

Mevagissey Male Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting

7-30 19th January 2016 Mevagissey Social Club

Present. N. Nicholls, D. Leeson, G. Hoskins, P. Bowker, M. Thompson, C. Burnett, S. Lawday, B. Hocking, R. Mitchell, S. Flavell, T. Scarratt.

Apologies. M. Tate, H. Stobart, P. Vellenoweth, C. Williams.

Minutes of meeting held on 17th November. Proposed D. Leeson, Seconded S. Lawday.

Matters arising. Chairman to speak to C. Bale re uniforms. M. Thompson has received software from Cedric and Surf Cornwall. M. Thompson voted on to Committee as Webmaster voted unanimous.

M Thompson reported that following his suggestion to a previous meeting, he had spoken to and had agreement from Graham Willcocks and Matt Fox about the possibility of Matt making some teach tracks. MT had visited Matt in Gorran and Mat made 14 tracks in an hour, these were posted on the website the same day and several Members had said how good and useful they were, in time for the Recording Session. Thanks to Matt, and there was agreement that more would be made.

M Thompson stated he was concerned about the number of aspirant members who drifted away following failure of the voice test, and suggested candidates be allowed to bring a section member to support them through their test. Although there was understanding and some support the suggestion did not gain general approval. However a compromise suggestion was that candidates should be allowed to take a 'Practice Test' which they could not 'fail' (but could presumably pass?) as part of their preparation. This was agreed and to be put to the MD for his approval

P Bowker suggested that we might ask Matt Fox to play pieces of his choice before concerts and during intervals. This was agreed

Chairman's Report. Christmas Joint concert discussed. Meva. Ladies Choir is not available next year on a Saturday. 9th December as a possible date.

Treasurers Report. Our new Financial Year is getting off to a comfortable start. November's transactions were so numerous that I had difficulty getting them all onto one page! CD sales accounted for £312.00 of our income in November, and donations totalled £112.00 not counting the £1k donation from the Feast Week Committee in memory of Robin. Cyprus payments accounted for perhaps the greater part of our income, though it also had a boost from the belated payment of our Plymouth Guildhall Concert Fee. Thanks to Chris Williams' advice, we at last made our web sales legal with the purchase of a MCPS/PRS Licence for £157.80, which makes a bit of a hole in that income, and we spent £230+ on music. December, in contrast, was relatively quiet with income skewed by Cyprus, subs and Annual Dinner payments. The 2p interest payment on our Gift Aid account was indeed of little interest. We paid our Insurance premium for the year, and our subscription to The National Association of Choirs, but we had yet to share our Christmas Concert Income with the Ladies' choir, though I drew up a cheque for £300.00 last evening to correct that situation. If we look at the spending plan, it can be seen that Income is dragging behind expenditure, which is not unusual at this time in the year. Only 19 members had paid any subs up to the end of December, and we have already spent quite a lot on music and honoraria, not to mention the purchase of the uniform stock which Robin was holding. The Cyprus Trip still concerns me because we now have at least 12 spare seats to fill and I have only heard of 6 people expressing interest. Hopefully, there will be six more in due course. We are still in a situation where our total assets are £11k short of paying the outstanding bill! To me, as a Trustee, that's scary! Although the full financial details would not be covered until next month, I thought the committee may like to have a preliminary report on the financial outcome of what is reputed

to have been a very enjoyable Annual Dinner. It would appear at the moment that the choir will have subsidised the event to the tune of £117.00, which I would regard as a snip. Concerns about the number of Choir members attending Choir Christmas Dinner P. Bowker asked about canvassing choir as to their preferences.

Secretaries Report. Letters sent to:-

Tywardreath church thanking them for the use of their Church.

N. Hart thanking him for his choir in the same Concert.

Geraldine, thanking her for running the raffle at same concert.

Mevagissey car Park thanking them for letting choir Members Park at reduced charges,

To the Social Club booking the committee room for dates through the year,

Harbour Trustees, with a donation and requested dates for the Quay concerts in August, and a letter of thanks received from Mevagissey Harbour Trustees thanking us and confirming dates in August plus receipt for donations received.

Contract received from Plymouth Military Wives Choir for concert at Hall for Cornwall,

Mevagissey Ladies Choir thanking them for their help in Christmas CD. Email received from Choir of the year competition being held at HFC. Choir to be asked if they want to participate on Monday.

Concert Secretary. Requests from Noteability for joint concert on 18th June at St Austell feast week in Parish Church, Roseland music society at Portscatho on 28th or 29th October all dates to be put to Choir on Monday.

