

MINUTES of 86th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 8.30pm at King Edward VII Upper School, Sheffield

Approximately 110 members present

1. Apologies for Absence

Glenice Musgrave, Katy Forster, Margaret Brugger, Janet Baker, Andrea Watts, Donald Watts, Cecilia Scriven, Charlotte Morgan, Angela Plank, Victoria Sellers, David Booker, Keith Burton, Ranjan Sen, Emma Cadavra

2. Minutes of the AGM of 2021

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were proposed as an accurate and true record by Pam Leon seconded by Graham Dawson and approved unanimously via a show of hands. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were none.

4. Update on the change from an Unincorporated Charity, (UC) to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Jane Parkin (Finance Officer) reported that the move to CIO had not been completed within the period covered by the Trustee Annual report, due to difficulties in setting up a new account at the Co-op Bank. However, she was pleased to report that the charity's assets have been successfully transferred and the transfer from charity to CIO completed and agreed by the Charity Commission. At the same time the number of bank accounts was reduced from five to one. Jane offered a vote of thanks for the determined work done by her predecessor Graham Dawson in pursuit of this transfer. The members showed their appreciation via hearty applause.

5. Proposals requiring Member decision

5.1 The resolution '*That the annual subscription fee be increased to £150 and pro-rata concessionary rate*' was proposed by Jane Parkin on behalf of the Trustees, seconded by Flick Goodliffe and carried unanimously following a show of hands.

5.2 Anne Adams apologised for incorrect numbering in the table and corrected as follows: Clause (3) should be 12 (3), and Clause (2) should be 19 (2)

The following resolution was proposed by Anne Adams on behalf of the Trustees, seconded by Steve Terry and carried unanimously following a show of hands.

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That the Constitution be re-worded as shown in italics in the table below:

Current wording	Proposed wording	Reason for change
<p>12 (3) Number of trustees (a) There must be at least three trustees.</p>	<p>12 (3) Number of trustees (a) <i>There must be at least seven trustees.</i></p>	<p>Arising from the changes proposed below, ensures that the number of trustees remains sufficient to enable effective decision-making and a sensible quorum.</p>
<p>13 Appointment of trustees (1) Trustees of the CIO shall be the Chair, the Administrator, the Finance Officer, the Membership Officer the Librarian, the Minutes Secretary, the New Members' Officer, the Marketing Officer, the Social Events Officer, the Rehearsals & Events Officer and the Transport Officer elected at the annual general meeting and who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting, and such other members of the CIO who shall be elected to that office at a general meeting.</p>	<p>13 Appointment of trustees (1) <i>Trustees of the CIO shall be the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Administrator, the Finance Officer, the Membership Officer and the Members Representatives elected at the annual general meeting and who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting, and such other members of the CIO who shall be elected at the annual general meeting.</i></p>	<p>Clause 2(c) states that trustees must expressly acknowledge acceptance of the office of trustee. This will be introduced into the Nomination process, enabling Librarian, Minutes Secretary, New Members' Officer, Marketing Officer, Social Events Officer, Rehearsals & Events Officer and Transport Officer roles to be undertaken by members who do not wish to attend committee meetings, ie, be trustees. Also enables appointment of members who have no specific role.</p> <p>Enables appointment of a Vice Chair to support the Chair and chair meetings in the Chair's absence. The Vice Chair may or may not be a Chair-in-waiting.</p>
<p>19 (2) Chairing of meetings Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair elected at the annual general meeting. In the event that the Chair is unable or unwilling to fulfil this function for any reason the trustees may appoint one of their number to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. If no-one has been so appointed, or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, the trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.</p>	<p>19 (2) Chairing of meetings <i>Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair elected at the annual general meeting. In the event that the Chair is unable or unwilling to fulfil this function for any reason the Vice Chair will chair the meeting. If the Vice Chair is unable or unwilling to chair the meeting, the trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.</i></p>	<p>Facilitates the operation of the Vice Chair role</p>

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- Chairman's comments.

Paul Henstridge was pleased to make his comments at this, his last AM as Chair of SPC. He thanked colleagues on the committee for their support during his tenure, especially Graham Dawson, Marianne Grayson and Anne Adams. He gave special thanks to our professionals and to Chorus members for their enthusiastic support for, and involvement with, the choir.

- Administrator's comments

Anne Adams stated that, as shown in the report, SPC had met all but one of our objectives despite continuing difficulties following the pandemic. The trustees will continue to strive to increase diversity across both the chorus and the committee.

