

## **Minutes of the Committee meeting held 3 Ackroyd Place, Shenley Lodge on Thursday 10 January 2019 at 7.45pm.**

**Present:** Tessa Cox (in the Chair); Jeremy Hopkinson; Peter Snelling; Jenny Harris; David Roberts; Susanne Minocha; Siân Rees. Vanessa Skelton took the minutes.

### **Action**

#### **1. Apologies and welcome**

The Chair welcomed those attending. Apologies had been received from Michael Palmer. Ian Smith and Kate Atalay.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting (18 November 2018) and matters arising**

- The minutes were approved, subject to minor amendments. Rather than Euan Henderson, Beverley Thompson had been reader at the Christmas Concert; the cost of the trio for the April Concert was £750. The date of 4 May had later been agreed for the extra Saturday rehearsal for the Summer Concert.
- Matters arising:
  - Tessa had found two qualified first aiders amongst choir members: Euan Henderson and Verity Currall. Ian Smith had also told her he would be attending a first aid training course shortly.
  - David had spoken to Ian Colcott about the Chorale's staging plans. No decisions had been made as yet, but David would keep in touch with Ian.
  - Peter said that it appeared there may still be a problem with the effectiveness of the dishwasher when cleaning the coffee cups. The matter might need further consideration if a solution wasn't found over the next few rehearsals.

#### **3. Feedback from the Christmas Concert**

Ian had reported to Tessa that all the feedback he had received had been positive. The format and variety of material had been very well received. It was a format that could possibly be repeated when a long rehearsal time was available. One comment had been made about a lack of contemporary Christmas music, but given that the April concert largely consisted of works by living composers, this was not felt to be a problem.

All agreed that the concert had been very successful. The fact that a member of the Choir had lost her handbag in the church had been very regrettable.

#### 4. Feedback from Woburn Carol Singing

This had been an enjoyable evening, and the amount raised for Willen Hospice (£437) had been very satisfactory. Some of the pubs had had rather few customers, and it might be sensible to choose another evening (rather than a Wednesday) in future. Vanessa was hopeful that Pauline Naylor and Margot Edwards might continue to organise the event in future years – thanks were due to them (and to all the singers) for their efforts this year. She said it had been unfortunate that so few Danesborough basses had been able to join (all for very good individual reasons), but three Bedford Choral Society's basses had kindly stepped into the breach. It was to be hoped that next year we would have more of our own basses – two new members had been keen, but had been unable to attend because of prior commitments.

#### 5. Future concerts – 6 April 2019, 29 June 2019

6 April 2019 The template was considered in detail. Siân would send out the updated template. She would leave those items which were not needed for this concert but may be necessary in future 'greyed out'

Siân

- **David** would order the piano **David**
- **Peter** would book the chairs **Peter**
- **Tessa** would check with Ian as to whether refreshments would be required for the trio. **Tessa**
- 'Set up' should start at 9.30am – **Tessa** would encourage people to attend **Tessa**
- 29 June 2019
- **Ian** would be meeting with the Director of Fiori Musicali **Ian**
- **Vanessa** would ask Peter Skelton to book the van **Vanessa**
- The difficulties relating to the venue for the November 2020 concert were also discussed. The Church was not available for the preferred date. Ian had suggested that it might be possible to bring the concert forward into October, and then adopt the 'longer rehearsal time' model for the Christmas Concert, which had proved so successful this season. However, Peter pointed out that there were problems with this, as extra rehearsal dates would be needed in July 2020, and this had cost implications of some £200 per night. There would also be score hire costs. The matter was referred back to the Programming Committee for their consideration. It would of course be necessary to avoid both the BCS and MKC set dates and to bear in mind the necessity for allowing sufficient time for rehearsals for the Christmas Concert if a later date was opted for. Ian had prepared a chart showing the numbers of rehearsal dates etc for the various possible dates. **Programming Committee**

#### 7 MKCO Beethoven 9, 8 March 2020 update

Peter was concerned over the change of date of the MKCO concert, as it was now rather close to the Spring concert date (28 March). It might prove difficult to rehearse for both, and it could get in the way of our own concert sales. An update had been requested from Nick Fielding from the MKCO.

## 8 Collaboration with MK Chorale 28 June 2020 (Dream of Gerontius)

Both David and Peter had spoken to Will Swann, and had told him how the arrangement with Bedford Choral Society had worked. MKC were to meet with MK Theatre management. Until that happened, and the contract between them was signed, the date of 28 June had to remain 'in pencil'.

## 9. GDPR - Progress and possible approval of Notice to Choir, Privacy Notice and Use of Cookies policies

- All new members had signed their forms without problems.
- In the 'giving consent' section of the GDPR document for the members' website, reference was made to downloading a 'consent form'. **Susanne** would send a copy of the form to Jenny for downloading onto the website. **Susanne**
- **Jenny** would send Susanne her suggested wording for the 'private arrangements' section in the 'Privacy Notice', together with various other minor amendments. **Jenny**
- Jenny was not sure that the way the cookies worked on the website was such that the wording of section E of the Privacy Notice was entirely appropriate. She would make suggested amendments, for the Constitution Sub-committee to look at further. **Jenny**
- Ian had asked why the Membership Secretary was not included in the 'updating information' section. It was decided to leave this as was for the time being. It might be helpful if **Tessa** were to speak to the Membership Secretary about what duties she might have in this area. **Tessa**
- The documents needed dating before uploading

## 10 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer tabled management accounts up-to-date as of that day. The position was still comfortable, largely due to the successful tickets sales for the November Concert, with a surplus of about £1500 for the year predicted.

## 11 Changes to Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The Constitution Sub-committee were still considering this. They hoped to be in a position to put a proposal to the Choir's next AGM.

## 12 Communications sub-committee report (if any meetings)

The sub-committee had not in fact met since the last committee meeting.

## 13 Future meeting dates: Tuesday 7 May 2019, Monday 9 September

Ian had to give his apologies for the 7 May meeting. **Tessa** and **Siân** would try to arrange an alternative date, suitable to as many people as possible

**Tessa, Siân**

## 17 AOB

There was none.