

SLEAFORD CHORAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON WED 2nd OCT. 2019 AT 8.30pm IN SLEAFORD METHODIST CHURCH.

Present: Lew Paterson, Rowland Lee, Doreen Bamford (notetaker), Katy Griffiths, Derek Jacobs.

Choral Members Present: 36

<u>Agenda</u> <u>Heading</u>	<u>Notes</u>	Action
1 Apologies for absence	Oliver Elphick, Jenny Seddon, Elaine Healey, Anne Algar, Viv Golding, Anne Manning, Maureen Mawdit, Melanie Martin, Sarah Butchart, Lorna Boyne, Eva Newsam, Judith Perry, Kate Davies, John Williams, Irvine Powell.	
2 Minutes of Last AGM (26/09/18)	Approved as a true record. Signed by L Paterson, Chairman. Proposed: John Henman Seconded: Jo Johnson Unanimously agreed	
3 Matters Arising	No matters arising.	
4 Musical Director's Report	2017/18 season included an enjoyable selection of concerts. The Benjamin Britten 'A Ceremony of Carols' at the Christmas Concert, including the excellent accompaniment of the harp (played by Rowena Bass), was a real highlight and Rowena's solo piece was really excellent too. It was also a very memorable occasion as it was the last time that Dorothea sang with us. We then turned our attention to Haydn's Creation which was a magnificent concert, the choir sang it beautifully. Many thanks to Katy for acquiring the soloists – a demanding job, which takes much more time than is appreciated – and at such reasonable cost too. David Shepherd (organist) did a superb job too. Having David to rehearse with us for two extra rehearsals made a real difference and, if finances allow, would be very useful to repeat. The end of season meal at Millers was a very enjoyable evening with a good turnout of members, and thanks to Anthea for her excellent organisation. R.Lee	RL
5 Membership Officer's Report	We currently have 61 members on the database of which 47 have paid. If you haven't yet paid, please would you do so next week. The split between voices is similar to the previous year. I would like to remind members that part of our constitution calls for 75% attendance of rehearsals prior to a concert. This is a matter for discretion, but members should endeavour to attend as many rehearsals as possible. K. Griffiths	KG
6 Hon Treasurer's Report	My apologies that I cannot be present at the AGM this year. The accompanying accounts show a deficit for the year of £234. This is mainly attributable to the cost of the soloists for The Creation. However, the Christmas Concert made a loss. With tickets at £10 each, it is evident that it is very important to raise attendance; I do not know whether it would be viable to raise ticket prices. An additional 22 tickets would have made the Christmas Concert break even, and The Creation would have required another 62 tickets to be sold.	OE

