

Mevagissey Male Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting

7-30 19th July 2016 Mevagissey Social Club

Present :- N. Nicholls, D. Leeson, G. Hoskins, P. Bowker, M. Thompson, C. Burnett, M. Tate, S. Lawday, B. Hocking, R. Mitchell, H. Stobart, C. Williams, C. Bale, T. Scarratt.

Apologies :- P. Vellenoweth, S. Flavell.

Minutes of meeting held on 21st June. Proposed D. Leeson, seconded C. Williams.

Matters Arising :- M. Thompson , airport bus details have been put on webpage , but not emailed to members. G. Rundle to sort buses and inform members.

Uniforms.:- C. Bale presented committee with designs for summer wear/Cyprus performing shirts short sleeve @£28 and grey travelling shirt @£21 plus blazer covers with choir logo @£2 a long discussion ensued with thoughts that the choir logo should stay the same, Choir to be asked their preference this Monday. Emails to be sent out informing them if they need to wear long/short sleeve shirts at concert.

Chairman:- Encouraged by amount of new members taking their voice tests. Jim Hunkin asked if members sold 12 tickets for HFC would they receive one free all agreed. Thought that we need a meeting for HFC in August - decided to hold one on Monday 22nd August after Quay Concert at 8-45.

Secretary:- nothing to report.

Treasurer:- Financial activity in June was dominated by Cyprus payments and payments for Feast week concert tickets, but there were other things going on! We received £30.00 in donations, Easy Fund-raising sent us £31.97, our Gift Aid account earned 2p in interest, CD sales earned £370.00, £175.00 came in for Subs, and £323.00 came in from programme advertising. We also had £300.00 concert fee from Noss Mayo, but as the coach cost us £390.00, the soloist £50.00, the pasties £105.00 and the Music Team £100.00, even £140.00 of CD sales couldn't lift us into profit. We lost £189.00 on the evening. Other expenses were what we would expect in the running of the choir. Officer expenses were reimbursed and the Music Team, and the URC were paid. I am sure it would be sacrilegious for a Cornish Treasurer to draw this particular fact to your attention, but as a Yorkshireman, I hope I will be excused for pointing out that in the month of May, we spent £171.00, and in June, £216.60 on pasties! That is £387.00 on pasties in just 2 months, and I question whether such expenditure is contributing anything to the achievement of our aims as expressed in our constitution. If you will pardon me for harking back to previous practice, in the days when we sang by invitation, we were usually supplied with some solid refreshment after our event. Admittedly, some members couldn't be bothered with it as its consumption ate into drinking time, but a number of us would express our appreciation of our hosts hospitality by staying to eat whatever they offered. I am well aware that these days we are arranging a number of our own concerts, and so are responsible on those occasions for our own catering, and are hopefully earning more money to meet that cost. As a measure to try and husband our diminishing reserves, may I propose that when we are invited to sing a concert, we accept whatever refreshment is offered and do not order pasties at the pub. Once we start doing that, our hosts won't bother to feed us and we will be incurring an unnecessary cost which will eventually have to be met through increased subs, or increased concert fees, neither of which, in my view, are conducive to the continued growth or well-being of this choir. Additionally, in that the transport fee which we charge concert organisers is not the true cost of the coach, may I suggest that, as was agreed for the coach to Penzance, anyone (member or supporter) using a coach should make a contribution (say

