

Bingham and District Choral Society

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 4TH MARCH 2019

1. Present: John Bannister (Chair), Brad Poulson (Treasurer), Valerie Morgan (Secretary), Janet Chapman (Membership), Peter Iley (Programme chair), Tim Connery (Box Office), Margot Anderson (Librarian), Judy Unell (Publicity), Janet Iley, Juliet Ward, Tina Warrington, Beryl Cottrill (ordinary Members).

Apologies: Sally Ashton (Vice-Chair).

Minutes of meeting 29th January 2019

Page 1, no 3: Should read **11th May**

Page 2, no. 10: *Choir members are often unhappy about the choices of music should read **a few members have expressed unhappiness with the choice of music.***

Page 2 no 8: Add **He has also taken photos at concerts.**

The Minutes were then accepted as a true record: proposed Tim, seconded Margot.

2. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

3. Treasurer

Brad: 1) It was agreed at the Strategic Review that members' subscriptions would have to be increased to cover the costs of rehearsals, including hire of school hall, insurance, conductor's and accompanist's fees, website, contribution to music hire charges etc. Fundraising, donations etc would help to subsidise our concerts. This is partly dependent on whether we decide to move to a 4-concert year (see **5** below). Brad's suggestion is of increasing the fees by £5 per year for the next three years (until 2021, when membership would stand at £110).

This was accepted by the Committee, but it was decided that music hire costs should remain as an 'extra'.

ACTION: A resolution to this effect will be put to the AGM – John or Brad to compose?

2) In this year's accounts, Gift Aid from last year is included, as it came in after the end of the financial year. This year's will also be late.

3) An EGM needs to be held to appoint a new auditor, as Hugh Holbrook has stepped down due to ill-health. 7 days' notice of this is required. Dave Morgan is willing to stand.

ACTION: John to give notice to choir of EGM on Wed. 6th March, to be held on Wed 13th March.

4) Brad made a plea for any expenses to be submitted as soon as possible.

4. Concerts

1) Singing Day with Ellie Martin, 16th Feb 2019: Judy was Event Organiser, and felt the venue was good, apart from the stairs up to it. There is a lift, but this is complicated. It was also felt that parking for unloading scores and other equipment was difficult. It was felt to be a very enjoyable day, but perhaps some of the Zimbe music had lots of repeats, tricky when sight-reading, and for some parts, a lot of humming! After deductions for various expenses, about £600 profit was made.

2) 11th May 2019, Radcliffe Church: Tina Concert Manager. Piano has been ordered and paid for. Who is responsible for the insurance? Should be the venue. Brad is dealing with this.

John is doing the lighting with **David Atkins.**

Caroline Clemmow will require hospitality.

ACTION: Tina to ask at choir.

Tim: tickets to be sold in 4-5 weeks' time.

Judy dealing with publicity (see 6 below).

Banner to go outside church

ACTION: Janet C. to organise.

Church Hall is booked from 6.30.

3) 6th July 2019 – lunchtime at Newark Church: John Concert Manager

4) 21st September 2019 – Bingham Church: Ed Turner and Emily Hodkinson concert. **Richard Joyner** organising.

Church booked. Church House not required.

5) 16th November 2019 – Newark Church booked: Soloists booked, and orchestra fixing (**Juliet**) nearly complete.

Concert Manager needed.

6) 14th December 2019 – Christmas Concert; Bingham Church booked, plus Old Church House from 6.30pm. Peter has spoken to Ed – he is available to play organ. Juliet will contact **Colin Smith**. Guy has spoken to **Becky Cowling** at Carnarvon School.

Concert manager needed.

7) 18th January 2020 – Bursary and Prize competition: Bingham Church booked from 2 pm and Old Church House from 6.30. Beryl Event Manager.

Guy, Ed and Barbara Cobb have agreed to be judges again. **Angela Kay** has been asked – awaiting confirmation.

ACTION: Beryl

8) 2nd May 2020 – Brahms Requiem with Mansfield in Southwell Minster: Mansfield's concert – Brad has confirmed they have full sponsorship.

9) Future Concerts: Future programme planning depends on outcome of Strategic review, ie whether we have 3 or 4 concerts per year. In our 50th anniversary year (**2022**), we are likely to do Messiah and 2 other events.

