

Sandbach Choral Society
AGM
Tuesday Sept 3rd 2019 at 6.30pm

1 Present

Margaret Smith (Chair), Sue Cooke (Secretary), Pat Arnold (Treasurer), Sandy Boyle (Minutes Secretary), Joyce Watson, Frank Barker, Julie Barker, Andrew Green (accompanist) Stephen Newlove (Music Director designate) and 38 choir members

2 Apologies

Norma Franklin, Paul Thomson, Alan Pimlott, Katherine Lavelle, Pam Bolton, Tom Bunn

3 Minutes of 2018 AGM

The minutes were accepted and signed by the chair as a correct record

4 Matters arising

None

5 Matters to be included in AOB

a Protocol for removing members from choir

b Post concert feedback from MD

6 Chairman's Report

Appended. Margaret reported that we had gained new members following singing day 2018. Voice tests were now complete. A difficult year for the choir but looking to a bright future with the appointment of a new MD Stephen Newlove.

Heartfelt thanks from all committee and choir members to Andrew Green for his support and guidance during the appointment process and his generosity in constructing emergency plans to enable the choir to continue had an appointment not been made.

Margaret was thanked and presented with flowers for her hard work throughout the year and particularly in relation to the new MD appointment

7 To Receive and approve accounts for year end 30-06-2019

Accounts appended. Pat reported losses on all concerts and urged members to try to sell more tickets. Singing day 2018 made a profit and brought us new member. Gift aid money was recouped on this event. Profits were also made on Quiz Night and choir dinner. Gift aid also recouped on Quiz Night.

Pat reminded members that the membership fee was £140 for the year if paid fully in September or £144 if paid after September or in 12 monthly instalments of £12. Members paying monthly who leave part way through the year should continue payments until the year end.

The accounts were accepted.

Questions were raised about ticket pricing. Some members felt £12 (£10 concessions) was too high and discouraged possible customers. Some other local events and concerts have lower prices.

Suggested that a lower price for one concert should be tried to see if greater audience numbers resulted. Possibly produce a family group ticket. It was agreed that ticket prices charged by other local choirs would be checked and all suggestions from choir members would be discussed at the Oct 8th committee meeting.

8 Musical Director's Report

Read by Margaret. Chris gave good wishes for the future and urged greater commitment of members to rehearsals and concerts.

9 Election of Committee Officers for 2019-2020 season

President – Elsie Alcock

Chairman – Margaret Smith

Secretary – Sue Cooke

Treasurer – Pat Arnold

Minutes secretary – Sandy Boyle

Publicity Officer – Joyce Watson

Fundraising Officer – Frank Barker

Choir Member – Karen Wainwright

Choir Member – Ena Furber (membership secretary)

Music director and Deputy Music Director (Julie Barker) are members of the committee ex officio

Deputy Chairman is elected at the first committee meeting after the AGM

Committee officers were elected en bloc

10 Election of Non Committee officers

Margaret outlined the proposal to split the role of secretary to reduce the work load. The role of membership secretary would be increased. Members should report absences, sickness etc to voice reps who will inform membership secretary. Voice reps job description and contact details to be circulated. There will also be a singing day organiser and a social secretary.

Choir members approved these proposals.

Librarian – Stephen Davies

Assistant Librarian – Christine Groves

Membership Secretary – Ena Furber

Rehearsals' Refreshments and Rota – Jenny Patterson

Website Manager – Steve Cooke

Poster design, printing and distribution – Joyce Watson

Concert Tickets, Printing and Sales – Andrea Boardman

Programme Compilation – Margaret Smith

Stage Manager – Julie Barker

Keyboard Manager – Adrian Smith

Podium Manager – Peter Doughty

Concert Catering – Linda Bradley

Concert door Sales – Sue and Mark Thompson

Concert VIP greeter - Margaret Smith, Elsie Alcock

Singing Day Organiser – Jayne Bunn

Social Secretary – Jayne Bunn

Books and Magazines – Jackie Thorp

Facebook/Twitter – S Cooke

Newspaper and periodicals publicity – David and Delia Silverwood

Church Liaison – Sue Thompson

Making Music rep - Mags Daley

Soprano voice rep – Mags Daley

Alto voice rep – Charlotte Gray

Tenor and Bass voice rep – Roger Hunt

All on committee officers elected en bloc

11 Appointment of new Music Director

The appointment of Stephen Newlove as Music Director was approved.

12 Subscriptions for next season

Subs will remain at £140 annually if paid up front in Sept, £144 if paid after sept or in 12 instalments of £12 monthly.

13 Appointment of independent examiner of accounts

Christine Groves was appointed

14 Music for 2019-2020

2nd Nov Messe Solennelle Sandbach Town Hall

18th Dec Christmas Concert Sandbach Town Hall

28th March Durufle Requiem St Mary's Church Sandbach

12th July Dream of Gerontius Bridgewater Hall

Questions were raised about the choice and variety of music, particularly after the predominance of Requiems last season. Suggestions from choir members are welcome and information from singing day feed back forms is currently being complied.

Roger Hunt suggested that for some works (such as Merrie England) a narrator would be helpful.

Choir members would like some information about works to be performed. Margaret agreed to collate information on Rossini work and circulate.

15 AOB from item 5

a) Protocol for removing a singer from the choir.

Margaret explained that if the MD felt a voice was not right for the choir, that voice should be removed. This has happened on only 3 occasions. A proforma letter has been produced and this is sent to the choir member. The aim is to speak to the member concerned beforehand but this has not proved possible in the past.

b) Post concert feedback from MD

Stephen said he would be happy to do this.

16 – AOB

it was suggested that members who are unable to read music might be able to use rehearsal recording websites. Sue agreed to email links to suitable sites to all members.

17 Date of next AGM

Tues Sept 1st 2020 6pm for 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

