

Bingham and District Choral Society

MINUTES OF MEETING 27TH MARCH 2017

1. Present: John Bannister (Chair), Huw Cadwallader (Treasurer), Valerie Morgan (Secretary), Judy Unell (Publicity), Janet Chapman (Membership), Tim Connery (Box Office), Brad Poulson (Ordinary Member – Website).

The meeting was quorate.

Apologies: Sally Ashton (Vice-Chair), Barbara Cobb (Programme Chair), Alison Marriott (Ordinary Member), Margot Anderson (Librarian), Pam Jones (Ordinary Member).

Minutes of meeting 20th February 2017: There were no amendments. Proposed by John, seconded by Brad, accepted by all.

2. Matters Arising

6. Groningen: The conductor of the Groningen choir has now resigned (see email from Linda Hunter), so the trip is now definitely off.

ACTION: John to inform choir

10. 1) Committee for next year: Barbara is definitely standing down.

3. Treasurer

Huw: The John Rutter Singing Day raised approximately £4,500 – still one or two bills to come in. £220 had to be refunded to those who applied after the numbers limit was reached, or who could not attend.

Pam Brooks has agreed again to examine the accounts. Hugh Holbrook has not yet been asked. If he is unable to do so, choir members to be asked.

Huw also recommended that subscriptions should stay as they were (£95) for the next year, unless the costs for Summer Singing (see **4A** below) are included.

A letter had been received from Bingham Leisure Centre requesting payment for hire of chairs – this was sent on the same day that they had received our payment.

4. Forthcoming Concerts

1) Spring Concert, 13th May 2017 with Newark CS: Organisation discussed as per list of duties.

Re interval drinks: it was agreed we should provide these, as Newark have usually done so in their concerts in the Baptist Church (though they have not sung recently in St Mary Magdalene). Valerie / Janet to organise. Volunteers needed from both choirs to set up and serve. The church has a fridge, and plastic cup-holders. Plastic cups to fit will be needed, as well as instant coffee, teabags, milk and sugar.

ACTION: Valerie to contact David Oliver-Wilson (Churchwarden) and organise supplies.

John to request volunteers from Bingham.

Tim to liaise with Newark Chair for Newark volunteers.

Ed Turner will be accompanying on the organ, not Roger Bryan, because of health and other issues.

ACTION: John to discuss with Ed about CCTV for organist to see conductor.

2) Lunchtime Concert 17th June 2017: There are enough people for Summer Singing to go ahead (see **4A** below). The concert will be jointly with Newark CS in St Mary Magdalene. As there is another event in the church during the morning, access will be after 1.30.

3) The Creation with Mansfield CS 25th November 201: Judy needs names of soloists for publicity. A Study Day has been booked with Mansfield for 11th November 2017 at Queen Elizabeth Academy.

4) Christmas Concert 16th December 2017: Bingham Church and Church House have been booked. Carnarvon children to be invited.

ACTION: Barbara (or Guy?) to contact the school.

5) Verdi Requiem with Mansfield CS 12th May 2018: No reports available

6) Brahms Requiem 11th May 2019: Probably Radcliffe on Trent – too soon to book church. Caroline Clemmow has confirmed her booking with Jonathan Gooding.

7) November 2018: No concert yet planned.

ACTION: Programme Committee to discuss.

8) Future Planning: No further plans at present.

4A. Summer Singing

About 35 people have so far enrolled or have said they will do so. Financially this makes it more or less viable; expenses total £820. So far we have taken £580, but as we are in a good financial position at present, this can be subsidised if necessary.

With regard to an email sent by a member, it was agreed after discussion that the issue of whether Summer Singing should become an integral part of the choir's year should be raised at the AGM.

People who have filled in reply slip (see **Website**, below) to be informed of Summer Singing

ACTION: Janet to draft a Resolution for the AGM.

Janet to do Summer Singing register for fire regulations

5. Publicity

Judy: Has been in touch with a printer recommended by Bob Middleton – Adrian Collier, Print Revolution. He would do artwork free, with a charge for printing: 500 colour fliers @ £74 zero rated, or 1000 @ £1113 zero rated, delivery £15. This seems reasonable. She will discuss with Richard Joyner about possibly using them for publicity for the Bursary scheme.

ACTION: Judy to speak to Richard.

She had contacted Radio Nottingham about an interview with Guy, but no response from them, although the initial contact had been encouraging.

Website

Brad: Some changes made to website to include Bursary Scheme. Also the opportunity for “Friends” to subscribe.

32 people from the John Rutter day completed slips asking to be kept informed of choir events. Database and form needed, with “unsubscribe” facility.

ACTION: Brad to discuss with Pam and/or Alison; also to include Summer Singing (see 4A) above).

6. Fundraising

John Rutter Singing Day: Much positive feedback received. John Rutter was charming and helpful, and the venue (Minster School) was excellent, with helpful staff (and plenty of parking). To consider using this again where appropriate.

Disabled provision: while the school was fully accessible, as organisers we need to make adequate provision for wheelchairs – **Brad** said that for one alto wheelchair user, there was nowhere near the front of the hall, and she ended up near the back, where she would have been unable to see when the singers stood. There was also a previous incident at Radcliffe Church, where a wheelchair user had to be lifted down steps, as the main (wheelchair access) entry was not open.

Huw asked if Ed Turner’s fee for accompanying could be raised by £20, as he had been excellent in the role. Agreed.

The Committee expressed thanks to Ed for his playing.

Other ideas

A suggestion has been made to ask Marcus Farnsworth to hold a workshop next year – he has a good reputation for this.

ACTION: Guy to be asked to approach him.

Another suggestion is for a **Book sale**. It was agreed this should be on 26th April. Any books left over could go to Music for Everyone second hand bookshops.

ACTION: John to announce to choir.

7. Reports

Librarian: No report

Membership Secretary: Mentors. **Janet** says all the volunteers are happy to continue in this role. However it needs to be more high-profile. Members need to know what mentors do, so that they can involve them.

Role of mentors:

- Welcome and settle in new member, fill in enrolment form and pass to Margot to get music.
- Find out how familiar they are with choral singing
- Introduce them to others, and seat them in a group rather than at the end of a row.
- Let Janet know when the three free weeks are up, or if they are not attending.
- Committee and mentors to wear badges, and photos on notice-board to be brought up to date.

- Greeters to be at the door, and direct new members to mentors, who are part of the enrolling team

This to be discussed at the AGM, and to go in the Newsletter and on the Website.

Gift Aid: Not everyone appears to fill this section in. Enrolment team to check on enrolment form, and ask if they pay income tax.

8. Correspondence

Email from a member (see also **4A**) above).

Issues with seating were discussed. This seems to be an unresolvable issue, as some members react strongly if they are unable to sit in their usual place.

ACTION: John to discuss seating arrangements (numbers of chairs) with those who set them out.

After discussion it was agreed that Committee Minutes should go on the Website once they have been accepted by the Committee, with any sensitive or personal issues edited out.

ACTION: Valerie, Brad

9. AOB

Bursary: Richard has informed the Committee that John Beaumont has agreed to fund the bursary for £500. He suggests it should be called the John Beaumont Bursary.

10. Committee

Guy has requested that we find a replacement for Barbara when she stands down. It was felt that a profile of the job was required.

Brad has agreed to “shadow” Huw as Treasurer with a view to taking over the following year.

ACTION: Barbara to write profile of Programme Chair job.

John to ask members if anyone is interested.

11. DONM

Monday 8th May.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm. Tim was thanked for his hospitality.