6a Approval of Treasurer's Statement & Accounts	For the current year, we have increased subscriptions to £75. This should increase subscription income by about £300, assuming that the number of members remains the same. But the loss of only 4 members would wipe that out. Sleaford Choral Accounts Statement 2018-19: Appendix 1 Proposed: Anthea Ashmore Seconded: Owen Davies Unanimously agreed	
6b Membership Subscriptions	Unchanged for next year, they will remain at £75.	LP
7 Chairman's Report	Ladies and gentlemen: I have great pleasure in reminding us of the events of the past season since September 2018.	LP
	Christmas saw us perform Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" with the Reverend Rowena Bass as our Harpist. Some of you may remember that last time we performed this in 2007 our harpist, Angharad Wynn Jones pulled out at the last minute after being involved in a car accident - and Rowland played the harp accompaniment on the piano.	
	The spring/summer was to be just the Creation, but quickly it became apparent that we would be vastly over-rehearsed and so we decided to insert a "consort" style concert to provide a more varied rehearsal. Because some members were not available for the Ruskington Concert, they prevailed upon Rowland to split the rehearsal. I understand the exceptional reason for this – but it will not happen again. The rehearsals for the 2020 concerts will be a mix of the 2 concerts items as required.	
	Sadly, several members died this year. I am glad to report that our attendance at the funerals was well appreciated by the families. Thank you to those who were able to attend on our behalf.	
	And so to this next year - Hallelujah! L.Paterson	
8 Election of Officers & Council	There are two vacancies on the Council – 2 nd Additional Officer and Publicity & Mailings Officer. All other members of the Council agreed to continue for the next year.	
	No nominations were received for any positions, vacant or otherwise. DB (Hon Sec) will continue to head up the Publicity role, and the 2 nd Additional Officer post will remain unfilled for another year.	
	Sue Lipscombe-Ridley has sadly withdrawn from the Society and so there is now an additional vacancy for the Soprano Representative on the Committee. The Soprano section to inform LP asap as to a successor.	
	Election of Committee 'en bloc' Proposed: Owen Davies Seconded: Di Scott Elected unanimously. Vote of thanks by OD to the Council for all its work, and also to Rowland for his enthusiasm and hard work.	
9 Appointment of Musical Director	Rowland Lee has agreed to remain in this position.	
10 Appointment of Deputy Conductor	Alwyn Kirk has agreed to remain in this position.	
11 Music Programme for 2019-2020 Season	Christmas Concert - Saturday December 14th 2019. Christmas Messiah, plus carols etc in 2nd half.	

Spring Concert - Mozart Coronation Mass jointly with Lincoln Cathedral Choir at St Denys' on Saturday May 16th 2020 Summer Concert - G&S themed concert at St Denys' on Saturday June 20th, 2020 Christmas Concert - at St Denys' on Saturday 12th December 2020 DJ DJ thanked the Repertoire Committee for all its work this year. Dorothea was an important member of that group and she is sadly missed. Discussed suggestions for the 2nd half of the joint concert with Lincoln Cathedral Choir – possibly The Blue Bird (Stanford), My Spirit Sang All Day (Finzi) and Blest Pair of Sirens (Parry). It is hoped that the Bell Choir will join us at the Christmas Concert in 2020 and it may have an American theme. The Committee is looking at ideas for the 20-21 season and would welcome suggestions from choir members. 12 Proposal for a change to the choral dress worn by members at concerts etc. **AOB** Mary-Jane described her ideas for a change to the present choral dress - ladies to wear all-black outfit comprising full-length dress, or full-length skirt and top, or fulllength trousers and top. Jacket/cardigan optional. Men to wear evening suit as present, but with black bow-tie instead of blue SCS one. 17 ladies voted in favour of the change, out of 24 present. Men were not averse to wearing either bow-tie, but most were happy to wear the black. AK suggested retaining the SCS blue bow-tie to wear on some occasions, especially at concerts outside of Sleaford, and at funerals. This was agreed, and ladies would retain their scarves to wear on such occasions also. Proposal carried. 13 Proposal for a change of concert venue. John explained his reasons for suggesting that St Denys' was no longer fit for purpose (mainly due to lack of effective heating system, and leaking roof) and that an alternative concert venue should be sought by the SC Council. Many people present agreed, but finding a suitable alternative is a real problem. The venue requires an organ, to be of an appropriate size, be able to accommodate the choir and preferably the staging, have sufficient car parking etc. The School halls do not fit the bill and most people present would not want to go outside Sleaford. The proposal was carried and will be discussed by council members at the next meeting on November 4th. LP stressed that it was essential that choir members support the Council by doing some research into suitable alternative venues and passing the information gathered onto Council members prior to that meeting. 14 SCS entry for Christmas Tree Festival 2019 Judith Perry has volunteered to lead on this - many thanks to Judith. We will make the application and would all volunteers make contact with Judith to assist her. 15 Really Big Chorus at Royal Albert Hall

A large number of those present showed interest in possibly attending the 2020 'Messiah From Scratch' at the RAH in London on November 15th 2020. DB will

prepare a signing-up list to further gauge the interest.

Meeting terminated at 21.27pm