



DRAFT minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2016 at ST. GREGORY'S

SCHOOL

1. The chairman Diana Shooter welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the Vice Presidents and Friends for their continuing loyal support of the choir. The chairman thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work. She voiced her appreciation for the volunteers for the anniversary sub-committee and particularly thanked Ian Smith and Tim Grant-Jones for the past year. Thanks were also given to Roger Barnard and John Watson for their work in securing a £2,000 grant towards our anniversary year activities.
2. There were 17 apologies.
3. The minutes of the previous AGM were confirmed as a true and correct record and were duly signed by the chairman.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Report of the General Secretary:

Rosemary Bootiman outlined a few points:

- (i) The choir was congratulated on their willingness to take on new works such as Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*
- (ii) The performance of Handel's Messiah was very moving, especially when nearly the whole audience stood for the Hallelujah Chorus.
- (iii) The June concert of works by living composers provided something for everyone to enjoy.
- (iv) Thanks were given to Paula Grayson for another successful Proms in the Park.
- (v) The choir is still hoping to achieve a membership of 150 for our 150th anniversary.
- (vi) Thanks were given to Jane Leslie and her volunteers for refreshments and raising £500 for the choir. Thanks also to Margaret Christopher and team for Christmas catering.
- (vii) Attention was drawn to the contribution made by many ad hoc helpers and volunteers without whom the choir could not function smoothly.
- (viii) The new committee members and chairman were noted and thanked as were the vice presidents who attend committee meetings in rotation. Also thanks to IGS and TIM G-J for their long service to the choir.

6. Report of the Treasurer:

The provisional treasurer, Nick Willis, informed the choir that the society's reserve has grown by £812.00 compared to last year with major help from Proms in the Park, Friends' contributions, the Chamber choir, Easy Fundraising and Refreshments.

The choir contributed to the publishing of archivist Mike Benson's book on the history of the society.

Mark Borbas, our independent examiner for the last 16 years was introduced and thanked for all his hard work for the choir. He is standing down this year.

The accounts were approved and the Treasurer's report proposed and seconded.

7. Report of the Director of Music:

IGS outlined the following points:

(i) Enjoyed the Mendelssohn concert.

(ii) Particularly pleased with the full length, stunning performance of the Messiah.

(iii) Thanked the choir for the summer concert.

(iv) This season's aims for the choir:

a) Still recruit new members aiming for 150 for the 150th season.

b) Deliver the strategy for engagement of new, younger members.

c) Build confidence in sight reading.

d) Continue to work on the tone quality of the ensemble.

(v) The Anniversary season will concentrate on English music. The Mendelssohn piece is included as it was sung at the society's first ever concert.

(vi) Thanks given to the choir and committee and especially Diana Shooter and Tim G-J.

8. Report of the 'Friends' Secretary:

There have been 38 Friends in the last season however Joyce Struthers, George Thompson and Winifred Beck have been sadly lost.

Subscriptions have increased to £25.00 with many Friends paying more. A donation of £150 was received from Malcolm Struthers for the choir's 150th season.

The social evening was well attended and much enjoyed. Friends are provided with free drinks in all concert intervals.

More Friends are always needed.

9. Report of the 'Making Music' representative:

NH has attended lectures on increasing membership, social networking and Arts Council funding. A group of choir members is now working on social networking.

IGS thanked NH for bringing to his attention the Making Music report on involving young people.

10. Election of Officers and Committee

Librarians Anne and Peter Schuetz have given notice of their retirement from the post and are willing to train successors in this vital role.

Nick Willis kindly stepped in to fill the role of Treasurer and is now to be replaced by Daniel Cox who was duly proposed and seconded.

Jane Leslie wishes to step down from the committee but will continue with refreshments.

Debbie Ward was voted onto the committee to replace her.

All other officers and committee members were duly re-elected.

11. Any Other Business

The dress questionnaire is to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

NH commented that he thought relations with the Corn Exchange could be better managed by the choir. DS and Peter Thomas are having a meeting with the Corn Exchange to try to improve matters. Antonia Barlen also commented on the difficulty of making arrangements with the Corn Exchange.

Vice President Deirdre Knight gave a short address thanking the choir for enduring and thriving for the last 150 years. Thanks were expressed to IGS, Michael Rose and Tim G-J. Other world class conductors had also worked with the choir in the past: Clarence Raybold and Sir David Willcocks.

DK was impressed by the work of the committee and programming committee and paid tribute to George Davidson for his programme notes. Thanks were given to MC for the Friends' newsletters and to the Chamber choir.

After expressing her gratitude to the singers for their hard work and loyalty Deirdre wished the choir well for the celebratory season.

With the meeting closing at 9.30 pm. the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

* These DRAFT minutes will need to be approved at the next AGM.