

Mevagissey Male Choir

Minutes of Committee Meeting, Tues 21st June 2022, 7.30pm. Mevagissey Social Club

Present:

Nick Nicholls – Chair (NN).	Chris Williams (CW)
Graham Hoskins – Treasurer (GH)	Simon Lawday (SL)
Robin Murphy – Secretary (RM)	Clifford Burnett (CB))
Roger Mitchell (RoM)	Steve Truscott (ST)
Humfrey Stobart (HS)	Bill Roberts (BR)

1. Apologies/Absent – Apologies received from Steve Gibson, Mike Tate, and Dave Leeson.
2. Minutes of 17/05/2022 meeting – The minutes were deemed to be accurate, and ready for publication on the website.
3. Matters arising (if not on agenda) – In item 6 of the May minutes, there was an incorrect reference to ‘Alison’ Best, one of our guest singers – she is actually ‘Rachel’ Best – many apologies for the error, which has been corrected before publication.
4. Treasurers report. GH e-mailed his report last week, detailing another busy month. Thanks to the sterling efforts of ST, we received money from more programme advertising, as well as a very kind donation from Mevagissey Parish Council to cover the cost of the coach hire to the Minack. There were CD sales from Truro Cathedral, and the final tally from our concert at the Minack, which, after all expenses, including a donation of £750 to the Culdrose Military Wives, left the choir with a profit of some £2,200. A huge vote of thanks should go to GH and CW, who completed the purchase of an entire PA system for the choir, and brought it home under the agreed budget!

5. Musical Direction: NN passed around copies of a job description that he's created for the candidates applying for the job as Musical Director. NN acknowledged useful help from John Lark, the chairman of Truro MVC, who's had to go through the process of appointing a new musical director twice in the past three years. The discussion and comments that followed centred on support for Angela Renshaw, particularly from those that knew/had worked with her before (GH, SL), tempered by a note of caution from BR, who's worked with a number of musical directors, and hoped that we would give fair weight to all applicants, equally.. Ben Martin is the only other applicant to date. He's currently director of the Indian Queens' band. NN said the position should be kept open 'till September, and opportunities would be afforded to applicants to come and meet/work with the choir. RM, to general agreement, congratulated NN on his job application document. NN will contact Angela and Ben, and issue them with their copies of the document.
6. Meva Feast Week: CRBO have reported just 70 ticket sales for our Feast Week concert. GH suggested a big push on Facebook, and was very keen to point out that an ongoing sales relationship with CRBO is still an important step for the choir, going forward, particularly with the benefit of being able to monitor the sales by number, date, and name. In the meantime we will push the ability to 'pay at the door' on the night, for our regular audience.
7. Choir 50th: HS reported that the gallery at the Eden Project (the venue for the choir's 40th anniversary), was being quoted at £1,800. This is the base figure, and does not include hire of chairs, lighting, dressing-room space, technical personnel etc. A biome is up for grabs at £10,000. There are no June/July dates available in 2024.
8. Concerts: CB reported that we've been asked to take part in the traditional Mevagissey Harvest of the Sea' event, on October 9th, at 4.00pm, followed by a sweet/sour tea in the village hall. The committee agreed, and it will be put to the choir. Abertillery MVC are asking for a joint concert in with us in 2023, but not in June or September. Venue suggestions included St Augustine's. We have a joint concert with Barnstaple MVC, on Saturday 12 November, at Tywardreath. They have asked for a 7.00pm start, rather than 7.30pm, as they have to do a day trip, not being able to afford an overnight stay. They've also asked if we could provide food – CB will investigate possibilities.

9. Social event: Peter Bowker, who has been asked to arrange the entertainment at the event, has asked that the date be changed from Sept 25th, as a number of likely performers are due to be away that weekend. SL has managed to change the date to October 2. SL to provide costs for BBQ etc.
10. Twitter account. No further progress to report, due to SG's absence.
11. AOB: CW said our new CD is ready and sorted for order and production. Both he, Matt, and GH are happy with the quality. There are 11 tracks, mostly of our recent material. Des is to be asked to provide the artwork, and Mike Tate, the words for the cover. GH, in answer to several that doubted the appeal of CDs in the future, reckoned that an effective card-reader would help greatly us in terms of sales at concerts, and said there is a card-reader with its own SIM. NN asked GH to investigate for cost and effectiveness. The necessary pressing runs were discussed – smaller runs are more expensive, but might be more cost effective if the majority sold. There was general agreement that the production of a short run, possibly 200, could go ahead to cover likely sales at the quay concerts. GH suggested that we investigate the possibility of performing at the Princess Pavilions, Falmouth for 2023 – they are hosting a number of Choirs this summer. HS brought the good news that Jeff Cundy would like to return to the choir soon. There was general discussion over uniforms, and whether the choir should help with costs, where possible. BW proposed we should, and CB seconded.
12. **Next committee meeting.** Tuesday 19th July, Mevagissey Social Club.