

## Minutes of Committee Meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 by Zoom

**Present:** Philip Bellshaw (PB) (chair), Barbara Hathaway (BH), Corinna Gregory (CG), Heather Gay (HG), Pauline Hygate (PH), Paul Spicer (PS), Kate Crocker (KC) and Jane Eminson (JE)

		Action
1.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Michael Palmer, Hilary Boszko, Graham Stroud and Julia Sadler. Philip reported that he had seen Michael who was not well but had sent his greetings and would welcome visitors. Barbara said that it worked well if two people were able to visit together.	
2.	Jane thanked Ela for setting up the Zoom link for the meeting.	
3.	<b>Minutes of meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022</b> were agreed as a correct record.	
4.	<b>Actions and matters arising from the minutes:</b> All were covered on the agenda. Hilary and Kate will look at the VIP list and decide who to invite. The Bishop and cathedral clergy should be invited. It was agreed that no further action would be taken in relation to the CBSO programme.	HB / KC
5.	<b>Decisions taken since the last meeting:</b> None	
6.	<b>Finance Report:</b> Pauline's report was received with thanks. A deficit is forecast for the year but there are hopeful signs, for example, advertising revenue for the summer concerts. There are still quite a few unknowns about next year in terms of both cost and income. Information on charges for Newman House would be useful and Barbara agreed to pursue this for 21/22 and 22/23. Income is highly dependent on choir numbers. Pauline has been encouraging Gift Aid donations and committee members offered to help with getting Gift Aid forms signed. Banking will become more expensive from August, with charges for all transactions, especially cheques.  It was agreed that the report would be discussed further at the planning meeting. Pauline said that covering rehearsal costs from the membership should be a key target. Other ideas for increasing income and reducing costs should also be considered. The committee agreed that it had been extremely useful to have the detailed figures in advance of the meeting and Pauline was thanked for producing the report.	BH
7.	<b>Fundraising Report:</b> Kate's report was received with thanks. The Saintbury Trust and Michael's donations were noted with gratitude.	
8.	<b>Marketing Report:</b> Hilary's report was received with thanks. Heather updated the committee on tickets sold for the summer concerts. It was agreed that a BMusic mailing should be done for the St. Paul's concert.	HB

9.	<p><b>2021/22 Season:</b></p> <p><b>June / July concerts:</b> It was agreed that Kate would buy wine. Corinna said that there was no one to serve wine at Malvern. Kate said that it usually is not a problem on the night. Corinna said that she needs additional volunteers to help set up, especially at Malvern. She will ask again at rehearsals. The organ is being tuned on the previous Tuesday for an Ex Cathedra concert. This is part of the booking fee and so we should not pay again as it does not need to be re-tuned. Also, the invoice includes piano tuning and we are not using the piano. Both concerts start at 7pm. CCTV may be required.</p> <p><b>Garden Party:</b> £10 per head was agreed with the opportunity for additional donations.</p>	CG/PH
10.	<p><b>2022/23 Season:</b></p> <p><b>Use of B Music box office:</b> A decision was deferred for the planning group to take as a decision is needed before the summer. Pauline reported on Eventbrite as an option and outlined the additional advantages that it would bring.</p> <p><b>Bookings:</b> Bridgnorth have not yet invoiced for the deposit. Kate will contact the church warden about the arrangements. Dates and venues for all other concerts are booked.</p>	KC
11.	<p><b>Choir Dinner:</b> The committee agreed to go ahead and book the Edgbaston Golf Club. To date no one has volunteered to coordinate the dinner. Philip will talk to Hilary. Heather suggested that Merryn may help with the organisation.</p>	HB PB
12.	<p><b>Staging:</b> It was agreed that the staging could be lent out in return for appropriate payment or reciprocal advertising.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Archive:</b> A preliminary discussion had taken place with Ela about taking on the archive. Ela is keen to scope what is involved and the potential for digitising the archive. She is looking into the costs of this. Paul said that Michael also has a library of the complete Bach Gesellschaft scores and arrangements will need to be made for these as well. Merryn has good links with Michael's brother. Philip reported that Michael was very pleased that arrangements were being made. Paul reported that a library (Stafford or Birmingham) might be an option for storage. Philip and Barbara will talk to Ela and Merryn.</p>	PB/BH
14.	<p><b>Recruitment and numbers:</b> If everyone who is singing passes their audition and Isaac stays then there will be 62 singers next year compared with about 80 before the pandemic. About 30% of members have left since before the pandemic. Barbara reported that by section, predicted numbers were: S1: 14, S2: 12, A1: 11, A2: 6, T1: 4, T2: 5, B1: 4, B2: 6. Barbara suggested an open rehearsal for men and said that the Christmas Oratorio was a good opportunity as the music is hired. She reported that many choirs were having problems with membership numbers. Heather said that she had contacted people after the Come and Sing but the response was very low. She had also contacted all singing groups in the West Midlands but had had very few responses. The committee agreed that an open rehearsal for men would be held in September (probably 14<sup>th</sup>) with mailing list members invited.</p>	BH (with others)
15.	<p><b>Tour:</b> Heather will communicate with Ela about her thoughts. Paul said that this was an important part of the choir's activities.</p>	
16.	<p><b>Correspondence received:</b> None</p>	

17.	<p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <p>Jane will not be re-auditioning and a decision is needed about whether to hold an EGM or whether Jane should continue until the AGM. The committee agreed that Jane should continue as General Secretary until the AGM.</p>	
18.	<p><b>Date of next meetings:</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 5.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 5.30pm</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 5.30pm</b></p>	