

Mevagissey Male Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues September 19th, 2023, 7.30pm. Mevagissey Social Club

Present:

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

Clive Cudmore (CC)
Chris Williams (CW)
Clifford Burnett (CB)
Bill Roberts (BR)

1. Apologies/Absent – Roger Mitchell, Graham A'Lee, Dave Leeson
2. Minutes of 18/07/2023 meeting – The minutes were deemed to be accurate, and ready for publication on the website. Proposed by TS, seconded by GH, carried by all.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda, or due to be raised in AOB), – SG has recovered music and uniform from Charlie Addison. Paul Uzzell intends to return at the next rehearsal. SG thanked all concerned for the new choir sweatshirts, and GH showed the new tops for the collecting team. Clive Cudmore was welcomed to the committee, as he stands in for Roger Mitchell, as Rep. for the Second Tenors.
Terry Coplin was introduced, having been invited to address the Committee on the matter of the International Festival for 2024. Terry briefly ran through the Festival's history, detailing the two decades of competitions, that take place every couple of years, with the object of encouraging more people to sing in choirs, and running alongside a competition for composers.
Choirs from all over the British Isles, and abroad, have competed, and the competition for composers is intense, having already seen winning entries from China and the USA.
All choirs have 12 minutes to present 3 pieces of their choice – one contemporary, one unaccompanied, and one poem, rearranged, and interpreted, with music. Previously there have been two judged classes,

one for choirs of 41 members or more, and another for choirs of fewer than 40 members. This has now changed. One class will be for choirs experienced in competitions, and the other for choirs with less relevant experience.

TC concluded that, in his experience, competitions could definitely improve the sound of a choir, and BR added that they also improved the focus of a choir, and CC said there were definite benefits from the extra concentrated rehearsal required. CW asked when the 2024 competition is due to take place, to which TC answered that it would likely fall on the early May Bank Holiday weekend. GH reminded that this was not long after our Torbay weekend, but SG pointed out that it may be a great opportunity to really nail some pieces, in advance of our 50th anniversary in June. He also asked what the feeling of the Music Committee is, and CW said they seem up for it, more so than in recent years, and that the idea had the full support of Jimmy.

Jimmy has already come up with some ideas at Music Committee, and there was general agreement that the Committee should give its support. This was proposed by SG, seconded by CW, and unanimously carried.

Terry Coplin was thanked for his report, and attendance, and SG asked him about his concert for Kidney Research, that was also on the agenda. Terry said that it would now be at St. Augustine's in St Austell. Support will be from Champagne Cornwall Chorus, and tickets priced at £7.00.

4. Treasurer's report: GH reported that July and August had been busy months, culminating in the quay concerts. SG said the monies collected were better than he'd thought they'd be, given the frequently challenging weather, which seemed to affect visitor numbers everywhere. GH said we need a gazebo, not just for the quay concerts, but for all outdoor venues, to protect our investment in sound equipment, as well as the piano, guitars, and amps etc. We also need a small team of volunteers to erect such a gazebo, as and when needed.

RM, and others, congratulated CW on the much-improved quality of sound, both live and recorded, at the quay concerts.

5. Torbay concert weekend: TS reported all hotel bookings in place – 59 adults and 5 kids, between 23 doubles, 3 twins, 3 singles, and two family rooms. The hotel has confirmed that the booking numbers can be added to, if necessary. The Torbay Male Choir will organise a 'social' on the Friday night. TS suggests travelling by train, as the hotel is a short walk from the station. There followed a brief discussion about possible travel

subsidies, and it was agreed that these would be looked at later, taking into account final numbers involved, and also the prospect of travel to Reading later in 2024.

6. Trailer. ST pointed out that just two cars coped well with all the risers at the Probus concert, and that we should look at selling the trailer as soon as possible. He's seen just one similar trailer advertised in Cornwall, priced at £1600, and feels we should market it as soon as possible.
7. Committee positions: Following an e-mail from a choir member re a particular position on the committee, SG reminds all members that they are welcome to stand for any committee position at the AGM at the end of January, the date of which is subject to confirmation, but is most likely to be Tuesday 30th January.
8. A white jacket for our MD was discussed, and agreed, and SG and GH will liaise with Jimmy, to action.
9. Future concerts: CB mentioned a request for early 2024 from St Austell Choral Society, but the dates they wanted won't work for us. Reading is still working on the principle of an 'away weekend', with two concerts, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Travel and any potential subsidies are still being worked on. CB said we're due a return visit from Mousehole choir, and they are looking at a date in October 2024. There followed a discussion of suitable venues, as there were 64 singers when we sang with them in Penzance. Charlestown Hall, the Arts Theatre and Penrice School Hall were considered.
10. 50th concert: RM reported on a meeting at Hall for Cornwall, with their staff. SG, TS and RM attended, as did Jimmy. Unfortunately, Angela Renshaw was unable to attend, due to illness. Their Stage Manager, Lighting, and Sound team leaders were there. Luckily, most are already acquainted with CW, which was a huge plus! They will be available to help us at all stages of our concert, including their presence on the day of the show. The publishing deadline for their advertising has eased back a little, but we will need to provide all info (guests, support acts etc) by December. They would like two contrasting photos for publicity purposes, and text to support the show.

11. AOB: Peter Bowker has suggested a social evening in the Mevagissey Social Club in January, as there seemed to be waning support for the idea of a dinner/dance. GH was keen that we get some sort of entertainment booked, as opposed to doing it ourselves. Peter is also investigating the possibility of a cruise, in 2025, where we could possibly form part of the entertainment team. TS suggested inviting Champagne Cornwall Chorus to join us at our annual St. Petroc's concert at St Augustine's, in December. TS proposed this, and it was seconded by ST, and carried. **(NB, the date for this will now be Friday December 15th)**. Several ideas were discussed about recruitment. We've had a few likely joiners recently, across all sections, but we need to be actively helping Alan Mash where possible, to keep the momentum going. It was agreed that concerts seem to be our most successful adverts for newcomers. ST said some may have noticed that adverts for Mary's Pasties have disappeared from our programmes. This is because, despite ST's best and repeated requests, they have failed to pay for them. RM suggested there should be a Committee Meeting in August, as the gap between July and September is too large to keep track of many issues. We are currently looking at either Saturday, January 13th or 20th, for Peter's Social evening, and Tuesday, January 30th, for our AGM.30th.

During the interval at our rehearsal on October 2nd, the Committee held a mini-meeting. Dave Leeson noted that when we performed at St Michael's, Newquay, in aid of Rosey's Fund, Jimmy Cannon had waived his fee as a donation to the charity. Dave proposed that the Choir should match Jimmy's gesture, and that was carried unanimously. It was also decided to put the Committee's recommendations to the choir that we accept the Reading weekend, reject the Hymn Festival (yet another clash of dates), and support competing at the International Festival. TS also noted that the date of our St Augustine's concert, December 16th, needs to be changed to December 15th, to avoid a clash with the final of 'Strictly'. This was duly agreed.

PLEASE NOTE:

**Our next committee meeting
will be on Tuesday, 17th October
at the Ship Inn , Polmear, 7.30 pm.**

