

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 8th November at Macclesfield Methodist Church

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

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

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

3 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meetings held 11th October and 1st November were agreed and signed.

4 **Matters arising**

➤ **Dragon's Den** – Agreed to work on a pitch for the New Year, aimed at the cost of a new piano.

Action: NM/JP

➤ **Website photo** – Arranged for prior to the Remembrance concert.

Action: BP to confirm

➤ **Social Media** – KJ has spoken to Shane Owens who has expressed a willingness to take this on. KJ will ask him to liaise with Dai.

Action: KJ

➤ **Marple Choral Society** – no response as yet from JR's approach.

5 **Financial Update**

The detail of the current financial situation is as per the previous meeting. BJ presented an update based on those discussions which suggests an end-of-year balance c. £6,600 *provided* the December concert achieves a profit of £2,600. The significant areas that need formalising/actions are:

- Reduce rehearsal weeks from 48 to 44
- Obtain patrons to the value of £1,000
- Increase in subs by £25

There are still two major concerns: firstly the absence of someone prepared to act as co-ordinator for SftS, meaning little has so far been done on the detailed arrangements including securing advertising which is a large element of the net profit; secondly on a more general note, it is very difficult to produce a sensible budget for 2023 as there is still uncertainty surrounding the concert programme. Agreed that this needs to be formalised as a matter of urgency.

Action: JP

6 **Events**

6.1 **Remembrance**

Arrangements in place. Dai Jones will carry out the actual act of Remembrance. Just need to check there are sufficient people to manage the door/tickets and raffle.

Action: BP will check with Harry Newton

6.2 **Songs from the Shows**

As mentioned above, this concert still needs a co-ordinator as no-one has come forward following JP's request. In view of the short time now available, BJ agreed to take on the responsibility aided by PN. Agreed that DC should be approached to ask if he can co-ordinate advertisers.

Action: BJ/PN

6.3 **Clayton Manor**

There was concern that this event would be at a cost to the choir. BP will revert to the carehome to ask if they will cover total cost of £160. We also need to verify that we have an accompanist.

Action: BP

6.4 **Mottram Hall**

BJ will seek a fee of £500 (up from £450 last year). BP's piano is available if needed. We need to confirm the cost of accompanist.

Action: BJ

6.5 **Chapel Ladies Choir**

The concert will be on the basis of covering our costs with the probability of a return concert at a later date.

6.6 **Llangollen**

Concern was expressed that there are members lacking enthusiasm for this event, probably on the basis of the time being given to rehearsing the programme over that for our main concerts. It is important to note though that participation will be seen as a significant image benefit to the choir. Nevertheless it is essential that adequate preparation is allowed for other performances.

6.7 **Venues**

- Fallibroome – It is clear that we shall not make progress without submitting a formal request for a specific date. The impression gained though is that they do not see third party use of their facilities as a priority
- Academy – Still waiting on a site visit.
- Clonter Opera – Ruled out for cost reasons

Action: BJ

Action: BJ

- Daneside Theatre – PN will make further enquiries and also investigate Trinity Methodist and the New Life Church. **Action: PN**
- St Michaels – Apart from the issue with the piano, BJ raised a concern over their continuing availability as a venue.
- Other potential venues – various suggestions were considered but none are completely suitable for our main concerts either because of lack of facilities, insufficient capacity, poor layout etc.

6.8 RNCM

RO has indicated that there may be an opportunity to take part in a competition sometime in 2023.

6.9 Cheshire A Cappella

We have had an approach from this ladies choir based in Wilmslow for a joint concert. In view of the doubt around the proposed concert with Backbeat, KJ will contact them to establish what is possible. **Action: KJ**

7 Section Representatives

PN presented a number of concerns put to him by one of the B2s. These are:

Lack of advance knowledge of concert programmes – this prevents members from being able to practise outside rehearsals and is especially relevant to newer members and those who do not read music and rely on the practice tracks. If the latter are not available on the website until only a few weeks before the concert, it is very difficult to learn the pieces in time.

Disappointment at the repertoire which is perceived as repetitive and not always appropriate to the occasion e.g. Remembrance.

Presentation at events appeared disjointed, not helped by last minute cancellation of soloists. There is also the suggestion of approaching local schools for potential young soloists.

8 Any other business

8.1 Website events diary

It was agreed that the diary needs to include all events, including those still to be confirmed in order to give members a complete a picture as possible and also provide greater publicity.

9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th December at 7:30pm.

Signed

John Powell.....6th December 2022