

Mevagissey Male Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues February 14th, 2023, 7.30pm. Mevagissey Social Club

Present:

Steve Gibson – Chair (SG).
Tony Scarratt – Vice Chair (TS)
Robin Murphy – Secretary (RM)
Steve Truscott – Fundraising (ST)

Cliff Burnett – Concerts (CB)
Chris Williams (CW)
Dave Leeson (DL)
Bill Roberts (BR) T

1. Apologies/Absent – Apologies received from Graham Hoskins, Peter Bowker, Roger Mitchell.
2. Minutes of 15/11/2022 meeting – The minutes were deemed to be accurate, and ready for publication on the website.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda) – Discussed under AOB.
4. Treasurer's report. Prepared by Graham Hoskins, and e-mailed, in advance, to the committee. Thanks were again offered to GH for his clear and thorough report. CW raised the subject of Gift Aid, pointing out that up to 25% of certain monies could be claimed up to the end of the tax year, to include cash collections at quay concerts, collections at Tesco, and also Gift Aid, where applicable, on subscriptions. DL agreed to speak to GH on his return and offer his help, if required.

It was decided to clarify the situation regarding any general payments above £100. All such payments need to be approved by the full committee, but any payment below £100 can be approved by the Treasurer, the Chair or the Secretary.

SG wanted to clarify the situation regarding monies held in the Choir's reserves, in answer to some members' queries about the amount. He pointed out that any upsurge in Covid-19 or deterioration of the piano, the trailer, choir uniforms could all hit the reserves and it would be nice

to be able to provide any music the new MD might like to bring in. DL said he liked the idea of another bursary being offered and that we should actively search for a deserving young musician – maybe via Angela Renshaw. This received general support.

TS asked about any fees he should have to pay for the Saturday concert. RM pointed out that the concert had been voted on and accepted by the choir and therefore should be treated like all other concerts. DL proposed waiving concert fees, RM seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

5. Committee positions to be decided. Publicity: TS suggested that instead of one person, a varied group would be better. TS would be happy to collate, and suggested Mike Tate would carry on with the newsletter/website; Andy Gill would look after social media; Paul Horsman would look after local distribution of posters/information and all choir members should be prepared to distribute such posters in their own local areas. Peter Bowker will continue with his excellent service on the banners and board and RM would look after any radio/TV broadcasting. All the above was agreed by the committee, and thus Tony Scarratt will be the committee member heading up Publicity, and have an oversight, on behalf of the committee, of all materials intended for the website, and/or social media.

SG has enjoyed being librarian but would like to hand the responsibility on now that he is Chair, and a request would be once again put to the members to see if anyone is willing to volunteer for the position.

BR said that Graham Rundle has offered to be the new choir marshal and it was unanimously agreed that he would be good in the job. Graham A'Lee will be asked to sub for Graham Rundle if needed. SG to confirm this to both Grahams.

6. Awards: SG said that Terry Coplin deserves a black badge for services to the choir, and proposed that he be presented with one at the concert on Saturday. CW seconded and all agreed. Nick will present the badge. At the same time, Nick Nicholls will be offered a life membership, which will be presented by SG. There followed a long, detailed discussion of the choir's award system, which will be kept under review.

7. Future concert matters: CB reported that the venue for the Abertillery Concert will be St Augustine's, in St Austell. He will ask whether they would like an afterglow, as they are staying in Newquay. He has also received a nice letter from Cornwall Hospice about our Christmas visit, asking whether we would like to do it again. To which we all agreed. TS suggested that as the Hospice concert was necessarily brief, we should try to fit in two in one evening, preferably close together, to which there was general agreement. CB will follow up.

There has been a request for a joint concert with Truro MVC, but with no date as yet. SG said we needed a date from Truro before we could agree, and that we should perhaps look at next January/February being free of concert to give us time to learn new songs.

The New Inn at Tywardreath want us to sing under canvas on 07 October, supporting Lifeboats and there has been a request from Lostwithiel Church for us to sing there in June. CB is to check dates for both venues before going to the choir with recommendations.

TS proposed that we don't charge the Cornish Youth Choir when we sing with them on 11 March. And RM seconded. It may well be that we wish to invite the Youth Choir as a support act for our 50th Anniversary at the Hall for Cornwall.

Much discussion was taken place when CB announced he has also received requests from various nursing homes for small concerts, and enquiries about weddings.

8. Choir Recruitment: SG said that Jimmy is very keen for us to improve our social media presence in order to assist with recruitment. SG suggested that all social media pages need to have committee members as part of the admin team.

9. AOB:

RM said that every committee meeting agenda from now on will have the 2024 Anniversary Concert as an item. Many thanks go to Humfrey for his work and help on fixing the date and securing the booking at the Hall for Cornwall. The new working group will consist of SG, RM, TS and GH, and they will welcome any and all suggestions from members of the Choir

regarding the event. ST reported that letters to our sponsors will go out at the beginning of March 2023. SG wants to clarify website contact addresses. There should be a Chair@xxxx; Treasurer@xxxx; and Secretary@xxxx and will ask Mike Tate for his assistance in this matter.

10. Our next committee meeting will be on April, 2023.