

MACCLESFIELD MALE VOICE CHOIR

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held 19th May 2022 at Macclesfield Methodist Church

PRESENT Mr Bob Jenner Mr Robert Owens Mr Bryan Peak
Mr John Powell (Chair) Mr John Robinson Mr Laurie Kennard (for item 6.2)

1 Welcome

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies** Mr David Collins Mr Mike Devaney Mr Keith Jones
Mr Neil McArthur

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 12th April were agreed and signed.

4 Matters arising

- **Uniform Secretary** – Harry Newton has now taken over day-to-day uniform management.
- **Piano/storage** – The insurer has paid out £1,512 which will be retained as a ring-fenced amount until a new instrument is bought. There is no urgency to do so at present. Ultimately, we shall need to address the question of ongoing storage as it is clear we cannot rely on use of Broken Cross. The storage for music will also be reviewed after JR and RO have completed a cull of obsolete music.
- **Dragon's Den** – JP will discuss with NM to determine the best way forward. **Action: NM/JP**

5 Financial Update

As at 19th May the balance stands at £7,785 which includes ring fenced uniform funds of £350 and the £1,512 for the piano and means we have an effective working balance of c. £5,900. With the anticipated income from June and December concerts, BJ forecasts we shall end the year just on our minimum reserves figure but will then have two months of staff costs to pay before any further income. RO advised that he is looking to the 2023 concert programme, with the view of holding five of our own concerts plus he is exploring further “full concert” sponsorship.

5.1 Grant Possibilities

BJ has spoken to Mick Warren, chair of Chair of the Environment and Communities Committee at CEC, about the possibility of larger scale grants. These would be on a 50/50 basis, with 50% being raised through “crowd funding” and then being matched by CEC. JP proposed that he establish a small working group, with help from NM, who would investigate options for projects that may be appropriate to put forward. **Action: JP**

6 Events

6.1 Rainow

Agreed that this was a good event overall, well received by the audience and enjoyed by those performing. RO pointed out that there was substantial effort involved around the logistics for the concert and this needs to be reflected in our future concert fees.

6.2 A Night at the Opera

LK updated the committee on the planning for the concert. He currently has 23 of 24 pages of the programme filled with another couple of potential advertisements to come. If necessary, he will fill the gap with information on future concerts, “a view from the audience”, comments from JP etc. The final copy needs to be with RO by 27th May. Further marketing will be undertaken next week. All other aspects are in hand. JP will cover meet and greet for guests/VIPS. The committee agreed that a thanks to advertisers should be made verbally at the concert. As discussed previously, we shall trial sale of programmes at £3 and then review. **Action: LK to co-ordinate**

6.3 Backbeat

DC is now leading this event. He and RO will meet with Backbeat and will also explore the possibility of another concert in March 2023. **Action: DC & RO**

6.4 Chapel-en-the-Frith Ladies Choir

RO proposed a date of 25th March next year. **Action: BP**

6.5 Massed choir – Audley

RO has arranged a joint concert on 24th September with Audley at St Michaels as a fund raiser replacement for the cancelled Llandudno trip. We shall keep all profits from the concert and then do a return visit to Audley next year.

6.6 Tribute for John Moss

It was agreed to make a presentation of a plaque to Shirley at the Gala concert commemorating John's long association with the choir and also to award Shirley a Life Membership. **Action: JP to arrange**

6.7 St Chad's Winsford

They have suggested that the choir perform a concert in their church. BP is awaiting further proposals from them. No action at present.

6.8 Andrew’s Grandma’s memorial

Confirmed we shall sing two items at this event at 11:00 on 20th June at Macc URC.

6.9 The Bridges Adlington

We have been invited to perform an informal concert on Monday 19th September at 7:00. This will replace the normal rehearsal.

6.10 Use of Christchurch Macclesfield

We have received an enquiry about performing at Christchurch. It was felt though that the building lacked the facilities needed to accommodate a concert, notwithstanding its good acoustics. **Action: BP**

6.11 Macclesfield Golf Club

We have also received a request to entertain a ladies group from Macclesfield Golf Club on the Sunday afternoon of the Jubilee weekend. The general opinion was that we couldn’t arrange something at short notice plus it was likely many members would already have commitments for the day. **Action: BP**

7 Strategy

7.1 Repertoire development - newsletter

The newsletter is still under review. RO will provide a list of provisional concerts for next year for inclusion. **Action: RO**

7.2 Events publicity - ticketing

No further action at present.

7.3 Choir Objectives

JP wishes to instigate a sub-group to consider the choir’s strategy for the next 3-5 years. The group will not be limited to existing committee members and it is anticipated it will meet every six weeks or so. **Action: JP**

RO suggested that we should have a stand at each concert, with a banner and literature, to encourage new members. It was agreed to trial the idea at the Gal concert. **Action: RO**

RO will also pursue a presence at the Treacle Market. We were too late to book anything for the next one and there are strict limitations on the giving out of leaflets. **Action: RO**

8 Junior Choir

RO has had encouraging discussions with Kings and Marleborough schools about running sessions for a choir for boys.

9 Section Representatives

One comment has been received regarding the setting up of a Whatsapp group to the effect that it is still important other communications methods continue for the benefit of those unable to join the group. The committee confirmed that will be so – this is just another option especially useful for those who don’t check emails frequently.

10 Any other business

10.1 Fallibrome School

The facilities management for the school have been brought back in-house. RO will liaise about future use of the concert hall. **Action: RO**

11 Date of next meeting

tba

Signed

John Powell.....tba