

## Mevagissey Male Choir

### Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 7.30pm. Mevagissey Social Club

#### Present:

Nick Nicholls – Chair (NN).  
Graham Hoskins – Treasurer (GH)  
Robin Murphy – Secretary (RM)  
Steve Gibson (SG) – Vice Chair (SG)  
Mike Tate – Publicity (MT)  
Dave Leeson (DL)

Chris Williams (CW)  
Simon Lawday (SL)  
Clifford Burnett (CB)  
Graham Alee (GA)  
Bill Roberts (BR)  
Humfrey Stobart (HS)

1. Apologies/absent – Roger Mitchell (away)

Prior to the rest of agenda, NN asked that the Committee once again co-opt the services of Dave Leeson. Dave has fulfilled many functions on the committee in the past, and his knowledge has proved invaluable. Proposed, seconded, and carried, *nem con*, Dave was invited to join the meeting.

2. Minutes of 10/01/2022 meeting – The minutes were deemed to be accurate, except for one error of spelling, one figure, and one date. These were subsequently corrected, and thus the Minutes are ready to be put on the website.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda) – general discussion ensued, on a variety of subjects, many of which were due to be raised under AOB. These discussions will be minuted under AOB.
4. MMC Committee elections – HS has approached Steve Truscott, on the Committee's behalf, about the position of Fundraising Officer. Steve is a popular choice, and the Committee will recommend him to the full choir at the next rehearsal.  
RM has spoken to Ray George, and he is happy to continue in his position of Recruitment Officer.
5. AOB – There were three main areas of discussion: our May concert at the Minack, the Birmingham visit, and future concerts. There were many

contributions from the room about all three of the above, a lot of them revolving around the varying financial implications for the choir. Subscriptions are still on the low side, given that they are the financial rump of the choir's year. There are a number who have yet to pay, who continue to turn up to rehearsals. GH has spoken to many of them and has had several assurances that they fully intend to contribute, so hopefully will have good news to report at the committee meeting. DL pointed out that, historically, it's always been difficult to balance the cost of the music team, with income from subscriptions, and any income from concerts.

GH agreed, enumerating the COVID hits that the choir's finances have taken – lack of concert income, bucket collections on the quay and in the Fountain, suspension of subscription payments etc., whilst continuing to support our music team, and fulfilling our commitment to our rehearsal space at St. Andrew's. For GH though, the upside may break through – the Minack concert has traditionally been an excellent earner, and the bucket collections at the Quay concerts have always been good, hopefully supported by the eventual return of singing at the Fountain. CD sales have done well over the past year, raising £850, despite, or maybe because of, the lack of concerts. CW was asked about the production of a new CD. He said that maybe 12 tracks had been recorded, of which 8 or 9 were of a standard to be released. He will liaise with Graham Willcocks to clarify the state of play.

MT reported that various tracks recorded by the film company at our St. Augustine's Christmas concert have been released to Friends of the Choir, and they have been well received. The efforts, led by MT, to re-engage long-standing Friends, and to encourage new ones, is beginning to pay dividends.

Access to the Minack has remained as tough as always. George will be asked to cost a coach, with a minibus, for transfers from the bottom of the hill, or two minibuses that could go right to the top car park. Much depends on how many in the choir are prepared to drive there themselves, and whether any will be prepared to help with transfers from the bottom of the hill. GH will produce the Minack progs, and we'll need to resolve the best location for selling CDs.

The Federation's Birmingham concert will not be supported by the choir, but individual choir members, currently four in number, who have expressed a continuing desire to attend, will receive financial assistance, covering hotel accommodation (previously arranged and costed), and a contribution towards travel costs.

There followed clarification of details of the St. Piran's concert on the harbour. Due to weather forecast of cold air from the East, it was decided that we would not wear our uniforms, but would wrap up as warmly as possible. GH would supply his personal sound equipment, and we would not use the risers. There would be a bucket collection, for the benefit of the choir.

Clifford offered a number of concerts for consideration. Roseland would like us again, in 2023, and CB suggested we accept, at no cost to them, as they lost out with the date clash this year. This was agreed.

Yealmpton, Devon, want us on July 9, 2022, but will not cover the cost of a coach. It was decided to look at car-share as an option.

Barnstaple are interested in a reciprocal concert, based on a Nov/Dec 2022 date. Penzance Orpheus would like to come to St Andrew's for a shared concert on Sept 24, 2022. All these concerts were agreed in principle, and will be put to the whole membership for ratification.

6. Date and venue of next meeting:  
7.30 pm, on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, at Mevagissey Social Club.