

**MINUTES of 89<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 8.30pm, St. Andrew's Church, Psalter Lane, Sheffield.

Approximately 140 members present.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Matthew Morgan, Ali Dorey, Hilary Bingham, Mary Mitchell, Sue Wortley, Rachel Rowlands, Pam Leon, Vic Sellars, David Manley, Kirsty Christer, Janet Beddus, Veronica Sullivan, Julian Sullivan, Lisa Heller, Alison Tunwell, Janet Mikowsky, Hilary Peach.

**2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM**

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were proposed as an accurate and true record by Paul Henstridge and seconded by Ros Hobson. They were 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****Subscription increase**

The resolution *'That the annual subscription fee for the 2025 – 26 season be increased to £183 and £42 for the full and concessionary rates respectively.'* was proposed by the Chair on behalf of the trustees and seconded by Marianne Grayson. It was pointed out that SPC's subscription rates continue to be lower than many other Sheffield choirs and that increases are essential to cover rising costs, including the higher fee for the new rehearsal venue.

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

**Constitution changes**

An amendment to the Constitution as detailed below was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Flick Goodliffe.

*"That clause 13 (1) be amended as proposed below, to deal with the creation of new roles.  
Current wording: The 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 to that office at a general meeting.'*

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*Proposed wording: The trustees of the CIO shall be the Chair, the Secretary, the Finance Officer, the Event Planning Officer, 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 to that office at a general meeting.”*

The proposed amendment was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

**5. Trustee Annual Report 2024 - 2025****Comments from the Chair**

Chair Jo Briddock reported another highly successful year for the Chorus and thanked all members for their commitment and enthusiasm. She said that SPC is making excellent progress towards the aims and objectives in its Strategic Plan. Chorus member numbers and rehearsal and concert attendance percentages have all increased over the past year.

**Administrator’s comments**

Anne Adams agreed that it has been another excellent year for the Chorus. She reaffirmed the Committee’s commitment to becoming more sustainable in the long term, so that concert losses are reduced. The newly-formed Repertoire Planning Group (RPG) should be able to make a contribution towards this important aim.

**Finance Officer’s report**

Jane Parkin presented the Annual Accounts 2024 – 25 and made a few accompanying observations. The Stella Jockel legacy continues to be in good health and will be able to fund several more years of Young Composer competitions. She said that Come and Sing events make a small loss, but agreed that these are an important part of the SPC’s activities. Self-funded concerts generally do well in financial terms, although City Hall concerts continue to make a loss.

**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. It was indicated that a replacement for Richard will be needed in 2026 as he will stand down as Independent Examiner at the next AGM.

**MINUTES of 89<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****Formal adoption of Trustee Annual Report 2024– 2025**

A vote was taken to agree adoption of the Annual Report, proposed by Patrick O’Callaghan and seconded by Steve Terry. This was carried unanimously following a show of hands. The report was therefore adopted.

**6. Election of Officers and Members' Representatives to the committee**

All Trustees must stand down at each AGM. Jo Briddock read to the meeting the list of new and returning officers and their proposers and seconders. There remains a vacancy for a new Secretary, following the cessation of the Administrator role and Anne Adams’ retirement. Other retiring officers are Patrick O’Callaghan and Jenny Swann; both have served three years and were thanked for their contributions.

Having been proposed and seconded in accordance with procedure, the Officers and Members' Representatives in the table below were elected unopposed.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Chair	Jo Briddock	Rachel Mallaband	Kathy Towers
Finance Officer	Jane Parkin	Alan Anderson	Graham Dawson
Secretary	VACANCY		
Event Planning Officer	Ros Hobson	Janet Michelowski	John Morgan
Membership Officer	Marianne Grayson	Annie Park	Rebecca Hutton
Minutes Secretary	Kathy Towers	Steve Terry	Hilary Peach
Member Rep	Annie Park (Yr 2 of 3)	Libby Whitethread	Lisa Heller
Member Rep	Rebecca Hutton (Yr 1 of 3)	Rachel Rowlands	Jane Woodin
Member Rep	Anita McKay (Yr 1 of 3)	Sally Turnbull	Chika Agabu
Member Rep	Patricia Wake (Yr 1 of 3)	Janet Spicer	Claire Doree
Member Rep	Alexandar Walton (Yr 1 of 3)	Annie Watson	Marion Andrews

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Librarian	Alan Anderson	Chris Blackmore	Victor Brooks
New Members Officer	Sally Turnbull	Pat Hall	Els Pearse
Rehearsals and Events Officer	Georgina Hulse	Katrina Hulse	Robert Harrison
Contracts Officer	Rachel Mallaband	Joanne Briddock	Christine Pennington
Social Events Officer	Helen Kirk	Lydia Parker	Patrick Callaghan
Education and Outreach Officer	Georgina Hulse	Katrina Hulse	Robert Harrison
Transport Officer	Paul Duffield	Hugo Ferguson	Keith Alford
EDI Officer	Boo Spurgeon	Anne Adams	Pam Leon

All officers were duly elected following a show of hands.

### **7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Richard Pike was thanked for his excellent work as Independent Examiner. Having agreed to continue in 2025/6, he was duly re-appointed as Independent Examiner following a show of hands.

### **8. Chair's Remarks**

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 carry out important 'behind the scenes' work on behalf of the SPC. She encouraged Chorus members to volunteer to take on such tasks, particularly in view of the current lack of a Secretary.

She thanked all members of the Chorus for their continuing commitment and enthusiasm which ensure that the SPC is able to go from strength to strength.

Finally, she made a vote of thanks to 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.

### **9. President's Remarks**

President Rachel Copley echoed the Chair's appreciation of the hard work of the SPC's music professionals, whose work is so crucial to the success of the Chorus and to the enjoyment that Chorus

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members derive from rehearsals and concerts. She said that the last year has included some wonderfully memorable moments, and remarked that “coming together to sing” becomes doubly important in difficult times.

She referred to the much-loved members who passed away in the course of the last year, saying that they will continue to be remembered and missed.

On behalf of the SPC she expressed enormous gratitude to Anne Adams and her many years of hard work as Administrator, saying that Anne has helped to transform the Chorus into a successful and sustainable organisation.

**The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.**

*(After the meeting closed, Jo Briddock spoke to express the SPC’s enormous debt of gratitude to Anne Adams who has worked tirelessly for 10 years across a wide range of crucial issues, including governance, communications and representing the Chorus externally within the wider music community. She reminded the Chorus that the Stella Jockel Young Composer competition was Anne’s idea. There was a presentation to Anne, accompanied by lengthy and loud applause.)*