

Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus  
Minutes of Meeting 20th September 2011

Present

Julie Smethurst; Janet Bower; John Spence; Angela Argenzio; Sally Turnbull; Kate Reece; Howard Dore; Els Pearce; Peter Quarrell; Helen Kirk; Daphne Sydney; Paul Duffield; Sue Pennington

1. Apologies

Rachel Mallaband; Dan Spicer; Jenny Swann; Elizabeth Charlesworth.

2. Financial Matters

a) Angela was thanked for her budget which she had previously circulated. She gave explanations for her thinking on each item and explained that she had estimated income rather conservatively and expenditure slightly generously in order to ensure that it would balance at the end of the year.

One reason that last year's accounts remained healthy was that a good number of individual members had chosen to over-pay their subscription.

Angela was concerned that a number of members had inadvertently under-paid owing to snags in their standing order arrangements. She intends following this up with individuals.

Angela proposed that subscription levels should remain the same as last year. She thought this was especially important this year as members are also being asked to pay an additional £5.50 for new folders. This proposal was accepted.

b) It was decided that it is not appropriate to have a "Just Giving" page on the website.

c) There was some discussion about the funding arrangements for the "Alight" project. A bid has been submitted to the Arts Council for £9K. A decision by them should be made by 28<sup>th</sup> October.

In the meantime there is a need for a loan of approx £250 for up-front administration costs. Angela, Rachel and Peter will discuss how this can best be managed.

Julie explained that she had made it very clear that SPC would not be responsible for any of the costs of this enterprise. We are donating time and expertise but not money. The intention is that it be funded by ticket sales and the Art's Council grant. If the bid is unsuccessful then the scale of the event will be reduced.

### 3. AGM Arrangements

It is now time to issue the Annual Report which will include the usual reports & accounts and last year's minutes. John will collate and distribute the report electronically.

### 4. Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June

There are 2 points of accuracy to be added.

- a) The date for "Alight" is 3<sup>rd</sup> March, not 4<sup>th</sup>.
- b) The committee decided not to take forward the idea of buying portable banners as the chorus should not be so branded when only a section is performing.

### 5. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda

- a) The library has now been moved to its new home in Howard's garage. He was warmly thanked for offering to house it. Els has been busy over the summer re-organising and pruning the stock. There is a need for one more bay of shelving at a cost of £90. It was agreed that this should be bought. Els will buy flowers for Kate Wilson to thank her for housing the library in the past.
- b) Rachel is returning to almost full-time work from this week and this will impact on the time she has available for her marketing and publicity work for the chorus. She was thanked for the fantastic job she has done for us so far. Kate volunteered to join the publicity team to help Rachel. She also was warmly thanked.
- c) Dan, Jenny, and Kate are leaving the committee this year, though Kate will now be returning to work on publicity. Ann Holloway is leaving the chorus and

therefore the committee. All were thanked for their work over the past 3 years.

- d) Janet circulated notes about the implications for hiring out the stair climber. All are asked to read, consider and submit thoughts to her.
- e) Decided to ask the chorus members for a volunteer to house the wheel chair and the Christmas decorations. Janet to check if the City Hall might be prepared to have the decorations.

## 6. 2011 -2012 Season

- a) The Victoria Hall has been booked for the “Alight” afternoon concert at a cost of £200. Discussion of this event deferred to the next meeting.
- b) Julie will circulate the budget for the “Armed Man” concert. There will be a professional male soloist for the Bronte Mass and we are sharing the cost for this with the Halifax chorus. Our share is £750. Soloists for the Armed Man will come from the choruses.
- c) We have been invited to send 100 singers to Halifax for their 1<sup>st</sup> April concert. John to organise a “first come first served” system per section bearing in mind the need to send a balanced group.

## 7. Membership Matters

- a) It was agreed that Stephen Knight and Bill Fox be offered honorary membership.
- b) Janet and Rachel are working on sourcing name badges.
- c) The next run of Singing Workshops for potential new tenors & Basses will start on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## 8. Fundraising

- a) The “Friends” project is moving forward but 2 of the members of its steering group have not yet contributed so a request will be made for additional people to join this group.
- b) Kate was offered a huge vote of thanks for organising the sale of music, CD’s and ephemera over a period of many weeks. The total raised for funds is £339.
- c) Christmas cards are now on-sale. We need to sell 600 to break even. Sales of 1,000 would produce a £400 profit. Agreed that 100 would be available for Helen to send to Honorary Members and others.

- d) Helen has had enquiries for more bags. She will check the supplier to see if they are still available at the same price.
- e) Kate will bring the remaining books to rehearsal next week.  
We are now into profit on the books.

9. AOB

- a) John mentioned that he has another meeting in Coventry tomorrow with the BBC production team to review the arrangements for next season's concert in the cathedral. It is likely that the orientation of the concert seating will be changed in order to minimise the effects of an imperfect acoustic. He will also check if the BBC is prepared to release to us an un-official recording they have of the Bliss.

10. Date of next meeting

Julie will circulate suggested dates.

11. Rehearsal Venue

The Arts Tower will be available to us by Christmas should we decide to return there. The cost is currently £100 per session as opposed to £66 at Springs. There is also an additional cost at the Arts Tower for piano tuning. However, Springs is not as easily reached by public transport as the city centre and some potential new members have been put off by its position.

Decided to canvas the opinions of Chorus members regarding preferences. Committee members are also requested to make their views known via emails.