

# BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting: 3 September 2013

Present: 45 Members and Friends.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Carol Belk, Diana Burges, Tony & Estelle Earnshaw, Pat Hale, Victoria Harding-Rolls, Val Harden, Chris Heaps, Maureen Jones, Sheila Jones, Robin & Sandy Luff, David Ord, Bruce Pennell, Jackie Rance, John Rapley, Jenny Regan, Sue Saxby-Smith, Barbara Steadman-Allen, Iris Sweet, Diana Unwin, Ray White.

### 2. Minutes of the Previous AGM (4 September 2012)

These were agreed as correct, and signed. No matters arising were raised.

### 3. Chairman's Report

The report had been circulated previously. The Chairman (Jenni Lee-Potter) commented that on the whole she had enjoyed her time as Chairman and had felt very supported. She thanked all those who had helped her as Chairman in so many ways and those who had helped her personally. She thanked everyone who had been on the committee under her chairmanship as well as those who had taken on vital roles (Membership Secretary and Ticket Sales) whilst not on the committee, and those who had generously hosted parties in their homes. Her wish for the future was that the choir would sell more tickets for concerts both to ensure bigger audiences and help the choir finances. Finally, she thanked Marion Lea for her splendid work as accompanist, and Andy Phillips for all the work he has done above and beyond his formal role as Music Director.

### 4. Annual Financial Report

The Treasurer (Nick Hands-Clarke) reported that the accounts had been signed off by the Independent Examiner (Andrew Campbell-Hart). The accounts were in a slightly different form from previous years as they included a "restricted funds" category for monies specifically allocated to the purchase of a new trailer (Surrey County Council and the 'Satin Doll' performance). One aspect worth noting which wasn't brought out was the result of the work put in by Phil Slack and Dianna Benoy in getting more advertising into the programmes; as well as improving our finances it enabled us to afford a much more professional look for the programmes. Thanks were also due to Sue Tanton for all her hard work in getting grant funding. Nick invited comments and questions.

Trailer Sue Tanton explained that the funding from the Gatwick Airport Trust would also be allocated to the trailer. Nick said that the trailer would cost around £5,500 and we would expect to have it in time for the November staging booking. There was currently a funding gap of £2,750 which would have to be met from choir funds, so any further donations would be warmly welcomed.

Summer concert Anne Mitchell asked whether the £3,300 cost of musicians included the dancers; Nick explained that the cost of these had been met by direct donation.

Books & CDs Anne Mitchell asked why this showed a cost; Nick said this was the cost of the Rio Grande rehearsal CDs which had then been sold to choir members.

Quiz Evening Maria Chadwick asked about the high spend on this; Nick said this was in fact the Murder Mystery evening and included hall hire and the cost of the Murder Mystery items. The Chairman proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, and this was carried *nem con*.

Nick proposed Andrew Campbell-Hart (who was willing to carry on) as Independent Examiner; this was carried *nem con*.

## 5. Subscriptions

The Chairman explained that the committee proposed an increase from the current level of £100 to £110. Nick said that the choir needed a certain level of income from subs, ticket sales and grants to enable us to put on concerts. In addition the remuneration of the Musical Director and accompanist had not increased over the last couple of years and it was felt appropriate to increase their fees now. It was accepted that not everyone could easily afford £110 and there could be some flexibility in terms of payment. He confirmed there was a reduced rate for younger members Jenny Bartholomew proposed having the subs payable in two stages over the choir year, however it was felt that this might encourage some members to pay and sing for only part of the year. Romey Criswick said a single payment was preferable because of the extra work involved in collecting two payments. Tony Newell mentioned a previous system where members paid a basic sub plus extra per concert, though the Chairman felt this was not a route we wanted to pursue. Anne Slack pointed out that subs were lower in Brockham than other choirs, and that people could make additional donations if they wished. On a vote, the increase to £110 was agreed *nem con*.

## 6. Music Director's Report

This is attached to these minutes.

## 7. Election of Chairman

Reuben Suckling nominated Nick Tanton, Mark Sayer seconded. There being no other nominations, Nick Tanton was elected *nem con*. Anne Mitchell thanked Jenni on behalf of the choir for all her hard work as Chairman, and Ed Criswick thanked her on behalf of the committee.

## 8. Election of Committee

The Chairman noted that existing members Ed Criswick, Estelle Earnshaw, Angela Haeems, Nick Hands-Clarke, Reuben Suckling, Anne Tennent and Julienne Williams had said they were prepared to stand again. There being no other nominations, these members were elected *nem con*. Jenni Bartholomew suggested that members should take turns on the committee. The Chairman pointed out that members can be co-opted on to the committee.

## 9. Any Other Business

Barbara Steadman-Allen At her request, Ed read out her email which complimented Jenni on being such an "upbeat and enthusiastic" Chairman.

Membership Secretary Pam Pettman has offered to take on this role.

Friends Secretary David John suggested it would be useful to have a report to the AGM on this role.

Musical Director's report David John felt that Andy's report gave insufficient recognition to the choir's attainments before he took over. Michael Doughty said that in relation to commitment to rehearsals and concerts, he had unavoidable work commitments which at times took him away. Joy Ridley commented that allowances were made for work commitments and the main issue was that members made as many rehearsals as possible.

Concert clashes Dianna asked if more could be done to avoid clashes with other events, thereby benefiting our ticket sales. The Chairman explained there used to be a 'clash diary' which was intended to avoid these problems but it had fallen by the wayside. The problem was with others; Brockham had a 5-year programme (with dates) which was well publicised but others subsequently scheduled their performances on dates we had already arranged. In addition there were many events in Dorking so some clashes were inevitable.

## 10. Next AGM

Tuesday 2 September 2014