5. Strategic Review

Meeting on 4th February – **John, Richard Joyner, Sally, Brad, Val**. After discussion it was agreed that it should be put to the AGM that we extend the season to four full concerts, and perhaps hold the Spring concert a bit earlier (bearing in mind that with shared concerts, dates convenient to both choirs would have to be agreed) . The group is due to meet again on 11th March.

ACTION: John**6. Publicity**

1) Robin Aldworth is departing at the end of March, so new people to design programmes and posters are needed. **Andrew James** has offered to design posters, and **Beryl** has a contact (**Penny Prior**) in East Bridgford who is interested in putting the programmes etc together, and possibly concert tickets. Agreed Beryl would ask Penny about the basis of her help (remuneration?), and that we could pay her for each concert if appropriate. We would then put Andrew and Penny in touch with each other.

ACTION: Beryl to liaise further with Penny. Valerie to write to Andrew.

2) Website: **Judy** now maintaining this, with some help from Brad.

7. Fundraising / Social

No reports

8. Librarian

1) Margot has not been successful in finding anyone else to take over as Librarian. She would be willing to continue if someone could be found to help with transporting and attending at start of rehearsals.

2) Following the Singing Day, a show of hands at last week's rehearsal was in favour of doing some items from Zimbe (Lestrangle) at the Summer Concert in Newark. The Zimbe music is however expensive (£200). It was therefore agreed that the Programme Committee should be asked to look at alternatives, including our own music. Peter said that the PC was now beginning to 'cost' scores for proposed concerts.

ACTION: Peter

3) There was some discussion about the charging of hire fees to members – some grumbled about this. It was felt that it should be made clear both to new and existing members that music had to be paid for. Should this go in magazine articles, eg The Link etc?

4) Music storage: most of it is now with Peter. He felt the best solution was to invest in some plastic boxes to be labelled with their contents; these could then be easily stacked. Would this be covered by choir or people's house insurance?

ACTION: Peter

9. Membership

Janet C.: The choir now has 91 members. With the three-week period before new members need to pay, it is sometimes difficult to know whether someone is still attending, or has paid. She therefore plans to meet with or write to mentors before the end of the term to raise awareness of this.

ACTION: Janet C.

10. Rehearsal planning and logistics; staging

1) Staging: John - Storage continues at the farm near East Bridgford for the time being. However this looks unlikely to continue indefinitely. John is going to the farm with David Atkins this week. One suggestion was to ask Carnarvon School if it could be stored there, but this was considered unlikely. There is a storage facility at Gunthorpe, which could take both staging and music for about £1,000 p.a.

ACTION: John

2) Easter rehearsals: Guy is available over the Easter holiday period, so it has been suggested that the Saturday rehearsal planned for 30th March be cancelled, and that we continue rehearsals right through the Easter period – ie 10th, 17th and 24th April (Good Friday is 19th April). The school will however be unheated during the holidays. This was agreed.

ACTION: Valerie to book / unbook school (Done). John to inform Guy, Ed and choir (including re lack of heating!).

11. Correspondence

None.

12. Bursary and Prize Competition January 2020

See 4.7) above.

13. AOB

1) Brad: Evensong at the Minster: BDCS has been given the opportunity on 3rd August to sing at Evensong. About 22 singers are required. There will be rehearsals on two Wednesdays beforehand. Forms to be made available to those interested.

ACTION: Brad to announce on Wednesday.

2) Valerie: Piano has now been tuned.

3) Valerie: A collection for a leaving gift to Robin Aldworth has raised £140. It is suggested that a case of good wines be purchased, and that Robin be invited to attend rehearsal during the coffee break on 20th March to receive this. This was agreed.

ACTION: Valerie to order wine, write to Robin and inform Sylvia. John to announce to choir. Tim to do presentation.

4) Valerie: Sally has suggested that a task list similar to the one for concerts is drawn up for Singing Days. It was agreed that this should be deferred till the next meeting, when Sally is present.

14. DONM

Tuesday 16th April 2019

Brad was thanked for his hospitality, and the meeting ended at 9.50 pm.