- Finance Officer's report – to include presentation of accounts

Finance Officer Jane Parkin reported that our financial status had been greatly improved by Stella Jockel's generous bequest. Nonetheless, the position will continue to need careful nurturing over the next few years, as only the Rachmaninov concert in St Mark's had returned a modest profit; all others had made a loss, as is usually the case, resulting in an overall loss of around £2,000 for the year. Jane thanked everyone who had helped her in this her first year, but especially her predecessor Graham Dawson.

- Independent Examiner's report

Richard Pike reported that the accounts and finances were in good order.

- Formal adoption of Trustee Annual Report 2021-22

A vote taken to agree adoption of the 2022 Annual Report, proposed by Els Pearse and seconded by Magdalene Lake, was carried unanimously following a show of hands. The report was therefore adopted.

7 Election of Officers and Members' Representatives to the committee

Having been proposed and seconded in accordance with procedure, the Officers and Members' Representatives in the table below were elected unopposed. Amy Howe will act as the Marketing and Publicity Officer as an ordinary member. Jim Monach has agreed to continue to collect our post and act as Making Music representative.

All those standing were thanked for their commitment and support for the Chorus.

The election resulted in a trustee board of 14 with one vacancy, for a Member representative.

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Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Jo Briddock	Rachel Mallaband	Christine Pennington
Finance Officer	Jane Parkin	Graham Dawson	Anne Adams
Administrator	Anne Adams	Rachel Copley	Ann Garbett
Membership Officer	Marianne Grayson	Annie Park	Rebecca Hutton
Librarian	Alan Anderson	Rosemary Anderson	Helen Kirk
New Members Officer	Sally Turnbull	Pat Hall	Kathy Towers
Marketing & Publicity Officer*	Amy Howe	Izzie Rider	Helen Sutton
Rehearsals & Events Officer	Jim Monach	Ranjan Sen	James Oliver
Social Events Officer	Helen Kirk	Lydia Parker	Diane Dalby
Education & Outreach Officer	Georgina Hulse	Katrina Hulse	Robert Harrison
Transport Officer	Paul Duffield	Keith Burton	Keith Alford
Minutes Secretary	Kathy Towers	Peter Miles	Sally Turnbull
Member Representative	Christine Pennington	Jo Briddock	Chris Waldron
Member Representative	Patrick Callaghan	Anne Burleigh	Steve Howlett
Member Representative	Jenny Swann	Janet Beddus	Katrina Hulse
Member Representative	VACANCY		

*Not standing as a trustee

Jo Briddock took over as Chair of the AGM at this point. She thanked Paul for his leadership as Chair and presented him with gifts from the Chorus. Paul expressed his sincere thanks for support from the committee and the Chorus, and for his gifts, especially the bound score of Bach's B minor mass, his favourite work. Appreciation for Paul's work was signified by hearty applause.

Jo thanked Anne Burleigh for her excellent contribution as a member representative on the committee, and for agreeing to continue to support the work of the Librarians.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Richard Pike was thanked for his excellent work as Independent Examiner. He agreed to continue and was duly appointed as Independent Examiner.

9. Chair's Remarks

On behalf of the members, Jo thanked the committee for their hard work in supporting the Chorus and looked forward to working with them going forward. She made a special vote of thanks for the work of our three professionals, Music Director Darius Battiwalla, Accompanist

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Rachel Fright and Voice Coach Maggie McDonald, to whom the Chorus owes a debt of gratitude. Hearty applause signified agreement.

10. President's Remarks

President Rachel Copley was unable to attend the AGM due to illness, but had sent the following message, which the Chair read to all present:

'Dear Friends,

I'm so sorry not to be with you this evening, but I wanted to reflect on a very special year for the Phil, and an exciting one to come. None of this would happen without the expert guidance of Darius, with wonderful accompaniment from Rachel and huge amounts of work done on our behalf by the Committee. May I thank retiring Chair Paul, and those on Committee who are standing down and wish the very best to Jo and all the new Committee for their year of office to come.

Because of a few health problems, I have missed a fair few of rehearsals during the last few months and have sorely missed seeing your lovely faces on Tuesday evenings, and also the singing. With so much trouble, uncertainty and worry going on in our world at the moment, it seems to me that singing together, together being the operative word, performs some form of magic, and healing of the soul. I count it as one of the joys of life, as I do birdsong, flowers, the gift of friendship, and, perhaps, the odd glass of red of an evening!

I hope to be back in your midst very soon, so enjoy the social this evening, and I will raise a glass to all at the Sheffield Phil.

Rachel.'

Hearty applause signified appreciation.

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.