

Mevagissey Male Choir Minutes of Committee Meeting

7-30pm Tuesday 15th September 2015 Mevagissey Social Club

Present:- N. Nicholls, D. Leeson, G. Hoskins, C. Burnett, S. Lawday, R. Mitchell, C. Williams, S. Flavell, T. Scarratt.

Apologies:- M. Tate, M. Thompson, P. Vellenoweth.

Minutes of meeting held 21st July:- Proposed R. Mitchell, Seconded D. Leeson.

Matters Arising:- None

Chairman's Report:- Good concerts during August especially the first Quay concert in aid of Nepal in spite of the tides, Secretary asked to write to Gerald to thank him for his support, letter read from B. Reeves, Plymouth MWC criticised for not thanking MMC for their concert in Plymouth but a letter received later thanking the choir for their help albeit a bit late. Cliff passed on a request from Skylark anytime to perform with the choir - G. Hoskins to listen to them on YouTube and advise the committee.

Treasurers Report:- At least the transactions of July could be recorded on one side of A4, which is more than can be said for August, but both months have been busy thanks to seasonal CD sales and the planned Cyprus trip, of particular note, the 31 CD's sold at the Bude concert and £ 100 from PayPal for web-sales. On the down side we took the plunge and paid the first deposit on the trip to Cyprus. The agent would not accept a choir cheque so Chairman Nick kindly accompanied me to the bank with identification to sign hand and have a bankers draft drawn for £8000 at a cost of £15! Once it was in our hands we accompanied G. Rundle to the agents to hand it over and obtain a receipt. I am grateful to them both for giving of their time to do this! As you can see from the current account column this leaves us in pretty parlous state particularly when I realised that the agent wanted a second similar amount in early September when I had hoped to away! Fortunately concert fees from Bude, St. Austell and Sticker and CD sales together with more deposits for the trip helped ease the situation.

By early August it was apparent that we were not going to have enough from the membership to cover the second deposit from our current account so with the Chairman and Secretary's signed agreement on an instruction letter to the bank I transferred £4K from our Gift Aid account to the current account, and this proved just sufficient to pay the second deposit before I was to go away. Nick and I were much blasé on the second occasion and having obtained the document handed it to Graham at the next Quay concert. He presented me with the receipt the following week. As you can see that really did nearly clean us out, but the Cyprus payments kept coming in and the Quay concert income soon took us out of imminent danger, though we won't be out of the wood for a while yet.

Highlights of August apart from programme advert revenue in response to my belated invoices and the Quay concert income, of which more will appear on the books next month, were a six month interest payment from our so called high interest account of no less than £65.44 and a donation from a lady in Washington state who told us we were her favourite Male Choir and to prove it sent a cheque for \$500! By the time the bank had processed it and taken their cut, it translated as £301-48 which confirms that we really do have a wide and appreciative audience.

If you look at our spending plan it will be seen that subs are not going to reach estimate, partly because 3 existing members introduced new ones and 2 have been excused, while some new members have not gained full membership. Concert income is well below prediction and my estimate of income from web sales was seriously optimistic. Mike is doing sterling with donations flooding in for the first time in years, bank interest is exceeding estimate and I think CD sales will achieve our forecast. Tthe Quay concerts will exceed estimates when the proceeds of the last concert appear in our account and gift aid just managed to exceed our expectations.

I am relieved to say that we are well below estimate on a number of our expenses too. Donations, printing, equipment, transport, publicity and venues are comfortably within allocation but the librarian seems about to overspend, Uniforms already have and the new batch of CD's are a confidence booster for which I had not budgeted,

Of the transient funds the only ones of real interest are those related to Cyprus and it will be seen that our first deposit has been covered but we have a long way to go to cover the second and even further to go to meet the final payment of £37968 next July. We won't be out of the woods till we cover that. Our total assets at present are about £20K short of that. G. Rundle tells me that the agent will want the final list of names at the same time as our final deposit (ie in very early July). At present we only have names for 70 of the 80 places booked so I propose to draw up a timetable identifying date in April when I shall start publicising however many vacancies we have by then, and another date in mid May 2016 as deadline for final payments for those choir members wishing to travel. That way we will still have time for any places not paid for to be sold to friends/ outsiders on a first paid first accepted basis before the end of June. Each place costs £670 and, perhaps pessimistically, I am assuming for the moment at any rate, that the choir will have to pay for every empty one, so we may be regarded as somewhat exposed financially at present. I don't mind admitting that this project causes me a measure of anxiety.

Secretary's report:- Letter sent to Bill Reeves and the answer received which has been read out by Chairman. A letter has been sent to J. Woodward, but with no reply, I tried to phone him but not answering any of the calls on the number that we have available to us. I also went round to his address that we hold for him, and he no longer lives there so have no other avenues to follow.

Hall for Cornwall has been contacted and a date of the 2nd July 2016 has been pencilled in for a concert with Plymouth MWC they have been contacted and have accepted that date I have received a contract from them and have filled it out but am awaiting a reply with their costs, the cost of the hire, publicity and ticket sales of the HFC is £3390. They recommend selling seats at £15 with a capacity of 800 this translates to £12000. It was voted on - all in favour.

Concert Sec:- Fowey concert setting very good, shame about the Red Arrows and the weather, Sec. to write to Julie Yeo to thank her for the transport, City Sound have cancelled. Songs of Praise Charlestown can we attend again, thanks to Roger for MD. Trying to keep August free with fewer concerts. St Ender Summercourt church funds concert in May 2016 D. Leeson asked if we could do something with Warmly Park Disabled school choir, Bristol if we are in that area

Publicity Report: - Quay concerts were advertised in the Guardian and I will attempt to do the same for St. Augustine's also in the Voice and other local press. Summer newsletter circulated, next issue due end October. Re website we have managed to keep the key pages, i.e. the home page and the directory up to date but progress has been disappointingly slow on other stuff. M. Dooling did warn us that it would take a few months, it's a big job, but I hope to see more progress in the future. Re friends cheque received from Bibby Lee, Washington State and her husband I wrote back thanking them. I should add that this is not the only donation received this summer, although it is by some distance the biggest, I think the choir should be informed when we receive generous donations from our supporters. The other point I should like to make is that when people come to hear us practice as Bibby and Dickson did this summer and sit at the back we ensure that we make them feel welcome by greeting them and chatting to them during the interval and offering them a friends membership form which should be displayed on a table with CD's programmes etc. and when asking them to leave so that we can do our business by telling them when and where our next concert is and that if they are interested many of us will shortly be in the Fountain.

Fundraising: - nothing to report

Almoner: - no report Bernard and Terry went to see Rose so thanks to them.

Social Sec. Choir Christmas dinner to be held at The Boson's Diner on 16th January 2016

1st Tenors: - no report

2nd Tenors: - nothing to report

Baritones: - request to find out where uniforms are held now, Chairman to ask if A. Dibb has any information

Basses: - nothing to report

C/D's / downloads: - £100 to hand in, sales very good

Leisure Ware would it be worth another subsidised offer especially to new members for a limited time October/November.

AOB: - a Robin Hunkin Memorial concert in aid of Mind/depression in March to be put to choir, thanks to Cliff for all of his good work, Cliff to take over as Transport Manager. An Election of Baritone section leader to be voted on at the next choir practice. 18th October Harvest of the Sea to be arranged. Concern stated about not updating information sent to Webmaster. J. Hunkin asked if we could help Hospice with some kind of fund raiser as beds are having to close there.

Next meeting 20th October

Meeting closed 21.43

Signed Chairman

Date