

Mevagissey Male Choir minutes of Committee Meeting

7-30 11th October 2016 Mevagissey Social Club

Present. N. Nichols, D. Leeson, G. Hoskins, P. Bowker, M. Thompson, S. Lawday, M. Tate, C. Burnett, H. Stobart, R. Mitchell, C. Williams, T. Scarratt.

Apologies. S. Flavell,

Minutes of meeting held on 20th September. Proposed P. Bowker, sec. M. Thompson

Matters arising. M Thompson saw no reason to take the matter of voting by email to the AGM, but for the avoidance of any doubt about the matter in the future was prepared to propose that the matter be taken to the AGM, seconded by R. Mitchell. Voted on and passed.

P, Bowker steel tubing to be replaced with aluminium for risers at a cost of £200 proposed D. Leeson agreed and passed

Chairman: Harvest of the Sea went very well everyone enjoyed it, Chairman to get in touch with G. Rundle re Cyprus Christmas concert - A. Harvey declined to attend and perform a solo due to prior engagement, she was asked about a joint concert with her choir in the future, wished everyone going on the Cyprus tour a good time. D. Leeson asked if choir was aware of amount raise for R. Hunkin's MIND concert Chairman to inform choir at next rehearsal of amount raised.

Secretary: No letters received or sent nothing else to report.

Treasurer: September continued the choir's busy financial schedule with our joint concert in the Hall for Cornwall followed quickly by the Barbecue at the Barley Sheaf. Both events involved the turnover of cash for one reason or another and required the drawing up of lists to record payment for tickets for each and for the afterglow. It now looks as though the Hall for Cornwall will make us about £2.2k when the Plymouth Military Wives have been paid. I have been awaiting an invoice to tell me where I should send the cheque, so the money was still in our coffers and unallocated at the end of September, though that has recently been remedied. Funds continued to trickle in from donations, singing in The Fountain, and delayed payments for Cyprus. All payments have now come in for the holiday, but there is a lot more to come in for the bus fare to Exeter airport. CD sales earned us another £944.00, of which £370.00 came from HfC, and I have included it in the final financial reckoning for the event on the notice-board, but not on this Spending Plan. I shall remedy that for next time. Practices and post-practice singing at the Fountain were good earners this month, with CD sales at the former and collections at the latter bringing in some very useful funds. I am sorry that I was not able to get our Gift Aid claim submitted to HMRC earlier, or may have had another £1k in the kitty, but it should be with us by the end of our financial year.

The final entry for the month is rather sad, but a sign of the times – the interest on our Gift Aid account totalled 2 pence! For some reassurance, you may like to compare our total financial assets at the beginning of the month with those at the end. We are about £2.1k better off, so it's not all bad news.

We can now begin to see how our spending plan may work out. Once Gift Aid arrives, our Income and expenditure will both exceed estimate by a similar amount, so our loss over the year will be about as we expected, namely £3k, but it's still a loss, and we do need to get back into profitability. I am considering recommending to the

AGM that we increase subs to £80. That obviously would not erase the deficit, but would be a help in a year when there will be no Minack to help us along, and we may have to bite the bullet with regard to a uniform short-sleeved shirt for summer months (which, for 60 members, at £28 each, would cost the choir about £1,680.00).

P Bowker felt that an increase to £80 was not enough, with which several members agreed. By comparison with the ladies choir who paid £2 per week we ought to be looking at, at least £100 per annum. Simon Lawday and G Hoskins felt that this was too much. P Bowker suggested that the AGM should be advised to consider an increase in subs without any figure being suggested so as not to seed ideas about the figure. This was agreed.

G Hoskins felt that we must increase our performance fees to at least £200 from the £150 currently charged as having paid our music team we were left with only £60 to cover any other costs such as programme printing and the like. This again was to be the subject of discussion at the AGM.

Publicity: Minack – pieces in News & Views, National Assn. of Choirs quarterly magazine, and in PL24, Cyprus – pieces in Guardian and Voice, to my knowledge. Guardian used old photo, even though I sent new one. Have spoken to them and sent them three new ones for their files. Portscatho – have tried to contact Roseland Music Society to offer help with publicity, without much success. They have finally sent us their poster, but I still have no idea what they are doing re publicity. Xmas cd – Radio Cornwall want to do an interview in November. Radio Cornwall was also to give publicity about our Cyprus trip on our return.

Webmanager: Web page up to date, but had virtually no information about the concerts at Portscatho, Charlestown or the Sea Horse Centre. C Burnett said he would email the info.

Fund raising: Opportunities for fund raising from the Portscatho concert and possibly White Hart after the Christmas concert. Post meeting note – White Hart cannot accommodate us – so we need to look elsewhere.

Social secretary: Band for the Christmas dinner to be arranged. **Feed back awaited from Phil Vellenoweth about another band. Post meeting note – They want £350 so Chairman stated that Simon should go ahead and book the duo. Agreed to investigate alternatives for 2018.**

Almoner: No report

1st Tenor: No report

2nd Tenor: Reason for absence of P. Houseman explained and he hopes to continue with the choir

Baritone: All OK

Bass' All OK.

P Bowker asked why there was no item on Agendas for reports for Music Committee. Chairman agreed and instructed Secretary to add to all future Agendas. P Bowker was concerned that 9 song proposals had been submitted by 4 members between 13 March and 12 August this year without any feedback from the music committee whatsoever. Yet, at the same time our MD has ordered music for a new song without members' knowledge. He felt that there was little point in any member submitting song proposals if they were to be ignored and overridden. C Williams said that they had been considered but did not know why C Coplin had not issued feedback. P Bowker said that the feedback should be dealt with in the appropriate location on the Website and within a reasonable timescale.

CDs / Downloads: all going well Christmas CD going very well, CDs to be taken to Cyprus Chris would appreciate help with transporting them to Cyprus.

AOB:

- (1) Shirts to stay as long sleeve shirts.
- (2) P. Bowker, Polgooth Inn require 12 singers @5-30 + Christmas singing at this venue after singing at Penrice House.
- (3) When buying music we must ensure that we have written authority that these pieces can be sung in public. P Bowker stated that with regard to the PRS we are only required to enquire if the promoting establishment has the requisite licence to allow public performances. No liability fall on the choir if they do not!
- (4) D Leeson mentioned some of the of the difficulties faced by the Committee during the year and said the proposals made at the previous meeting by M Thompson would help to reduce them in the future. M Thompson observed that the proposals would have to be acted upon in order to have any effect. R. Mitchell thanks from the choir for all of the work done in the past by D. Leeson to loud applause.
- (5) M Thompson agreed to organise the pre-payment for pasties for future engagements and distribute them on a ticket basis as was done at the HfC afterglow in the Hop Store.
- (6) H. Stobart stated that he was prepared to stand for Marshall and section Rep at the AGM.
- (7) G. Hoskins business cards now available, 500 purchased at a cost of £22-78
- (8) T. Scarratt stated that the AGM agenda will be available at next month's meeting any amendments **have** to be made then, after that date it will be to late. The date was agreed as Monday 5 December 2016

Date of next meeting 15th November

Meeting closed 21-28

Signed Chairman

Date