



Minutes of the AGM held on 6th Sept 2022

1. Record of those present

Committee members - Margaret Smith, Sue Powner, Pat Arnold, Ena Furber, Mags Daly, Sandy Boyle, Stephen Newlove (Musical Director) Kelvin Lesley (President) + 19 members.

2. Apologies

Frank Barker, Julie Barker, Jayne Bunn, Tom Bunn, Andrea Boardman, Charlotte Gray, Alan Pimlott, Sarah Talbot, Mark Rowland, Hannah Cotton, Kathryn Flavell, Cheryl Bolton

3. Minutes of AGM 2021

Minutes were accepted as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Four longstanding members retired last year and a gift will be sent to each.

5. Notification of items for AOB

a Publicity

b A Song For You

6. Chairman's report

Accepted unanimously.

7. Accounts for year ending 2022

The accounts were received and approved. Hard copies of account sheet to be provided to members at the next rehearsal.

A question was asked about the sustainability of the society, given the £3000 loss made last year. We have £18000 in the bank at present so we have a cushion. There will be an increase in gift aid this year (approx. £1500 in total) and now that we are back to live concerts we will be able to restart grant applications. We received a grant of £450 to support the Singing Day.

There was general discussion about increase in venue prices and ways in which we could reach a larger audience, the urgent need for a publicity officer being underlined. Concerts are very poorly attended. This stimulated a discussion about the function of the society and the need to find ways of bringing music, in particular choral music, to a wider audience. The point was made that the society might concentrate on funding its concerts through its other activities rather than concentrating solely on trying to break even on them. It is hoped that including a school choir at the Christmas concert will help with this.

8. Musical Director's Report

The report was received and accepted.

The problem of recruiting more members, particularly men was raised, specifically those who do not read music. Sectional rehearsals may be a possibility, also use of CDs and rehearsal sites online.

9. Election of Committee Officers for 2022 - 2023 Season

Serving committee members are willing to serve again. They were elected unanimously. A publicity officer is urgently needed. A list of committee members is attached.

10. Appointment of Non-Committee Officers

All who expressed a willingness to fill the posts were appointed, a list of these non-committee members is attached.

11. Subscriptions for next year

Subscriptions will remain the same as this year, £12 a month or £140 as a one time payment.

12. Appointment of independent examiner.

Christine Grove holds this position at present and will be asked to do it again. The names of at least two other people are available should Christine be unable to help us.

13. Music and Dates for 2022-2022

Autumn concert Sun Nov 6th St Mary's Church, Sandbach:

Haydn: The Creation + additional pieces

For other concerts music still to be decided, suggestions below:

Christmas Concert Wed Dec 15th Sandbach Town Hall

Holst Christmas day; Carols from 100 Carols for choirs; White Christmas; Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas; Contribution from a primary school choir; other pieces to be decided

Spring Concert – date and venue to be decided

Messiah part 2

Puccini Messa di Gloria

Summer Concert – date and venue to be decided

Light works eg. Medley from The Lion King; Carpenters medley; Bring Him Home; You are the New Day, etc.

14. Items submitted for discussion prior to AGM

a. Recruitment. Suggestion that anyone interested should be invited to come to 2 rehearsals as a taster, then offered 4 rehearsals free of charge. If they are then still interested they would be asked to pay subs. It was agreed that we would try this and perhaps also run an open rehearsal. Membership has now dropped to 35.

b. Reinstatement of tea break.

After some discussion about the possible cost implications (there are none) the meeting voted not to reinstate the tea break. Rehearsals will be 7.30 to 9.00pm with a short (5 min) comfort break at about 8.15.

15. AOB

a. Publicity: A publicity officer is still required. Contact with local press and other media needs to be re-established as well as contacts through social media. Better advertising is needed to boost concert attendance and increase membership.

b. A Song for You: A new show about how people come to singing and what it means to them, Stoke Repertory Theatre 20th - 25th Sept. Information to be sent out via email.

16. Date of Next AGM

Tues 5th Sept 2023 6.30pm.

The committee received a vote of thanks for its work.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm.