

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 11th October at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT Mr Neil McArthur Mr Bryan Peak
Mr John Powell (Chair) Mr John Robinson

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

2 **Apologies** Mr David Coggan Mr David Collins Mr Bob Jenner
Mr Keith Jones Mr Paul Nadin Mr Robert Owens

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 6th September were agreed and signed.

4 Matters arising

- **Dragon's Den** – Still to be actioned. **Action: NM/JP**
- **Choir Objectives working group** – Agreed that JP's document would be used as a basis for the future direction of the choir.
- **Website photo** – Unfortunately, this did not happen on 24th September. RO will be asked to arrange before the Remembrance concert. As we prefer the website photo to show the "informal" tie, members will be asked to attend the concert with both ties as the formal club tie will be used for the concert itself. **Action: BP to ask RO**
- **Social Media** – JP will seek a volunteer to take over from Dai Jones when he moves away. **Action: JP**

5 Financial Update

In BJ's absence the committee received a written report. Excluding ring-fenced funds, there is £6,909 in the bank. Allowing for known outstanding invoices and expected income, we have a working balance of £6,989. We can cover costs until the year end but will be using reserves and will end the year with c. £3,500 though this excludes income/expenditure from further concerts.

We are still waiting for final income/expenditure from Audley concert but the likely outcome is a profit of c. £1,300.

6 Events

6.1 Massed Choirs

This was a good concert overall but disappointing in ticket sales and therefore overall profit. It emphasises the need for better advertising and more proactive selling by members. BJ and DCn provided detailed feedback concerning the general running of the evening, all of which need to be considered for future events. As an aside, the informal concert at The Bridges suggests that it would be sensible to pursue similar events as they have the potential to provide good advertising and bring in new audiences at our major concerts.

6.2 Remembrance

There is now an urgent need for someone to act as co-ordinator. JP and JR will approach individuals to undertake the rôle. It was agreed to set a nominal ticket price but then to ask for donations on the evening, specifically making the point that all profits will go to charity (we obviously need to nominate which charity).

Action: JP/JR

6.3 Songs from the Shows

Again, this event – which needs to make a significant contribution to choir funds – must have a co-ordinator very soon in order to ensure adequate advertising is in place as soon as possible.

Action: JP/JR

6.4 Clayton Manor

BP confirmed that we have been invited to perform an informal concert at this care home on the evening of 12th December. This is the Monday immediately after the Songs from the Shows concert and members are asked to note the event.

6.5 Mottram Hall

BJ has not had a response as yet from our enquiry about performing on Christmas Eve as we did last year.

6.6 Venues

- Fallibroome – A further response from their Business Manager still did not clarify whether we can use the facilities as per last time. JR will speak to Mike Batson to establish whether another avenue of communication, perhaps involving Liz Durham, may be possible. **Action: JR**
- Academy – Still waiting on a site visit. **Action: BJ**
- Clonter Opera – No response as yet. **Action: BJ**
- Daneside Theatre – this venue was suggested as a further option outside Macclesfield. BP will ask Ken Wainwright if he has any contacts. **Action: BP**

7 Section Representatives

B1 – It was asked if long service badges could still to be used. The committee confirmed that their use had been discontinued in conjunction with the new uniform and it wasn't therefore appropriate for existing badges to be used.

A general comment was around the difficulties that arise when event/rehearsal information changes at very short notice – e.g. when the MD or accompanist becomes ill and, despite considerable effort, an emergency replacement cannot be found. BP suggested that, in addition to the Whatsapp and email advices, the Secretary should telephone the Section Representatives who would then attempt to contact their members also by phone. In order to make this task manageable, Section Representatives could speak directly to 2-3 members and ask each of them to speak to another 2-3. Whilst not infallible it does reduce the chances of people turning up at wrong times/places. **Action: BP will liaise with Reps to set up a suitable system**

8 Any other business

8.1 Purchase of uniform by members

The current decision that uniforms remain the property of the choir was confirmed though anyone wishing to make a donation towards the cost of provision is obviously welcome to do so.

8.2 Concert uniform policy

Whilst this remains a committee decision, they will be guided by the MD according to the nature of the concert.

8.3 Recruitment

There is clearly a need to engage in a more targeted approach to both getting new members and to keeping them, i.e. ensuring they are welcomed and receive adequate support in their first few weeks. It is hoped that Robert's singing lessons prior to rehearsal will help in the latter respect.

8.4 Marple Choral Society

JR mentioned he had been in contact with Marple Choral Society who have ceased to operate, to offer MMVC as an alternative to any male members.

8.5 Accompanist

The Committee is taking measures to ensure ongoing continuity of accompanist support.

9 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th November at 7:30pm.

Signed

John Powell.....8th November 2022