**Minutes of 43rd Annual General Meeting**

**Mevagissey Social Club on 30th November 2017**

**Present:** A Nicholls (Chairman), G Hoskins (Treasurer), M Tate (Secretary), and 30 other Choir Members

**1. Apologies**: M Collings; J Hunkin; G Rundle ; C Cudmore; I Ridler; M Coombe; R George; S Gibson; J Gill[ D Lethbridge; A Scarratt; H Stobart; MS Thompson; B Collins; A Gill; P Uzzell.

**2. Minutes of meeting Monday, 5th December 2016**

The Minutes, having been previously circulated, were accepted as a true record, proposed by D Lyons, seconded by S Lawday, and carried *nem con*. Signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising:** None

**4. Reports**

**Chairman’s Report 2017**

Good evening gentlemen. Here we are with my third attempt to make a decent speech.

This year seems to have passed very quickly, or is it that I am getting old and just do not notice the passage of time flying by?

We had a late start to our concerts, with our first at St. John's on 29th of April with the regional festival concert where we were treated to some outstanding singing by a smallish group of Czechs, and we were not too bad either! This was followed by a lovely afterglow at the White Hart, even though we lost a complete choir on the way. The break from earlier concerts did provide us with time to learn some new pieces which have now become popular in our subsequent performances, notably the 60s medley and Rise again which most of us enjoy singing.

The next concert at Launcells, thanks to our Bude contingent for arranging that, was the first time I had seen a church in a valley where you have to be close before you can even see the tower!

Although we had fewer requests for concerts early in the year we did sing at Stithians show ground, followed by a great afterglow in the village pub as well as a well-attended concert at Yealmpton in July. This sticks in my mind as we still have not had to pay for the pasties! I thank again those worthy members who turned out on a Saturday afternoon led by Matt Fox to celebrate the blessing of the Meva fishing fleet. This kind of support is always gratifying. At this point I would pay tribute to Matt Fox, our very able accompanist, who is unfailingly willing to help us out when we are most in need. Thanks a lot Matt, you make my job so much easier and enjoyable.

The theatre at Holsworthy was an interesting venue. I worried about our M.D who only had eighteen inches of stage behind him before a four-foot drop! His directing was silky smooth, with the minimum of hand and arm movement that night. A big thank you to Phil Walter for organising the event as well as a first class afterglow in the nearby pub.

The food was also good. All in all, our concerts in aid of numerous charities have all been well received without exception

At this point tribute must be paid to our MD, Graham Willcocks, for his excellent training, especially latterly when he must have been preoccupied with other things. I know he would be the first to say he feels lucky to be able to confer with Matt on some of the trickier bits. We are indeed fortunate with our music team. I would also report that our music committee have had good input of late, and that their work is much appreciated. I also wish to draw attention to the many choir members who unfailingly support the committee by turning out every Monday evening and at every concert. Just bear in mind the commitment shown by the Bude boys, who are here tonight, when it has been a bit of a struggle to see if we would be quorate. I thank the specially for their support. Our reputation depends on a concerted team effort.

I feel lucky to be chairman of a very resourceful and hardworking committee who have a very " can do" approach in the main, who are willing to put themselves out for the choir, and generally are rewarded with very supportive members. But to the few who complain and find fault I say ‘come and have a go’! That is what annual elections are for! All the committee members are approachable. Tell us what you want if you are less than happy with things-- but also appreciate the problems that can arise. It is good to have such help from the membership, and people like Graham Rundle are always feeding in ideas which they back up by helping get them off the ground. I also need to thank, in particular, Clifford, Graham and Chris for manhandling our risers and music equipment all year. Also to our secretary Mike Tate, treasurer Graham Hoskins and fund raiser Peter Bowker who all work tirelessly for this choir to help make it the success and happy setup that it is. I am really looking forward to our Christmas season of concerts with our usual support of charities and hope for some brighter news next year concerning our MD’s health.

I have enjoyed this year of chairmanship and thank every one of you for your support in what we are trying to do ----- help others while enjoying ourselves doing so. I believe we can look forwards with confidence with the choir in a healthy state. Thank you.

**Musical Director’s Report 2017**

No report received.

**Treasurer’s Report 2017**

Accounts for the past financial year were distributed. Due to the Treasurer’s recent four-week absence, there has been insufficient time for the accounts to be audited. However, they show that the Choir had a good year financially, despite the absence of any big concerts. There was a significant contribution from donations - £3,454 - including some £900 from collections at the Fountain after practice nights. CD and web sales brought in £4,134, for which thanks were expressed to Chris Williams and Roger Mitchell. Outgoings included expenditure on a trailer for transporting our risers etc. The current year will see another concert at the Minack, which should yield a healthy return. The Treasurer there recommended no increase in the annual subs for the current year. Questioned by G Blamey, he said the Venues item under Outgoings - £948 – included the cost of hiring St Andrew’s. Re The Fountain donations, R Mitchell queried the use of a Mevagissey Male Choir signboard outside the pub. It was pointed out that the signboard reads ‘Singers from Mevagissey Male Choir.’ G Phillips proposed, seconded by P Bowker, that subs should be increased by £5 a year, in order that members should not have to face occasional big increases. After discussion, the Treasurer’s proposal that subs should remain the same for the current year was seconded by J Cundy and carried by a large majority.

