

# Mevagissey Male Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting

7-30 Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 Mevagissey Social Club

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

**Apologies:-** none

**Minutes of meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> September** proposed R. Mitchell, seconded D. Leeson

**Matters Arising :-** Where are the uniforms/ ties etc. if any are left?

**Chairman's report :-** nothing further to add

**Treasurers Report:-** After our hectic summer the choir's finances have at last assumed a gentler pace as September is the penultimate month of our financial year. So we can take stock of our performance since last AGM. The collection from our last quay concert, advert payment from Varkers, sales of C/Ds through the summer total £740 plus £0.33 from gift aid. We have paid our subs to Cornwall Federation, also Williams Transport and also lottery licence fee to Cornwall Council. Most monies coming in this month are from Cyprus trip payments, we have paid £16430 {which includes £400 returned to one person that withdrew, received £13340 the choir has yet to break even at this stage mainly because we have booked 10 seats more than we have sold. Concerts are no longer our main income but the means of which we market and sell our C/Ds, this is a trend of which we need to be aware. Chris has already transferred £100 this month which brings the total to £290. We recognise the wisdom of M. Tate's suggestion to end friend's subs, with the outcome of £846-48 in 11 months which is staggering. Easy fund raising still disappointing, we have 55 members only 15 used Easy Fundraising Link, expenditure, only uniforms recording and committee expenditure exceeding expectations with an excess £54 but with one month to go. If we sell all the tickets to Cyprus the subsidy we pay to singers will bring our reserves to £10K. We have the Minack Concert before we pay out our final instalment, hopefully this will alleviate some of the loss - I don't think it is a charity's role to amass capital, I hope we will be seen as doing that.

**Cyprus:** the choir has paid deposits for 80 to travel and accommodation in one hotel, so far only 70 are booked to travel the choir cannot afford to pay for any empty seats, with 32 singers and music teams costs the choir is already subsidising this venture with £5865, we shall have to submit the names of every member of the party when we pay the final balance in early July 2016, so all non-choir places will have to have been sold by the end of June. The following schedule of payment is proposed 1} choice of room will be allocated on first come basis. 2} any places not sold to singers or supporters by 1<sup>st</sup> April will be offered for sale. 3} any member not paid in full by May 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 will be deemed to have withdrawn and their place offered for sale. 4} outsiders will secure places on payment of £670 per place on a first come first served basis. The Cyprus issue was proposed by D. Leeson seconded by M. Tate voted on and passed.

**Secretaries Report :-** Getting ready for the AGM, more work to attempt to put on a concert at the Hall for Cornwall, I am in touch with them and PMWC to try and rearrange a date - going for 10<sup>th</sup> of September when everyone is available. This is to be put to the choir on Monday having now been passed by the committee.

**Concert Secretary:-** Weybridge Surrey would like to have a concert at The Minack sometime - this was thought as inappropriate . Penzance Orpheus Ladies on May 14<sup>th</sup> St. Mary's Penzance , Carnglaze Caverns date to be arranged . St. Enoder May-June.

**Publicity:-**

**Media.** Pre-publicity for St Augustine's in Guardian, Voice, and mentions on local radio. Two-page spread on Plymouth and other recent activities in Tower & Spire. Tywardreath. Pre-publicity in Voice last week, also sent other local media. Thanks to Clifford for early notice. Posters done and already sent to CHC and up in the hospice. **Boards** we have been given permission to install a noticeboard on the external wall of the Sharks fin. Peter B has in hand. **Friends** We now have over 60 names on the Friends list, including of course a handful of ex-members. We abandoned the idea of charging last year, preferring to rely on donations. This year to date I believe we have received approaching £600, including obviously the big one from the US. (David to confirm). Next newsletter due out at end of month. **Website** As I indicated in my report last month, I have been very disappointed with the lack of progress made with the Choir website. I have had several conversations with Mark Dooling over the summer, who has consistently reminded me that the job is very time-consuming and that he doesn't have a lot of spare time. While I sympathise, and acknowledge that he did warn us that this would be the case, it doesn't help us. Further, even with my limited knowledge I have found it difficult to understand why some of the simpler tasks, such as updates to the Home and Concerts pages, brief but very important, are taking so long. Both Graham Hoskins and Mike Thompson shared my view, and my frustration, so we have put our heads together and come up with what we hope the committee will find a more than acceptable solution. We have between us created a completely new website, using the more advanced technology now available. We can show you a short demonstration in a minute or two. If the committee agrees, our plan would be to ask Mark to install, as of tomorrow, or as quickly as he can, a link on the current website, which will re-direct users to the new website, where we have already uploaded all the key information, including a current concert schedule and contact details for choir officers as well as photos and soundtracks – and access to the store. The advantage here is that we ourselves can keep the site fresh without too much effort. There is a cost, but we believe it's one the committee can live with. It is: Website hosting: £3.60 a month, Domain name ([www.mevagisseymalechoir.co.uk](http://www.mevagisseymalechoir.co.uk)) :£11.99 for two years that is £42 a year. As you know, we have effectively paid Mark £70 to date – and, at the current rate of progress, and given the hours he believes are necessary, ... well, I dread to think. We then have two options. We could ask Mark to proceed with his work to reconstruct the existing website. Or Graham, Mike and I can expand the new one to take the place of the old. We favour the latter. All three of us are prepared to act as a team – as joint webmasters, if you like, pooling our different skills and providing support for one another. Of course, when Mark agreed to take the job on, he had the best of intentions, I'm sure, but, as things stand, it isn't working. If we decide to go down the route that Graham, Mike and I are recommending, then we obviously need to think carefully about how we approach him, and what role, if any, we would like him to play in future.

Webpage proposed D. Leeson Seconded H. Stobart all in favour. Passed

**Social sec.:-** Nothing new to add Christmas menus needed now

**Funds raising:-** Apologies for Leisure wear being sorted , I will be away on holiday soon so sorting tickets and printing for upcoming concerts before going away Christmas ticket price set at £6.M. Thompson asked if Skinners could use Choir photo's in advertising , put to committee and passed

**Almoner:-** no more than stated at choir practice, Ivor home now

**1st Tenors:-** Nil

**2<sup>nd</sup> tenors:-** P. Paterson not sure if he is coming back

**Baritone:-** Robin failed his voice test

**Basses :-** Andy seems OK, hopefully he will stay

**C/D's** trying to get C/Ds into the Eden Project

**AOB:-** M.Tate men should have put the tables and chair away instead of leaving it to the Ladies on Sunday

H. Stobart: a good compare needed for the HFC concert

D. Leeson : concerned about new members not knowing what they are singing in concerts MD to be informed

M. Thompson: upgrade needed to teach tapes on web page

P. Vellenoweth: more warning to what we are singing in concerts

C. Burnett: asked have we paid yet for PMWC /D. Leeson not yet

N. Nicholls: says C. Bale might be prepared to take on choir uniforms, uniform purchase to be put out to tender. A.Dibb to follow up on where uniforms are now, a dedicated song for Robin Hunkin to be left to music committee

Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November

Meeting closed 21-36

Signed Chairman

Date

