



MINUTES OF TRINITY SINGERS AGM, 15TH MARCH 2016, 8.30PM AT CHURCHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members present: Georgina Yule, Elizabeth Spiller, Janet Rogers, Jill Preddy, Alec Brice, David de Boos, Pauline Kemp, Roger Ellery, Simon Medd, Tony Moorby, Phil Willis, Martin West, Massimo Morelli, Heather Lee, Janet Wilson, Margaret Avery, Margaret Leimdorfer, Judy Ashley, Jenni Keane, Carol Taylor, Valerie Pain, Susannah Read, Claire Attrill, Bob Shapland, Suzie Leech, Sarah Pearson, Lin Edwards (27 members) and Musical Director - Andrew Tyrrell

1. Apologies for absence

Belinda May, Roy Stickland, Katherine H-M, Joanna Mills, Jan Thompson, Ursula Dornton, Anne Seabright, Clare Day, Barry Day, Bill Witter,

2. Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting

2015 minutes approved by all members

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising. Bob flagged that we haven't looked into hiring out our music.

4. Chairman's Report

Bob reminded the meeting that, looking back 12 months, we were about to adopt a Constitution, and in the process of selecting a new Musical Director having just been involved in, what turned out to be, a very good joint concert with Churchill Academy and others!

Very soon after the AGM we took the major step of inviting Andrew to take on the role of our Musical Director with effect from September 2015, although Andrew was already involved in taking us through the Evensong in Burrington last Spring.

He expressed the hope that members would all support his view that this was an excellent appointment and thanked Andrew for the way in which he has wholeheartedly committed to Trinity Singers. His planning and organisation of repertoire and rehearsals have been impeccable and the additional support, through rehearsal files and links, and the Music Theory Sessions, has been invaluable to those using them.

His balance of humour with discipline is much appreciated, and this was borne out by the recent Review process where the average score on the 28 responses was between 3.6 and 4 (out of 4) in all five categories.

Bob felt that we repaid this commitment with a very good performance in our Autumn Concert, the Wrington Christmas extravaganza and the Burrington Carol Service.

During the year we also changed our rehearsal venue to Churchill Primary School and despite having to move chairs around, we find it a much more comfortable venue. Our Plant Sale in April was a resounding financial success as shown in the accounts, and demonstrated the ability of the choir not only to put on concerts but to organise other successful Fund Raising events.

Margaret will comment on Social Events, but she also organised the Workshop with Nigel Perrin, putting in a huge amount of work both in setting up the event and also in trying to encourage participation. Bob was unable to be there, and the numbers were perhaps disappointing, but for those who took part, it was a wonderful day.

Our new website was just up and running this time last year, but still looks fresh and professional – do take a look and don't forget that it contains information on future events as well as our history and, of course, the photos taken at the November concert.

After using Georgina's keyboard in the Autumn, with the agreement members, we purchased our own Digital Piano and he hopes you agree that it has made a difference to rehearsals with a very nice tone, and a keyboard which enable Andrew to be much more comfortable when accompanying us.

We have a full programme of events planned for the year ahead – Axbridge Concert, Plant Sale, Evensong in Burrington, Autumn Concert, Christmas Concert, and Carols in Burrington. Plus we are in the early stages of planning another Joint Concert with Churchill Academy and Bristol Cathedral School for February 2017.

Bob made the point that a full and challenging programme does mean that a good attendance record is very important. We don't want to become too dictatorial, but if you know that you are unable to get to the majority of rehearsals then please discuss this with Andrew.

Bob thanked members for their input to Trinity Singers – it really makes a difference when the Committee knows that they have both support, and input into decisions where necessary. In closing, Bob genuinely wanted to thank the members of the Committee for their commitment in time and knowledge on behalf of the members. All the Committee have their roles and he didn't want to single anyone out as the Committee operates as a team. He did say a specific thank you to Margaret Avery who has been on the Committee from the outset and has given so much to make the choir the success it is – not only as Social Secretary, but in many ways behind the scenes. She will be greatly missed as a Committee Member and we are most grateful that she has offered to continue to head up social events even after she has stood down.

Bob looks forward to another successful year in 2016 .

5. Musical Director's Report

It's been a very good and creative year. Andrew said he felt very chuffed when he was appointed as MD and that feeling has remained throughout the year. Learning names of the choir helped a great deal in getting to know choir members. Andrew said he felt the choir wanted a good sing, but also showed a desire to improve, which compelled him to apply for the role. He is conscious that this term the choir aren't getting a good sing because there is so much music to learn.

Improvements the choir has made: the sound and balance (layout has helped), preparation for the concert, watching (feels there is more responsiveness when there are potential corners in music). The highlight for Andrew in the past year was at the dress rehearsal at St Mary's Yatton in November when TS sung Duruflé's Notre Père. Lowest point was Burrington Evensong because of lack of familiarity of what to do.

Andrew thinks the choir needs to work on tone and blending (Andrew had his first singing lesson today with Liz Glen), rhythm and pulse (this would make the biggest difference), more watching.