**5. Appointment of Musical Director**

Graham Willcocks was proposed by J Mitchell, seconded by P Bowker and carried *nem con*.

**6. Election of Executive Officers**

The following nominations had been received:

**Post Nominee Proposed Seconded**

Chairman A Nicholls G Blamey A Scarratt

Vice Chairman S Gibson M Tate D Leeson

Treasurer G Hoskins G Blamey A Scarratt

Secretary M Tate G Blamey A Scarratt

There were no other nominations. All four proposals were taken *en bloc* and carried *nem con*

**7. Election of Other Officers:**

The following nominations had been received:

**Post Nominee Proposed Seconded**

Concert Secretary C Burnett A Nicholls G Blamey

Fund Raising / Sponsorship P Bowker A Nicholls M Collings

Publicity Officer M Tate A Scarratt S Truscott

Social Secretary S Lawday A Scarratt S Truscott

There were no other nominations. All four proposals were taken *en bloc* and carried *nem con*

**8. Section Leaders**

The following have been selected by their respective sections to represent them on the committee:

**Section Nominee Proposed Seconded**

First Tenor P Vellenoweth S Truscott D Smith

Second Tenor R Mitchell G Blamey C Bale

Baritone H Stobart A Scarratt J Cundy

Bass C Williams D Leeson A Gill

There were no other nominations. Confirmation proposed by S Lawday, seconded by G Evans, carried *nem con.*

**9. Confirmation of Other Posts**

The following nominations had been received:

**Post Nominee Proposed Seconded**

Almoner A Gill A Scarratt G Blamey

Librarian S Gibson R George D Leeson

Transport Manager C Burnett R Mitchell G A’lee

Choir Marshal H Stobart A Scarratt S Truscott

Federation Rep C Bale A Nicholls P Vellenoweth

CIMVC Festival Rep T Coplin M Tate C Williams

There were no other nominations.

Confirmation of all above posts taken *en bloc*, proposed by D Leeson, seconded by G Phillips and carried *nem con*.

Members thanked Clifford Burnett, Graham A’lee and Chris Williams for ensuring that our risers, keyboard and other equipment arrive at concerts. Also, John Mitchell for his offer to stand in as Marshal for next three concerts. Chris Bale (and Wendy) thanked for their work on ensuring new members get uniforms speedily. T Coplin reported that next Festival would be in May 2019 and that Gareth Churcher had been appointed Festival Director in place of Rob Elliott.

**10. Payments to Musical Director and Accompanists**

Payments to remain at £45 per concert and per practice session, proposed D Leeson, seconded J Mitchell, carried *nem con*

**11. Music Committee**

Confirmed that committee comprises T. Coplin, C Williams, M S Thompson, Cedric Bray, Graham Willcocks, Matthew Fox. Proposed J Mitchell, seconded S Lawday, carried *nem con*. T Coplin reported that the Music Committee had reviewed “36 or 37 pieces over the course of the year, and selected six or seven, with the possibility of three or four more, ranging from Sibelius to ELO”. Finding TTBB arrangements continued to be the problem. G Hoskins commented that changing arrangements was a good for the choir and noted that the choir was now asking outsiders to arrange music for us.

**12. Subscription waivers**

After lengthy discussion, it was decided to end the practice of refunding a year’s subscription to any member who introduced a new member to the Choir. Not only was it hard to administer, but members (Roger Daniel, Roger Mitchell and others) said they were proud of the Choir and proud to introduce new members, and should not expect reward for introducing new members. Proposed T Coplin, seconded J Mitchell, carried overwhelmingly.

**13. Any Other Business**

**Poster Photos:** J Cundy asked if the photos on the Choir banners and posters could be updated. The meeting was informed that the Committee already had the matter in hand.

**Trailer Transport:** G A’lee suggested a team of volunteers should be put together for the purpose of ensuring that the trailer and its contents arrive at concert venues. G A’lee; P Bowker, S Gibson, L Hereward expressed, or had expressed, willingness. It was agreed that the Chairman would call for further volunteers on the following Monday evening.

**Tesco Fundraising:** P Bowker reported that he had secured agreement from Tesco to run a Collection Event at Tesco in Holmbush on Friday, 15 December, between 9am and 1pm, an opportunity to hand out leaflets, play CDs and collect donations. P Bowker would circulate an email and the Chairman would ask for four volunteers on the following Monday.

**Naples:** P Bowker regretted that it had not been possible to obtain sufficient numbers for a trip to Naples in autumn 2018. However, lessons had been learned, and an excellent analysis prepared by D Leeson.

**14. Date of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the 44th AGM would be held on Thursday, 5th December 2018.

The meeting closed at 21.03pm

Signed

Chairman Date