

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus
Minutes of Meeting 6th February 2018

Present

Paul Henstridge; Anne Adams; Graham Dawson; Sally Turnbull; Els Pearse; Helen Kirk; Rachel Mallaband; Sue Pennington; Paul Bedwell; Janet Hoyle; Georgina Hulse.

1. Apologies

John Spence; Richard Salt; Paul Duffield.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th October 2017 were agreed to be accurate and signed by the chair.

3. Outstanding Matters Arising not on the agenda

Meeting of 24/09/15

3.4 Els to sell scores gifted by Tony Pickles' wife on ebay. On going. Anne offered to help Els.

Meeting of 11/01/2017

6.3.1 John to collect next of kin details from chorus members. Partly done.

Meeting of 02/03/2017

8.2 Soloists' contacts. Mostly done. Anne to contact Andrea Stafford at the Halle to clarify remaining issues.

Meeting of 08/06/2017

3.3.3 Uploading of recorded extracts to website. Decided to use only more recent CD recordings which are much better.

3.5.1 Mention in weekly update that the lengthy search for an alternative venue has found nothing suitable. The issue will be reviewed each year.

Meeting of 26/10/2017

4.2 Nerissa Kisdon (alto) has volunteered to join the Friends sub-committee (along with Rachel Mallaband, Daphne Sydney and Paul Henstridge.) Meeting to be arranged.

5.1 Paul B to check sales of the Christmas CD's from the 2017 outlets and continue seeking alternative outlets for the sale of remaining CDs. The marketing effort to start in August 2018.

7.1 Graham D to continue the process of transferring assets to the CIO in accordance with the agreed transfer plan.

12.1 Paul B to take over responsibility for updating the SPC area of the CS website. Anne to send him the necessary passwords.

13.1.2 All trustees to continue to seek volunteers to take over John's Membership Officer duties.

15 No action required yet on Jo Briddock's Sheffield carol scheme.

4. Friends Scheme

Discussion deferred to the next meeting.

5. Marketing & Publicity

5.1 Paul Boardman is our new graphic designer and produced the flyers for the recent Mozart concert. They were distributed to audience members at the previous SIC season concert. The print cost was £92 for 2,500 flyers which the committee considered to be very good value.

Audience numbers for the Mozart concert reached the Halle's acceptable level of 1,300 but not the break even number of 1,982. Decided to use the same system of flyers for future concerts but need to widen the spread of distribution.

Paul Bedwell will liaise with Martin Smith (SIV) regarding a half page advert in the programme for the upcoming CBSO concert on 18th March to publicise the After Hours concert.

5.2 Paul Boardman had submitted 3 options for a new monochrome logo. Option 2 was chosen and will replace the existing logo on all materials.

6. Membership Officer Job Description

John was thanked for providing a comprehensive job description. Paul H and Darius were thanked for their planning work and their

suggestion for dividing the job into 2 posts which was accepted. There was discussion regarding how these 2 new posts would interface with Anne's Administrator role and Sally's role as New Members' Officer.

Anne will modify the 2 new job descriptions along the agreed lines and circulate the new version.

7. Governance

7.1 Graham reported that the transfer process to a CIO is ongoing.

7.2 The following change to rule 7.1 was proposed to accommodate difficulties experienced when members fail to arrange or attend re-auditions. It was agreed subject to Darius' approval.

“All choir members are required to re-audition at least once every 3 years. Members with an outstanding re-audition may not sing in any subsequent concert except at the discretion of the Music Director.”

It was agreed that rule 7.5 would also need to be changed to be consistent. Anne to make the necessary amendment and send to Darius for approval.

7.3 It was agreed that the holder of the Transport Officer role should be a trustee. This will require a change to the constitution which will need to be cleared with the Charity Commission prior to seeking the agreement of members at the next AGM.

8. Chorus Website

Anne was thanked for her on-going work on the website. It was agreed no further work is required at this time.

9. Review of recent Concerts.

9.1 Mealor “Paradise”

There were some negative comments on social media. Paul H will mention at a future rehearsal that care needs to be taken about what is written in the public domain.

Agreed to pay £255 to Darius as a contribution to his fee most of which was paid by Black Dyke Band.

9.2 Mozart Requiem

Jean-Claude Picard, (conductor,) was very well received. Refreshing to work with someone new to the chorus. Decided his feedback should go into the weekly update.

A risk assessment issue was identified regarding the use of the stair climber as we have no policy for its use during a fire alert. Anne will add this to the event Risk Assessment and ask SIV for a copy of the City Hall evacuation procedure.

10. Forthcoming Performances

10.1 After Hours Concert 20/04/18

Discussion of the draft budget. Need to be aware of the cost of every event including short concerts. Paul H to discuss with Darius the use of the tenor section instead of a soloist for the Brahms. Paul B to organise an effective publicity strategy.

10.2 Mahler 2 April/May 2018

The new survey is out for completion by members. The deadline will be strictly enforced. Paul B to organise an effective publicity strategy for the Sheffield concert.

10.3 Rossini 09/06/18

A sub-group was created to manage this concert. Georgina, Graham, Anne, Janet, Els, Helen, Paul B. There will be a Friends event at this concert. It was agreed to use the ballroom area for this. A draft budget was discussed. Ticket price likely to be £15.

10.4 Tour de France.

Matthew Morgan (organiser) was not present. There are various issues to do with budget which need to be addressed. Eg costs for any Sheffield rehearsal and Darius' fee. Paul H discuss with Darius.

11. Planning for Future Performances

11.1 Classical Sheffield "Harmony" event. 12th or 10th May or 14th to 18th May 2018. The concert managing sub-group, (see 10.3,) will consider the pop-up events. Paul H will speak to Darius re SPC involvement.

11.2 Bochum visit. We have been invited to join the Bochum chorus for their performance of Messiah in English on February 7th 2019. They have also invited us to join them for a concert in Autumn 2019 repertoire not yet agreed. Graham to accept both on our behalf.

11.3 Proposed visit by the Bochum choir to Sheffield around Easter 2020. Suggested repertoire Messiah with Black Dyke Band. The concert managing sub-group to consider.

11.4 Decided that a concert in Sheffield of "The Holy Face" as suggested by the Halifax choir would not be financially viable. Anne to inform Halifax Choral Society.

11.5 Classical Sheffield Festival 8th to 10th March 2019 has a number of suggested themes and we chose "works by women composers" as being of particular interest. The concert managing sub-group to give some consideration to this.

11.6 There will probably be only one choral concert in addition to the Christmas concerts in the SIV programme next season. It is likely to be Bach's B minor Mass. Georgina offered to run some note learning sessions.
The concert managing sub-group will consider self funded concert(s.)

12. Committee Officers' Issues/ Reports.

12.1 Georgina's music reading classes are going well but are only for current members. Decided to offer them to potential new men. Paul B to plan a publicity campaign.

12.2 Helen proposed offering Honorary Membership to Pat Wiltshire. Agreed.

13 Correspondence

None

14. AOB

None

Date of next Meeting to be decided.