

MINUTES of 88th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 8.30pm, Birkdale School, Sheffield.

Approximately 105 members present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Jacqui Amos, Valerie Brown, Caroline Hughes-Lawson, Katrina Hulse, John Morgan, Jane Parkin, Hilary Peach and Steve Terry

2. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were proposed as an accurate and true record by Flick Goodliffe and seconded by Els Pearse 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. Proposals requiring Member decision

The resolution *'That the annual subscription fee for the 2024 – 25 season be increased to £168 and £42 for the full and concessionary rates respectively.'* was proposed by the Chair on behalf of the trustees and seconded by Georgina Hulse. Anne Adams drew the attention of members to the fact that SPC's subscription rates are competitive in relation to other Sheffield choirs and that increases are essential to cover rising costs.

The amendment was carried unanimously following a show of hands. There was no vote against and no abstentions.

5. Constitution changes No changes are required.

6. Trustee Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Comments from the Chair

Chair Jo Briddock reported a "fantastic year" for the Chorus and thanked members for their commitment and enthusiasm. She said that SPC has been successful in achieving a significant number of its key aims and objectives. She added that specific targets such as increasing Chorus member numbers, extending the diversity of the SPC's repertoire and launching the new Young Conductor project have been successfully achieved. She drew members' attention to the targets for 2024 – 25 which were on display boards and could be viewed after the AGM. She also read aloud the purpose of the Chorus as presented to the Charity Commission.

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In her comments Anne Adams highlighted the varied and sometimes challenging repertoire tackled by the Chorus over the last season. She added that seeking out lesser-known composers is not merely desirable but a formal requirement, as bringing new works to audiences is one of the SPC's stated objectives.

Finance Officer's report

The Annual Accounts 2023 – 24 were presented by Anne Adams in the absence of Finance Officer Jane Parkin and there were no questions about these from the floor. Anne Adams reported that the SPC's financial reserves continue to be healthy and will stand the Chorus in good stead for some 10 years. But annual losses continue to run at £3,500 - £5,000, due to high concert costs (soloists, venue hire etc.) and to ticket sales not being as good as they might. There remains a need to cover costs more successfully in the future.

However, the prospect for this year is a little better with a predicted loss of £4,000 and the Classical Sheffield concert next year looking likely to make a profit.

Independent Examiner's report

Richard Pike reported that the accounts and finances were in good order. He was thanked for his continuing work and there was applause from Chorus members.

Formal adoption of Trustee Annual Report 2023 – 2024

A vote was taken to agree adoption of the 2024 Annual Report, proposed by Pam Leon and seconded by John Harvey. This was carried unanimously following a show of hands. The report was therefore adopted.

7. Election of Officers and Members' Representatives to the committee

All Trustees must stand down at each AGM. Vice Chair Steve Terry and Member Representative Christine Pennington are both standing down and were thanked for their contributions.

Jo Briddock read to the meeting the list of officers and their proposers and seconders. There is a vacancy for a new Vice Chair and for one Member Representative. Having been proposed and seconded in accordance with procedure, the Officers and Members' Representatives in the table overleaf were elected unopposed.

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Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Jo Briddock	Rachel Mallaband	Christine Waldron
Vice Chair	VACANCY		
Finance Officer	Jane Parkin	Loise Dawson	Janet Hoyle
Administrator	Anne Adams	Rachel Copley	Graham Dawson
Membership Officer	Marianne Grayson	Annie Park	Rebecca Hutton
Librarian	Alan Anderson	Steve Terry	Victor Brooks
New Members Officer	Sally Turnbull	Jane Parkin	Patrick Callaghan
Rehearsal/Events Officer	Jim Monach	Alan Anderson	Rosemary Anderson
Social Events Officer	Helen Kirk	Lydia Parker	Sally Turnbull
Education/Outreach Officer	Georgina Hulse	Katrina Hulse	Robert Harrison
Transport Officer	Paul Duffield	Andy Dykes	Anne Adams
Minutes Secretary	Kathy Towers	Penny Webster	Kath Eadon
Member Representative	Jenny Swann (Yr 3 of 3)	Daphne Sydney	Boo Spurgeon
Member Representative	Patrick Callaghan (Yr 3 of 3)	Imelda Murphy	Rosalind Hobson
Member Representative	Annie Park (Yr 1 of 3)	Libby Whitethread	Lisa Heller
Member Representative	VACANCY		

All officers were duly elected following a show of hands.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Richard Pike was thanked for his excellent work as Independent Examiner. Having agreed to continue in 2025, he was duly re-appointed as Independent Examiner.

9. Chair's Remarks

On behalf of SPC members, Jo Briddock thanked the Committee and Trustees for their hard work in supporting the Chorus and looked forward to working with them in the year to come. She also thanked Chorus members who have made particular contributions; Matthew Morgan for organising the French tour, Graham Dawson for his work on the Bochum relationship, Anne Garbett for the City Hall Christmas Concert decorations and President Rachel Copley for her continuing contribution to many aspects of the Chorus. She reiterated the fact that the previous season has been "tremendous".

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She also thanked Administrator Anne Adams for the huge amount of work that she undertakes behind the scenes. Anne will stand down at the 2025 AGM and Jo highlighted the fact that it is essential to identify a potential successor in the near future so that any learning can be passed on in good time and a smooth handover achieved. She asked that anyone interested in the role contact herself or Anne.

She also emphasised that there are plenty of *ad hoc* 'behind the scenes' tasks and roles and encouraged members to volunteer if they have particular skills or abilities that could be of use to the Chorus.

She made a special vote of thanks for the work of the SPC's three professionals, Music Director Darius Battiwalla, Accompanist Rachel Fright and Voice Coach Maggie McDonald, to whom the Chorus owes a debt of gratitude. Enthusiastic applause signified members' appreciation.

10. President's Remarks

President Rachel Copley spoke with great enthusiasm about the 2023-24 season, drawing attention in particular to the range and diversity of repertoire undertaken. She noted that the Chorus also travelled to perform internationally in Monte Carlo and Perigueux, and that members enthusiastically embraced elective events such as singing at St. Luke's and at Bent's Green School (described as a "*tour de force*").

She highlighted the breadth of emotions and experiences achieved across the previous season's concerts and was pleased to see that *The Creation* 'Come and Sing' event has resulted in a number of new members. The Grace Williams piece was highlighted as a particular technical challenge that the Chorus more than rose to, and Rachel added that she had been delighted by the strong connection between the SPC and conductor Kristiina Poska during the Mozart *Requiem* Mini Tour.

She concluded by reminding members of the great joy that singing in a Chorus such as SPC can bring and the way in which this can be conducive to living a full and happy life.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.