

Mevagissey Male Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues June 20th, 2023, 7.30pm. The Ship Inn, Polmear

Present:

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

Graham A'Lee (GL)
Chris Williams (CW)
Dave Leeson (DL)
Bill Roberts (BR)
Clifford Burnett (CB)

1. Apologies/Absent – Roger Mitchell
2. Minutes of 16a/05/2023 meeting – The minutes were deemed to be accurate, and ready for publication on the website.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda, or due to be raised in AOB) – ST gave an update on the trailer. He reminded us that we have a shared responsibility for the legality of the vehicle. It has not been serviced in the last year. DL suggested having a logbook, to prove due diligence, and as potential proof for insurance requirements. Questions were raised as to whether we still need the trailer, or whether the amount of times we use it now perhaps justified hiring one occasionally, instead. ST offered measure his car, and the risers, to see if he could step in in emergencies. TS reminded everyone of the two dates for Matt Facey to photograph the Choir in uniform, for use at the Hall for Cornwall, and for future advertising. The first will be July 3rd at Charlestown, and the second will be at Mevagissey on July 17th. Both occasions will be weather dependent.
4. Treasurer's report: GH reported on a quiet month, but still saw monies coming in for two adverts, and for member's subs. He read out a charming letter from Cornwall Hospice Care, thanking the choir for raising money on their behalf. Andy Ward is giving up CRBO, so GH has been looking at alternative sources of online ticketing. Andy Gill has suggested TicketSource, an online box-office/ticketing system, that he's successfully

used. GH said it looks impressive, and could lead to tickets being available on our website, from which people could buy, and print out their own tickets. Andy has offered to oversee the set-up and running of the system, the cost of which would be no more than that of using CRBO. It was decided that £250 would be donated to the Ukrainian Ladies for their efforts at Feast Week. There followed a lengthy discussion about general concert finances, and, in particular, the travel costs incurred by choir members. Each concert we accept is taken on its own merits, but with due regard to accounting for our expenses/rewards across the whole year. Thus money-makers like the Minack, and the quay concerts support many others that we otherwise couldn't do if we charged a full fee. We also need to consider the amount of payments to members who give lifts to concerts, while being aware that only a small number have ever claimed these back. SG concluded that more research on coach hire needs to be done.

5. CIMCF 2024: Terry Coplin sent a reminder that registration is required for the International Festival by July 31st 2023. CB agreed, with the registration, but not for the competition. DL felt it would be better for us to compete in 2026, when we'd be able to give it our full concentration, as the 2024 date is too close to our 50th anniversary celebration concert. CW reported on good music committee meeting – these will be now a monthly occurrence. He announced that Mike Thompson has agreed to take on at least two of the quay concerts, in Jimmy's absence.
6. Future Concerts. Artur is working on a plan for us to visit his former choir stomping ground at Reading, possibly to do concerts at two different venues. CB will ask him to aim for dates in April 2024. TS has his Torbay weekend on hold, while we wait for possible Minack dates for 2024. However, CB reported that the Minack are proving very hard to pin down for a concert date for 2024, and he feels we ought to try and nail a date for Spring 2025. Phil Walters has tentatively arranged a concert at Holsworthy, Devon, on June 29th 2024, with the local theatre group who run the venue. He's working on a deal to get our coach travel sponsored. CB is looking at various coach pricing comparisons for Phil. The previously mentioned August 2024 date with St Austell Rugby Club is off – the timing no longer suits them.
7. Choir 50th. RM detailed an general outline for the show at the Hall for Cornwall, on June 12th, 2024. The proposal includes MMC opening and

closing the show, with guests, the Cornwall Youth Choir, Cana (who we've worked with at our concerts twice before), and a spot highlighting the talents of our accompanist, Matt Fox. This is intended as a template, not just celebrating the past fifty years of the Choir, but as an 'advert', looking forward to the next fifty years. There followed discussion about commemorative polo shirts, for us, and for sale, food/drink vouchers for participants etc.

8. AOB. The proceeds, after Music Team costs, of one of our quay concerts, will be donated to the appeal for a new roof for Mevagissey Museum, which holds our archive. Proposed by GH, seconded by TS. GL asked all Section Leaders to monitor their singers, so that no-one with particular health and well-being issues goes unnoticed.

Finally, the Committee would like to remind ALL Choir members that we are here to do our best for you. If you have any problems, suggestions, ideas, or inspirations, please share them with your Section Leader. He will bring them to the Committee, where they can be discussed, recorded, and actioned, if necessary. In light of this, please could members resist the temptation to make Jimmy your first port of call – that is what your Section Leader is for. Jimmy, as we know, is very approachable, and very generous with his time, but also very busy, and very conscientious, so please let's not overload him – let's use the structure that's seen us through fifty years!!

PLEASE NOTE:

**Our next committee meeting
will be on Tuesday, 18th July 2023,
at the Mevagissey Social Club, 7.30 pm.**