply.

3. - Workshops.

John Powell's offer to run a series of workshops designed to help us identify and then achieve certain objectives was discussed and approved. It was felt the workshops should be made open to all members K. Jones will take this further and advise the membership, also calling for participants.

4. Section Representatives.

T1. Reduce amount of music currently held in our folders. JR will action.

Audience appeal – sing more pieces that the audience recognise and like. JR will discuss with RO.

T2. None

B1. Coach costs getting heavy. GW will look at this (already talked to Laurie Kennard who will give advice)

Earlier notification of what we will sing in concerts. JR discuss with RO.

J. Wilkin informed that only 50 tickets had been sold for the Remembrance Concert. Tickets will be available at the door.

B2. None.

5. - Financial Update. R.J.

As at 3rd Nov the balance was **£19353.33**, This includes: a) £8000 ring- fenced for Uniforms, b) £1000 Christmas Dinner monies. This represents a running balance of **£10353.33** for ongoing operation.

There are no outstanding payments or receipts, so this gives us a healthy balance.

For the remainder of 2019 there is only one anticipated income, Langley £350. There are several anticipated outgoings; Music Team, Broken Cross MC, being the most notable.

Remembrance and Chester Ladies are considered as nett zero (Remembrance should cover its costs and provide a donation, Chester Ladies all costs being covered by Chester Ladies. There is no fee it's on a return concert basis).

Our one Care Home visit will incur music team costs.

My forecast for nett expenditure to end 2019 is based on the forgoing and having only two rehearsals post Langley.

*Nett spend is forecast at £1960 which would give us a carry forward balance of circa **£8000** for 2020. This is better than forecast largely because of the financial success of Wilmslow and higher than forecast nett contributions from Chapel Ladies concert and the IoM tour.*

With anticipated expenditure in early 2020 forecast at circa £3000 then the subs uplift has recovered our target of a running balance of c£5000.

As mentioned, Wilmslow was an outstanding financial success nett contribution £2177. On behalf of the wider Choir I thank Dave Collins and Keith Jones for their significant efforts on this one.

RJ will write an email to be sent out giving the background to his decision to hold 2020 subs to £150.

6. – Uniforms. Review of progress RJ & DH.

The process will involve 4 stages: 1) Discovery / 2) Analysis / 3) Suppliers & Pricing / Submit Recommendation.

Project steering group is in place and active.

The Committee commended this excellent start.

7. – Events Diary.

GW proposes to change the format that we issue to Members, etc. The current one is fine as an internal 'planning doc'

8 - K.I.T. List. GW As part of our efforts to keep-in-touch [K.I.T.] with ex-members, Patrons, etc GW has opened a KIT group on the Choir Gmail account.

9. – Recruitment.

DH - Membership is now falling. By 2030, without action, our membership could be down to 20 or worse. We must now act in order to attract people in the New Year. As a committee we need to up our efforts by:

- 1) The approval/amendment of the £50 initiative.
- 2) The approval/amendment of the wording/design of the poster.
- 3) I'll get someone to print the posters.
- 4) Poster placement in libraries/other places.
- 5) Speak to music departments in schools/colleges in Macc/Wilmslow/Congleton and ask them to place posters and sell it to students.

It was also agreed we should continue to try to find a Recruitment Officer. JW will draft a 'call to arms' which will go out to all members urging them to help.

We should consider reduced subs for students.

10. - A.O.B.

- i) JR. Remind Members about *Music* donations @ £160.
- ii) DH. The National Lottery Community Fund website will be publishing details of our grant award on 3rd December. We are encouraged to advertise the award locally in the press and on our own website and social media. There is a logo we should use when doing this. DH has ordered a large cheque for a photo opportunity for the local press and a plaque for our use, maybe on Robert's rostrum.
- iii) DH. Dispense with 'verbatim style' minutes. Welcomed by the Secretary who will prepare the minutes of this meeting in a more restricted, simplified format.
- iv) Life membership – Martin Tute asked that we consider Life Membership for Geoff Molyneux and Mervyn Lovatt. HN is checking lengths of service for both and will then make a decision.
- v) DC recommended that if Bob Hurst is able to return to singing with us, we should allow him a 12-month moratorium on subs. This was approved. DC will contact Bob.
- vi) Refund of IoM deposits. GJ-D has raised the question on behalf of one of his section who withdrew from the IoM trip. The committee debated the issue and decided that it was not possible to meet this request for the following reasons:
 - a) The cost per person of the trip was calculated using the number of people who committed and paid.
 - b) The deal with the hotel was very favourable but was negotiated on a 'no refund after x date' basis.
 - c) All members were advised in writing on 2 occasions, and verbally at rehearsals, that there could be no refunds and that they should take out insurance to cover themselves.
 - d) A dangerous precedent would be set.
- vi) HN. AGM 2020 – Date fixed for Monday 27th January at 7:00 pm in Broken Cross Methodist church.

Date of next meeting.

Thursday 30th January.

There being no further business the chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:55 pm.

Signed as a correct record..... (Chairman)..... (date)