

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 30 August 2016

Chairman: Reuben Suckling

Present: 33 members.

1. Apologies for Absence Patrick Barrett, Christine Bass, Carol Belk, Bridget Doughty, Michael Doughty, Tony Earnshaw, Christine Griffen, Jean Gurr, Fred Harrison, Anne Hogarth, Alison Jesson, David John, Jan John, Maureen Jones, Jenni Knights, Charles McCrorie, Jenny Regan, Angela Sharwood, Eiluned Slot, Anne Washtell.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM (1 September 2015).
These were agreed as correct and signed.

3. Matters Arising: Joint Gift Aid Donations (Item 4).

The Treasurer, Nick Hands-Clarke, explained that Gift Aid can be claimed on donations of money made by an individual UK income taxpayer, but not on a subscription payment paid on behalf of someone else (unless under 18). This is because it's considered a gift to the person whose membership is paid, not to the charity. Joint subscription cheques can be accepted but Gift Aid would only be claimed on the qualifying subscription. Gift Aid is not applicable for 100 Club subscriptions.

4. Chairman's Report

This had been circulated previously. Reuben thanked Ray White for his work in organising the staging trailer and apologised for omitting him from the list of thanks in his report. He noted there were many paired names in the list and commended this sharing of workloads.

5. Annual Financial Report and Accounts

Nick thanked David Sinden for his Independent Review and approval of the accounts. New international accounting rules for charities had been introduced (FRS102) but the Charity Commission had not yet issued guidance on them – fortunately Nick had attended seminars about them and, as they mainly affected disclosures and terminology, felt our Report and Accounts were compliant. Concert income was better than expected but this effort needed to be maintained; concert expenditure was higher than budget due to the need for extra professional support. Subs and associated gift aid was down as there were fewer members. Fund raising income was good - thanks to organisers and members and others for their support, though it needed to be kept in line with what people could afford. This support was essential as few concerts could cover their costs. Music hire is expensive and it is also expensive to replace if lost, so members need to take care to return copies. Anne Tennent – the Librarian – commented that the choir is fined and has to pay for replacement copies, and whilst we try to recover costs it is not always easy to identify the culprit! Overall, choir funds are lower than last year and below the level for recent years, but these were boosted by sales of the Christmas CD. In response to a question, Nick confirmed that Teas on the Green raised at least £350 this year. Finally, membership forms with subs requests would be issued soon; these should be returned even if payment was electronic. Victoria Harding-Rolls proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, seconded by Neil Williams and carried *nem con*. David Sinden was proposed as Examiner (subject to his agreement) by Nick, seconded by Romey Criswick and agreed *nem con*.

6. Subscriptions

Nick explained that rehearsal venue hire is one of the biggest expenses – Powell Corderoy school had increased their charges again, by £5 an evening, and the extra cost over the year would have meant increasing subs. Whilst it was understood that schools needed to raise

funds, the choir needed to manage its own finances carefully. The committee had looked at other venues and found the URC Church charged £50 per rehearsal (cf £95 at Powell Corderoy). So for the moment we would be using the URC Church whilst considering alternative venues; consequently no increase was proposed in subscriptions. Our banking had now effectively been moved from CAFBank to Lloyds which gave us better electronic banking facilities. The proposal to keep subscriptions at the same level was approved. Nick confirmed that membership was still free for the first term for new members.

7. Election of Chairman

Ed Criswick took the chair. Reuben Suckling had expressed his agreement to standing again as Chairman; there being no other nominations Reuben was elected *nem con*.

8. Election of Committee

Reuben said the existing 8 committee members were willing to stand again: Ed Criswick, Estelle Earnshaw, Lyn Groves, Nick Hands-Clarke, David John, Phil Slack, Jane Stride and Pauline Whitehead. Mary Suckling nominated Anne Mitchell, seconded by Jenny Bartholomew. Their election *en bloc* was proposed by Ray White, seconded by Moira Sinden, and they were elected *nem con*.

9. Any Other Business

Barbara Steadman-Allen Barbara had requested an email from her to be read to the AGM – this referred to the wide repertoire, learning opportunities and friendship she had enjoyed during her membership, but she now felt she had to balance her life more and was therefore unable to spare Tuesday evenings.

Vote of thanks Anne Mitchell proposed a vote of thanks to the committee, especially Reuben and Ed, for guiding the choir through a difficult season – this was agreed.

Musical Directors Jenny Bartholomew said how much she had enjoyed singing with the two temporary MDs we had had during the season; Ed said that he thought the choir had benefited from having two women MDs in charge. Neil thought the choir could invite another MD to take us on a temporary basis if our own MD wanted to take a sabbatical. Reuben said that Patrick had a fixed term of 3 years, and the committee would look into whether and how this might work.

Programme Robin Luff explained that Sandy was the choir archivist and was seeking a copy of the programme for the concert that our choir ladies had taken part in in Guildford Cathedral. Nick thought he might be able to help with this.

10. Concluding Remarks

Reuben expressed thanks on behalf of the choir to the amount of work that our new MD Patrick had already put into preparing for our new term and the forthcoming concerts, particularly as he had not officially started. Lyn commented that it was very useful to have the rehearsal tracks at this early stage.

11. Date of Next AGM

5 September 2017.