

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

15 DECEMBER 2014

53 HANGINGWATER ROAD SHEFFIELD

1. APOLOGIES were received from : Paul Duffield, Richard Salt, Paul Bedwell, Sue Pennington, Anne Adams.

New Members Anu Adebajo, Paul Bedwell and Victor Brooks were welcomed to the Committee.

Julie opened the Meeting by reporting congratulations from Darius on the success of the two carol concerts on 13 December 2014. In addition, Michael Williams, the composer of one of the pieces performed, was present at the concert and expressed his delight too. Darius asked for his thanks to be passed on to the Committee for their support. Before the meeting commenced its agenda Nigel Wright asked whether we could prioritize events for the rest of the season as there was a backlog of matters requiring attention. John Spence suggested establishing sub-committees to deal with the more involved issues which would enable full discussion of individual topics.

2. JANUARY RECORDING

Steve Terry outlined the progress towards the CD recording taking place in January 2015. Discussion arose about which carols would be included. Anu/Angela/Steve to pursue how we might arrange for pre-sale orders to be available online.

Steve was warmly thanked for his expertise and immense involvement in this project. Downloadable versions, including of individual tracks, was also to be investigated.

3. CLASSICAL SHEFFIELD Festival 23-25 October 2015. Steve Terry, a member of the CS Steering Committee, gave details of the proposed event. 22 groups have signed up for involvement and each group is asked to advance £100 to seed fund the event. This will be refundable from the proceeds of our event in the festival, and the Meeting approved the request.

SPC will perform a short concert in the Ballroom at Sheffield City Hall on the Saturday afternoon as its contribution and local school children will be invited to be present. There will be a charge of £5 per concert and multi-buys will also be available for families or for attendance at more than one concert.

Again, Steve was thanked for his role in this.

4. CONCERT ON 2 MAY 2015

Jo Briddock was thanked for her offer of stage management help on that day and will work alongside Tom Stayte, formerly stage manager at SIV, who will be employed by us to stage manage the concert. Janet Bower will confirm his appointment .

Jim Monach is to be approached with a view to being project manager.

There was quite a lengthy discussion over how many complimentary tickets should be available and who should receive one. Julie will review the list of those who might be eligible, in conjunction with Angela and Jo.

5. WORKSHOPS

Sue Pennington has agreed to take over the organizing of this season's workshop arrangements. She will set up the next batch of workshops commencing on 3 February and these will be for the benefit of the bass section.

Julie has received complaints from some members regarding those who fail to do homework, and how these people, mainly men, are letting the Chorus down through lack of dedication. There was discussion about 'chorus craft' and 'stage craft' and Julie invited email suggestions for resolving the problem.

Nigel Wright, Voice Exchange Co-ordinator, said that while it is quite successful, take up for the scheme is smaller than expected. He asked permission to extend an invitation to participate in the Voice Exchange to Sheffield Chorale. The Meeting agreed.

6. WEBSITE The website has a new host which will lead to improvements in how it is used. Kirsty Christer now finds herself with less time available for updating the site and has asked for some assistance. Choir Member, David Beautiman, has already offered help and he will be approached to join the webteam. Frazer Jarvis who set up the website for us, will also be asked if he is willing to continue helping when necessary, given that he has now decided to resign from the Chorus.

6. DENNIS WEBB

It was reported to the meeting that Dennis and his wife Julie have both been distressed at Dennis's not reaching the required standard set by Darius at re-audition and his subsequent departure from the Chorus. Those involved are assured that, on account of Dennis's increasing forgetfulness and confusion, he misunderstood the procedure and relayed the wrong account to his wife.

The Meeting agreed that unfortunately nothing can be done now to allay the ill feeling felt by Mr. and Mrs. Webb. In future anyone not reaching the required standard will be told by the Music Director at the time of the re-audition and in addition, to avoid any misunderstanding, a letter/email confirming that decision will be sent.

8. MINUTES OF 2 OCTOBER 2014 MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2014 were agreed to be a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9.1 The concert on 7 June 2014 was recorded for publicity purposes. Unfortunately, much of the recording, for various reasons, was disappointing. Members were each issued with a copy of the CD and were invited to send comments to Julie, with the intention of deciding what could be used.

9.2 The Meeting agreed that the Cheese and Wine evening after the AGM was a great success and there were many requests from the Chorus to repeat it. Helen Kirk was thanked for her initiative and hard work.

9.3 Changes to the constitution are due and Julie and Angela agreed that they would meet to discuss this.

9.4 We need to draft a letter to send out to local funeral directors outlining what we can provide in the way of hymn singers.

9.5 The Stairclimber has a number of issues which need attention. The Montgomery Hall has great need of it and Hallam Choral Society has a member with mobility problems.

Sally Turnbull said that a prospective new member has impaired mobility which could increase our usage of the C-Max.

9.6 The Friends Scheme is in need of overhauling but this matter has been deferred.

10. ST. LUKE'S FUNDRAISER

It had been suggested that a summer concert for the benefit of St. Luke's might be appropriate after the Beethoven concert on 17 May 2015. The Meeting agreed, however, that we support them in many other ways and was unenthusiastic on this occasion.

11. AOB

11.1 Angela asked for 'Finance' to be on the agenda of the next meeting. It was agreed that Graham Dawson, the prospective new Finance Officer, should be invited to attend.

11.2 The two carol concerts at SIV were very well attended and SIV have agreed to share their relevant database in order to aid promotion of our events.

12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING Julie will circulate suggested dates and will later confirm an agreed date.

Angela was thanked for hosting the Meeting which was declared closed at 10.00pm

JANET BOWER
15 DECEMBER 2014