



# BRIGHTON ORPHEUS CHOIR

**MINUTES OF THE AGM  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
22nd OCTOBER 2014 AT  
VARNDEAN SCHOOL,  
BRIGHTON, at 7.00 pm**

Registered Charity 260887

## **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Annette Bell thanked those present for coming, especially Michael Barley. The AGM gives members the opportunity to become involved in the running of the choir.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Catherine Anscombe, Nicola Grunberg, Ruth Bosworth, Ed Griffiths, Naomi Sack, Valerie Bolton, Jenny Chamberlain, Heather Waterman, Brian Chattock, Margaret Squires.

## **3. Minutes of the last AGM (23 Octoberr 2013)**

These had been circulated in advance and taken as read They were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. Chairman's report**

Annette Bell thanked those involved in the running of the choir, including Stella Hull, Muriel Hart, Richard Jayawant, Elizabeth Hughes, the committee (especially the marketing committee). She also thanked those members involved in fund-raising, organising the refreshments and concert organisation. Particular gratitude was expressed for Sarah Seward who was standing down as Librarian and Terry White who was taking on the role. Annette encouraged members to think how they could help with the development of the choir and recruitment of new members.

## **6. Treasurer's report**

The financial statements and Trustee Report had been made available electronically prior to the meeting.

Elizabeth highlighted that we had finished the year with £6K more in the bank than at the start of the year. In part this was due to the lower concert deficit (approx £5K lower). This lower concert deficit was due to lower costs at the winter concert, better ticket sales at the Verdi concert and the sponsorship of the Verdi concert by the Chattock legacy. The sponsorship was part of a move to bring our restricted funds to zero which was also achieved through the purchase of new books by the Harding legacy and sponsorship of the toast at the lunch held in honour of Muriel Hart by the Little gift.

Gift aid is now being recovered on a regular basis and is helping our financial position. Consequently our reserves are above our reserves policy and the committee will take steps to address this. In the short term the subscriptions for 2014/15 are to be reduced by £10 for those paying the full years fees within the first 4 weeks.

The change to the subscriptions for 2014/15 was proposed by E. Hughes, seconded by R. Jayawant and approved by the meeting.

The committee will review the financial position following the Spring concert with a view to reducing the subscriptions for 2015/16. This will require a Special General Meeting during the summer term.

## **7. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

There were five vacancies for Committee members. The vacancies arise from; the resignation by rotation of Marguerite Statter and Paul Statter; One vacancy to 2016 un-filled from last year; One vacancy to 2015 arising from the resignation of Jenny Venton; One vacancy to 2016 arising from the resignation of Hilary Brown. The outgoing committee members were thanked for their service to the choir.

The following nominations had been received: Jane Wrin (to 2015), Nicola Grunberg (to 2016), Linda Newson-Ray (to 2016), Robert Eastwood (to 2017), Rachael Goode (to 2017), Annette Bell (Chair), Richard Jayawant (Secretary) and Elizabeth Hughes (Treasurer). Full details of proposers and those seconding can be found in the secretary's AGM file. All 8 nominees were elected unopposed.

## **8. Musical Director's report and programme for 2014/15**

Stella Hull reported that last year was a highly successful one for the choir, musically, financially and generally the sense of it being in "very good heart". The season began with a workshop on Mozart's Requiem in September which was a very successful and enjoyable event, bringing in several new members..

Our Christmas concert given in St John's church centred on Britten's Saint Nicolas, marking the composer's centenary. The second part of the programme featured Ramirez' Navidad Nuestra.

In the spring it was very good to welcome several new members in response to the Verdi Requiem invitation. The choir and audience seemed to greatly appreciate it and it is the first orchestral concert at which we have made a profit! The tenor Stephen Brown showed great talent when he orchestrated the work for reduced forces enabling the choir to be heard with undiminished dramatic effect.

Our summer concerts in Lewes Priory School Chapel and Varndean had a more general theme than usual and were entitled "Choral Classics".. As well as favourite choral pieces such as Mozart's Ave Verum it was good to sing choral arrangements of solo classics such as Ave Maria.

Both major works this year are again recommendations from the choir. We shall sing a timely new work by Karl Jenkins entitled The Peacemakers on November 22nd, Christmas musical social on Dec 13th, Station Carol Singing on Monday Dec 15th, Brahms' German Requiem on March 14th and summer concerts on 4th and 11th July.

Stella thanked Sarah Saward, Muriel Hart, Nicola Grunberg, the choir officers and committee and all who had an ongoing practical involvement in the running of the choir.

## **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Thanks were expressed to Clare Osbond, from the charity Money in Mind, for carrying out this year's examination. Funding for Money in Mind is no longer available and It was proposed (by Elizabeth Hughes & seconded by Murray Park) that Reg Squire act as examiner for 2014/15

## **10. Suggestions for New Works**

Stella Hull talked through the process whereby the concert programmes are formulated and the part members can play in proposing works for the choir to perform.

## **11. Any other business**

Don Picket asked if we can acknowledge long standing members in the concert programme. A. Bell said the committee will review this at their next meeting.

Audry Gilkes asked if it was possible for members (or partners) to sponsor a member of the Orchestra.

Margaret Weir thanked members for their support of the card sales. we had sold £100 more than the previous year.

NOTE: the reports of the Chairman, Treasurer and Musical Director (both MD's Report and the Presentation on Programme Selection) have been summarised. The full text is retained in the Secretary's AGM file.

RJ / 2-nov-2014 / rev A draft