£5.00) towards the cost. It is unlikely that the choir will make any money at that rate of charge, but it will reduce the drain on our funds. (I learned last evening that 33 people availed themselves of the coach to Penzance, contributing £165.00 which I think will be more than half the hire-charge). If we had charged £7.00 we may have recouped the full cost, or we may have had less passengers – it's a fine balance, but unless we watch our expenditure we are going to have to make some unpleasant decisions. The Choir's Spending Plan, has been tweaked somewhat to include some of the impact of recent events, namely, the final payment for the Cyprus Trip. This however is mainly under the Transient Funds heading, and has little impact on the rest of the sheet, except the Cyprus subsidy entry at the bottom of the Expenditure column, where it will be seen that the subsidy has cost the choir £730.00 more than estimated, but that is with 4 empty seats, for which Thompsons eventually agreed, thanks to Graham, to only charge us £200.00 each, which should then have cost the choir an additional £800.00, but it seems they only charged us £700, because I know that £30.00 of that £730.00 comprises charges levied by our bank for drawing up Bankers' drafts. In other words, it could have been a lot worse! On the Income side, it is very apparent that, even allowing for the anticipated income from the Quay Concerts and Gift Aid, our Income really needs a very profitable Concert at the Hall for Cornwall to avoid a very disappointing financial year. On the expenditure side it will be seen that we are already within a whisker (well, £1k) of exceeding our expenditure estimate for the full year with four months still to go! We do need to ask ourselves why there is so much year left at the end of the money! I have, this month, drawn £5k out of our reserves to cover the production costs of the Christmas CD, and the potential loss at the Hall for Cornwall. This brings our reserves down to £10k, and I would suggest that we need to start looking at our expenditure a little more critically to avoid them falling any lower. It should be noted that our balance at the end of June included the £1,804.00 proceeds of the Feast Week concert, which I am assuming the committee will want to send to MIND in its entirety, but have delayed doing so until I have confirmation.

Please will the committee consider :-

- 1) Confirming that the entire proceeds of the Feast Week Concert be sent to MIND.(And whether I give the cheque to the Secretary for a covering letter, or put one in myself).
- 2) That pasties should only be ordered for the afterglows of concerts which we have arranged ourselves, and not for concerts sung for other organisations where only a concert fee has been charged.
- 3) That when a coach is booked, anyone using it should pay a specified per capita contribution towards the cost.

- 1) Charges to be made from total D. Leeson to arrange
- 2) To be ordered as and when the concert/venue demands
- 3) To be added to AGM Agenda / + membership charges.

Concert Sec. Penzance to be invited back in 2018. P. Bowker Trebah concert venue to be explored by him as possible venue in 2017.

Publicity:- Copy and photo in news & reviews MAC in next edition ,Choir program in local press , Friends informed about HFC tickets . Minack video still waiting . Several photo's obtained from Minack concert now being used at present and in the future . Penzance, information was sent to help with their Programme but was not used, very disappointing. Cyprus to put on the agenda for September.

Webmaster:- St.Enoder, Quay concerts and HFC web pages distributed all details on the web page (possible flooding of Quay concert on 22nd August)

Fund Raising:- Noss Mayo / London Inn and possibly HFC afterglows funding fees of £312 , HFC £612 , printing costs down to £212 , with more targets to be achieved .

Social Sec.:- Simon and Peter to visit tomorrow, 20th July to agree food and drinks on offer and report back Barley Sheaf BBQ @ £12-50 per head on Sat. 17th September, 25 people have shown an interest 6 for 7pm start.

Almoner:- card sent to Steve Flavell , Ivor collapsed on Sunday so was not at Penzance, P. Uzzell has had heart surgery but is out of hospital now.

1st Tenors:- Mark Carter back hoping to take voice test soon.

2nd Tenors:- Mark Dooling back.

Baritone:- D. Lethbridge passed voice test but still needs more coaching, section leaders to pressurise section members to attend concerts.

Bass:- nil

C/D's and Downloads:- ticking along , no much going out of shops . Christmas C/D being launched at HFC , D, Honey sorting out picture for cover.

HFC:- Performing rights being asked for by HFC, D. Leeson is looking into this. Publicity , PLW choir not forthcoming with help/photo's needed but having difficulty contacting or receiving any help in this task. Flyers needed to help with advertising. City Inn discussed as venue for afterglow, other venues nearer to the theatre to be explored.

AOB. Choirs hosting of Cornwall Festival of Choirs is staying at St. Austell and not going to Bodmin in 2017. H. Stobart - Quay concert contents need to be informed to members before August , could Asda be approached to help with funding , P. Bowker to investigate.

S. Lawday flyers/posters needed.

C.Williams George's hats with choir logo to go ahead.

M. Thompson, need to do something for Matt's teach tapes suggested cheque for his baby, discussed and voted on unanimously for £100 to start a child IS A .

Meeting Closed 22-05

Next Meeting . Monday 22nd August

Signed Chairman

Date