

**MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR
MEETING
Held 4th March 2025 at Macclesfield Methodist Church**

PRESENT	Mr Ciaran Fleming (Chair) Mr Laurie Kennard Mr Shane Owens	Mr Keith Jones Mr Paul Nadin Mr Dave Collins
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Minute

Action By

1. Welcome

CF welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies

Mr Chris Cromer, Mr Neil McArthur, Mr Tim Neale

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Agreed – proposed by C Fleming and seconded by P Nadin

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Financial Update – P Nadin

- Bank Balance – Current £9,170 and projected year end balance £9,226
- Subs –being paid by members. A few remain outstanding which are being followed up
- Donations – approximately £400 and Gift Aid £600
- Lottery – Your committee has been discussing the idea of re-introducing a monthly lottery, restricted to choir members and their families. The suggestion is that members of the choir could contribute £5 per month either by standing order or by an annual payment of £54, that the prize draw should be made during the first rehearsal each month and should consist of a first prize and second prize, the total prize money adding up to half of the income for that month.

It was felt that we should determine how many members were interested in this proposal before taking it any further, so we shall be looking for a show of hands on Monday night and if there is sufficient interest we would plan to make the first draw at the first rehearsal in May.

- Concerts - Projected concert income for the year will £10,400 with expenses of £6,700

5.1.1 Raffle

MT

Mr M Tute discussed proposal to simplify the raffle and do away with the draw for numerous prizes, this is difficult during a concert and time consuming.

The suggestion is we have a draw for a single prize such as an M&S hamper to a value of £55.00. This was agreed as good idea at the meeting and Mr Tute will manage this moving forward with assistance from other members.

6. Concerts

Groobarb 1 March 2025

Received positive feedback following the St Davids Day lunch and the choir performance. This is reflected in the Groobarbs business flyer which has a wide circulation (their veg box letters).

Bollington Singers, 5th April 2025

BJ

Coordination of the concert will be passed to Bob Jenner
Seating arrangements and management of the two choirs at the venue yet to be confirmed and there is a joint session planned with both choirs at Broken Cross in advance of the concert.

Mayoral Awards, 11th May 2025

Previous date of 30th April was misquoted in the previous minutes. Chris Cromer unavailable but Anna has agreed to stand in. Full arrangements are yet to be made.

Knutsford Star Choir, 9th May 2025

Arrangements on going.

Combined Choirs, 14th June 2025

Coordinator yet to be appointed

St Bartholomews, 20th September 2025

Coordinator yet to be appointed

Cottons Hotel, 17th October 2025

Private function of 45 minutes after dinner. Availability for all choir members to be confirmed. Similar situation to Groobarb event.

Caravanettes, 18th October 2025

Postponed

St Peters (Remembrance), 8th November 2025

Coordinator yet to be appointed

Anniversary Concert, 29th November 2025

70th Anniversary of Macclesfield Male Voice Choir. Martin Tute had been in touch with Marcus (), Former Deputy Conductor who along with a number of other local singers is prepared to perform at the concert. The repertoire will reflect music from the seven decades. Further discussion around securing a 'big name' – Gemma Sutton unavailable on tour in Ireland and given the timescales securing a notable artist may prove difficult and MMVC needs to balance that cost against potential revenue also.

6.1. Concert Strategy

LK

Laurie raised the planning of future concerts and their content, as there is some verbal discontent amongst members at current situation. This concerns

both type of music sung, repeats of songs and number of concerts. Our main revenue source from public concerts has declined despite doing more of them. Members are not stepping up to help make these events more successful. However, doing nothing different is not an option for financial reasons.

Before we start looking at 2026 (by May latest) I propose a survey/questionnaire be given to all members after verbal introduction at rehearsal. The questions could include asking for up to 5 nominated songs that we have not done for a while, or they have heard elsewhere. Do they think the number of concerts is right? Should we concentrate our concerts in Macclesfield? In order to sing more new items should we sing some from music? Any other suggestions? and lastly the ever important question...what are they willing to do to help the choir concerts be a success?

7. Section Reps

- T1 (TN)
- T2 (KJ)
- B1 (MH)
- B2 (LK)

8. Recruitment Project Update

BJ

- Bob Jenner is in the process of developing a cohesive plan to recruit and look after new joiners his initial observations are;

Our recruitment discussions have ranged far and wide including what happens from the moment a new recruit presents themselves. We (the choir) have a number of things informally in place which we feel should be formalised to ensure consistent application of a “new starter” protocol. This protocol should be further enhanced to recognise that new starters are individually unique in terms of what they bring (sometimes experienced singers, sometimes never sung before, can read music, can't read music etc). And solutions need to be implemented to minimise the dropout rate (both of newcomers and longstanding members).

Our “pathway” addressing the above is as follows;

1. Any new person walking into a rehearsal looking to find out what it is all about” should be welcomed, their aspirations and background noted and contact details recorded before introduction to the choir/MD. Responsibility for this should sit with a nominated person to ensure that it happens, probably a member of the ? To ensure cover during absence that probably means 2 people, our suggestion would be Chair and President.
2. Having conducted the welcome, this may have included the “voice test” the newcomer should be “buddied up” with someone, probably arranged by the Section rep who would provide backup in the instance of the nominated buddy being unavailable.
3. A folder containing the current rep of music should constantly maintained and made available on the first rehearsal. Additional thoughts- need to confirm the rep and maintain current members folders, probably have two “new starter” folders(just in case), keep them out of way so they are not “robbed” by current

members, perhaps use a colour other than black/blue so it identifies a “new starter”?

4. MD to have available one/two pieces that would always be sung through in rehearsals with newcomers present, maybe used as warm up or closing pieces, to give new comers a chance to sing. These pieces might be something that is generally well known (Amazing Grace has been mentioned).
5. Remove cost as an issue, maybe not seek membership fee for the first year/part year of joining or consider it as an Associate Membership (nominal fee) until new member sings in first concert.
6. If new member misses a session the nominated buddy or section rep should make contact asap to check reason. If he is not returning then there is an ongoing action to consider possible resolutions.

Most of this happens already but informally; by formalising it and implementing the other things we should be able to keep more of those that step thru the door for the first time. I think all of the above fall into the s remit to implement.

9. Any other business

- **Concert Coordinators** **PN**
PN provided an updated chart detailing the matters to be taken care of for each concert available to show and for each concert coordinator are attended to by others and plenty of assistance is available
- **Letter from Keith Wykes (Chairman)** **CF**
Inviting the choir to attend a fund raising event at the MRI and whilst this is a noble cause this would be difficult due to logistics and the cost to members

Martin Tute proposed a vote of thanks which is supported by all members to Jake Wayne for undertaking film making to promote the choir which will be circulated once completed and appear on the website. The Choir really appreciates his efforts in the making of this. Martin Tute advised that there were a number of patrons and supporters of the Choir including former members of the choir that should be invited to attend the Anniversary Concert and free tickets should be made available to them.

10. Date of next meeting

7th April 2025 18.15hrs – interim meeting