

Mevagissey Male Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting

7-30 17th November 2015 Mevagissey Social Club

Present;- N. Nicholls, D. Leeson, M. Thompson, C. Burnett, M. Tate, B. Hocking, R. Mitchell, C. Williams, S. Flavell T. Scarratt.

Apologies;- G. Hoskins, H. Stobart, P. Vellenoweth, S. Lawday.

Minutes of meeting held 20th October;- Proposed R. Mitchell, Seconded B. Hocking.

Matters arising;- Choir uniforms have now been located

Chairman's Report;- Reminder to all committee to propose and second all nominations on the notice board and ensure that as many choir members as possible attend the AGM. Looking forward to Probus Concert and we seem to have a full year ahead.

Treasurers Report;- The final month of our Financial Year continued to be a source of optimism. CD sales earned us £289.30, and track sales from our website earned us another £100.00 through Paypal. We received a concert payment from St. Augustine's, but, until yesterday, no sign of any payment for the Guildhall Concert with the Military Wives. I didn't issue an invoice, but when they sang with us at the Minack and Eden, they didn't invoice us, so I did expect a reciprocal arrangement. Clifford forwarded a communication from them yesterday, and the situation should be resolved soon. I'll issue an Invoice next time although we received a very welcome £90.00 in donations (if you count the supporters' bus fares to Penzance which don't fit comfortably under any other heading), most of the funds received this month (£2,400.00) were payments towards the cost of the trip to Cyprus. A glance at our Spending Plan will show that we have now received £15.4k in such payments, and this is money which we have already paid to the agent. Don't forget, however, that we still have another £38k to find by early July, though if payments continue as at present I shall not have cause for undue concern. The Spending Plan has now been played out, and we can see how we did! A number of my income estimates were way wide of the mark one way or another. In fact only Members' subs, Quay Concerts and Gift Aid seem to tally even approximately! Donations (nearly £750 more than expected), CD sales (another £730 more) and Bank Interest (£57 more) were welcome surprises. On the Expenditure side I didn't fare much better! I wasn't optimistic enough to foresee us having to buy another batch of CDs! The interesting thing is that both Income and Expenditure were below my expectations, and by practically the same amount. I estimated a loss of £67.00 and we only lost £25.78! There's luck for you! The Transient Funds, which are practically impossible to allow for, accentuate this margin as they too return a slight overspend, so that our overall overspend has been about £900.00, which is less than the cost of producing that extra thousand CDs, and went to the deposits of the unsold seats for Cyprus (£2k.) As usual, I shall try to learn some lessons from these outcomes, but factors like high profile concerts at Minack and Hall for Cornwall, and a spate of music purchase for new pieces are difficult to evaluate. This may be a trough year, or it may be the beginning of a trend... I expect I'll sit and pull figures out of the air as in previous years! I may not be able to answer questions this evening as the books are with the accountants.

Secretaries Report :- Card of thanks sent to Mousehole Male Voice Choir thanking them for the concert in Penzance and their hospitality at the afterglow, confirmation received from Plymouth MWC also HFC for concert next year. Chairman asked for sec. to write and thank St. Andrews Church Tywardreath, Geraldine and Canoryon Lowen for their help with the concert in aid of the local Hospice

Publicity Report:- Media. Pre-publicity for Tywardreath in Guardian, Voice, PL24, Fowey News and other local media, and mentions on local radio. News of proceeds now sent to same, plus details of Probus.

Friends

Another four donations, totalling £100, since the newsletter. Currently undertaking review of members and addresses with Bernard Hocking, partly to help reduce the number of copies posted, and save on costs.

Social Secretary:- No report but menu's needed for Christmas choir dinner for those that have been missed.

Fundraising:- No news except for a refusal from Skinners.

Almoner:- Nice to see Ivor at concert on Saturday

1st Tenor's No report

2nd Tenor's No report

Baritone's No report

Bass's No report

C/D & D/ Loads not able to get into Eden unfortunately, thanks to Chris for Downloads, licence needed to sell downloads.

Uniforms;- Mostly 2nd hand blazers , one box of shirts plus belts and ties all now with Bob Whittaker , Chris Bale is prepared to take on the job proposed M. Tate seconded C. Williams voted on unanimous .

Suppliers of uniform needs to be consistent .

AOB. Probus concert programs sent, afterglow to be arranged. M. Thompson: Since the last meeting we noted the wishes expressed by committee members and have looked for a way forward. To that end I have kept the choir website updated with respect to upcoming events. Not having the express authority of the committee to do anything, I was cautious about this, however I wanted to be certain about what was involved if I volunteered to take on any responsibility for the website as it is currently working, while building a new site, and affecting a changeover when everyone is satisfied. Since last meeting I have learned facts that I was unaware of previously. Allow me to update the committee and then make some recommendations. Michael Collins used one of the Serif software packages to create the website, and didn't write it in HTML. The Choir has paid for two copies of this software. He has one and he thinks Cedric has the other. tbc. This is a 'wisiwig' package and I have worked with the Serif suite of programs, so IF we continue with this, I feel confident I can get up to speed very quickly. However there is a disadvantage. It is more difficult to have a small 'team' to keep the website updated, unless all members of the team have the software, (i.e. cost implication). In addition, I suspect that there would be greater reluctance among Choir members to become involved in this 'team' if they thought that learning 'specialist' software was essential.

2) The present host of the website is Surf Cornwall and this is managed locally. It seems certain that everyone would support maintaining this Cornish connection. To this end I have attempted to contact Surf Cornwall, by email, twice, and phone, twice, to ask about support, but they haven't responded, which is disappointing. So I am using this opportunity to ask the committee for permission to (a) keep the current website updated, (b) ask Cedric for the software, (c) discuss the website with Surf Cornwall. If we can establish contact with Surf Cornwall this would be our preferred course. The route forward I am proposing

now is as follows: The committee gives the 'team' MT, GH and self' authority to keep the present website updated with the ephemeral information.

1. I track down and get the other copy of Serif, (to help keep the site updated)
2. We contact Surf Cornwall (poss. Chris can help?) to establish what support they can provide (Although I now understand the host's site much better than before, it is taking an unnecessarily long time because I can't short-cut reinventing the wheel, which I could probably do with an hour's tutorial from the provider.
3. We continue, as agreed last time, to build a new site, using free web tools, such as moonfruit, which does the things we want, namely be up-to-date, informative, useful and mobile friendly. Authority approved by committee . Mike asked to stand down as fundraiser

M.Tate Choir directory now up to date , has received a scrapbook of past choir memorabilia may be go to Mevagissey Museum

B. Hocking music G. Wilcocks has arranged a piece of music for the choir do we need to purchase sheet music for this piece S. Flavell stated cost of £140 for music . No letters received from choristers for any changes to constitution at AGM. N. Nicholls suggested Alison Harvey to sing solo spots at concert for HFC

Meeting closed 21-52

Next meeting Tuesday 19th January 2016

Signed Chairman

Date