Future plans: November - joined by Claire Alsop and brass, Italian and English theme to the concert. February - joint concert with the schools, we will sing Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Bach Magnificat

6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts to 31.12.2015 Approval of Budget 2016 and 2017

Sarah sent members in advance of the meeting a set of 2015 accounts, comparative budget, P&L for events.

Accounts were signed off by David Seabright and Sarah Pearson

Proposer of the accounts: Tony Moorby, Seconder: Roger Ellery. All members present at meeting voted in favour of accepting the accounts. Copy signed and sent to secretary.

Bob recognised the excellent detail provided in the accounts, and thanked Sarah.

Budget: Bob highlighted to members that there is a contingency of £490 in the budget, this is there so that the committee can make small spending decisions without the need to get members approval.

Proposer of the budget: Massimo Morelli, Seconder: Simon Medd. All members present at meeting voted in favour of accepting the 2016/2017 budget

7. Social Secretary's Report

Margaret commented that TS is a very sociable choir, and she thought the new rehearsal venue has helped with the ability to be more sociable with each other before and after rehearsals

Margaret welcomed new members; Alec Brice, Jan Thompson, Elizabeth Spiller, Lin Edwards, Sally Vaux, and Andrew Tyrrell. She also acknowledged that we had also lost some members due to ill health.

In June we held the choral workshop with Nigel Perrin, excellent team of helpers, and a special thanks to Katherine and Georgina. Great to bring in new singers, particularly aided by having good social media. The choral workshop lost some money, but not as much as it would have done as Nigel kindly reduced his fee by £100.

Plant sale - excellent as always and made a lot of money, thanks to Roy and Helen

Quiz night - decided to cancel quiz scheduled for October 2015 due to lack of ticket sales. Committee agreed not to reschedule it, but may organise another one again in the future if there is an appetite for it.

Christmas concert - best profit yet, and well organised. Clearing up at the end was done in the best time yet.

Future planning: skittles night. Would welcome any new ideas for socialising and fund raising.

Margaret is stepping down since having been on the committee since 1998. Highlighted that if anyone would like to take over the role, she would happily support them in settling into the role

8. Election of Committee and Officers

Margaret Avery indicated that she wishes to stand down. The following offered themselves for re-election:-

a) Officers

Chair Bob Shapland

Secretary Suzie Leech

Treasurer Sarah Pearson
b) Committee Members
Massimo Morelli (to hold the role of Deputy Chair)
Katherine Hatch-Morelli
Susannah Read

Bob highlighted to members that Margaret standing down leaves one vacancy, as yet we haven't had any nominations, but any member of the choir is encouraged to consider standing for the committee. If anyone after tonight wishes to take on social secretary role, or be a member of the committee, please speak to the committee

Proposers and seconders for the committee as it stands

- Bob Shapland - Prop: Susannah Read, Sec: Sarah Pearson
- Sarah Pearson - Prop: Bob Shapland, Sec: Susannah Read
- Suzie Leech - Prop: Bob Shapland, Sec: Susannah Read
- Susannah Read - Prop: Bob Shapland, Sec: Sarah Pearson
- Massimo Morelli - Prop: Bob Shapland, Sec: Susannah Read
- Katherine Hatch-Morelli - Prop: Bob Shapland, Sec: Susannah Read

Bob asked members if they were happy to vote the committee in on block, or would they prefer to vote for committee members individually; members agreed on block would be fine. Members unanimously for all the above committee members to be re-elected voted

9. Proposed amendment to Clause 8 (Musical Director) of the Constitution (See Appendix 1)

Bob outlined the proposal in detail

Proposer Tony, Seconder: Roger Ellery. All members voted in favour to changing the constitution

10. Any Other Business

No other business

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

PROPOSED AMENDMENT to the CONSTITUTION – Clause 8

Your Committee has reviewed the process undertaken to appoint a new Musical Director in 2014/15, and in particular the applicable provisions contained in the Constitution adopted in March 2015:-

8. Musical Director

- 8.1. Appointment of a Musical Director shall be subject to agreement by Members at a General Meeting of the Society.
- 8.2. The Committee shall identify a candidate and agree provisional terms and conditions, including the duties required, term of the appointment and remuneration, and present these to the Members in accordance with Clause 8.1

During the latter stages of the appointment process it became clear that this required some amendment as it was difficult for the Committee to comply with 8.2 whilst still retaining the possibility of moving to another candidate should the Membership veto that recommended by the Committee.

It could be said that the Membership should be asked to approve a candidate before terms and conditions are discussed but, conversely, that could leave the Committee in difficulty should the approved candidate not accept the Terms and Conditions.

The Committee is appointed to run the choir within the terms of the Constitution. It follows that the Committee should have authority to complete the process of appointment – after due consultation and involvement of the Membership – without having to obtain agreement in General Meeting in the way presently constituted.

The proposed amended wording of the Clause is:-

8. Musical Director

- 8.1 Appointment of a Musical Director shall be the responsibility of the Committee.
- 8.2 The Committee shall, after due consultation and involvement of the members, identify a suitable candidate and agree terms and conditions, including the duties required, term of the appointment and remuneration.

Your Committee recommends this proposal.