Publicity Officer. No report

Social Secretary. 14th January 2017 provisionally booked plus band for Choir Christmas Dinner.

Fund raising. Looking to concentrate on the two biggest Concerts for fund raising at the moment HFC to be contacted as to whether we can produce our own Program. G. Hoskins to deal with all graphics.

Almoner. Nice to see Ivor back. Card sent to A. Dibb, and about 30 Christmas cards sent.

1st Tenors. No report.

2nd Tenors. Two new members but no work has been able to be done to help them due to recording.

Bari's no report

Bass's no report

CD.s and Downloads. The Fountain Inn are selling CD's well. A question raised as to whether 11 tracks on Christmas CD was enough, discussion ensued maybe have to record more

Website.

The 'Web manager' outlined some aspects of the increased functions available on the website.

Unfortunately the Club Wi-Fi was not working, so much of the planned demonstration did not happen.

An explanation for slightly revising the look of the website was given and some explanation for the development so far. The site must become mobile-friendly and many of the changes related to realising that. Feedback from choir members was essential; to find out how

successful different aspects of the website are on the many different platforms that are used for viewing it. A feedback form can be found on opening the 'Members' area on a page called 'Noticeboard', on which members can also find links to updates on website and a record of Mondays' practices and notices.

In order to try to create and maintain a really useful website, a team will work on it. At present M Tate and G Hoskins, with MW Thompson are the core, but that A Gill and R George have offered to help (much appreciated and accepted). The enormous archive of material on the website need sorting, and another volunteer would be welcomed to the team.

The website belongs to the choir and must do what they want, but it must be the committee who, while delegating day-today running of the site, must decide what is on there.

This prompted discussion. The Cyprus page was considered and concerns aired. The compromise was: A public page which would be an advertisement and part of our 'Engagements' but with limited information, a new page in the public area, but with a password that choir members could give to their wives and family, with access to all the Cyprus trip information, but not compromising the whole of the Members' area of the website. This would be 'cloned' in the Members area.

An outline was given about a 'Payment' facility in the Members area with the choir's bank details. The Treasurer was content.

It was stressed that the justification for the amount of work on a website would be the amount benefit users derived from it, which in turn, would depend on having accessible, accurate, complete and up-to-date information available. This would require the co-operation of the many choir members with other responsibilities. The example to illustrate this was the 'Engagements' page where the

' [Minack](#) ' Link gives (will give if supplied) comprehensive details.

Mention was also given to 'Forms' which can be designed to allow any sort of input form Members (or the public). This was illustrated by the [Proposals](#) for new music page, which can be easily displayed to Members on the [proposed](#) music while automatically being brought to the attention of the Music Committee.

Lack of Internet connectivity severely limited the presentation; however it did give a sample of what can be achieved on a good website, if choir members want it. This point was illustrated by the new teach tracks, which were greatly appreciated and will be a growing resource.

The new 'Email' page was shown, which allows members to check, add, change and delete their emails from the database, and also has an up-to-date list of email addresses, which members can 'copy and paste' into their email 'To' box. (A more elegant single 'email everyone' button on the website may not function if the user's computer isn't set up to comply. The 'copy and paste' compromise seems more reliable at present.) Time constraint also limited the demonstration of many other facets of the website (but it can be explored at leisure.) It was suggested that a presentation to the membership should be given. (MT can set it up in St A, so no Internet connection is necessary!)

Web manager to be added to Agenda and while we are at it - Mike Thompson was warmly and unanimously thanked for his efforts and the great improvements he had made to the choir's website!! And received a resounding round of applause

AOB. D. Leeson The Federation are selling risers with back rail, D. Leeson to get in touch to find out the cost. Chairman asked if Champagne Cornwall Chorus could borrow our risers for their 30th anniversary concert in Charlestown. P. Bowker asked to fabricate something for our existing Risers. A one off payment proposed to the Ladies Choir for their help with Christmas CD, the Chairman to contact their chairperson to find out what they would prefer. C. Burnett stated that Terry reported that there has been no music committee meeting so far , also stated that Cliff has his van for another 21months after that Choir has to make other arrangements, R. Mitchell asked how many singing members where going to Cyprus answer 33. P. Bowker asked for our MD. To be asked to see if he needed help with his travelling expenses while travelling from Plymouth Chairman to approach MD. S. Flavell: new members to be approached to see if they would like to go to Cyprus.

Meeting closed at 22.22

Next Meeting Tuesday 16th February

Signed Chairman

Date

