

NEW DIMENSION CHOIR

Minutes of AGM 27th February 2024

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Carmel Dines. Also present were committee members:
Enid Weaver, Wendy White, John Pugh and Carol Chester.

Apologies for absence were received from Barbara Austin.

The Chairperson opened the meeting by saying that she felt the choir had had another successful year and went on to present her report (Appendix 1).

Minutes of last year's AGM

These were confirmed, being proposed by Sue Collier and seconded by Jackie Blum.

Election of officers to the committee for 2024

Carmel went on to confirm that the present committee members had all agreed to stay on for another year in their current roles and that each had been proposed and seconded by Viv Howard and Jackie Blum.

Committee Members

Musical Director – Enid Weaver

Chairperson – Carmel Dines

Secretary – Barbara Austin

Librarian – Wendy White

Treasurer – Carol Chester

Non-elective member representatives:

Technical Officer – John Pugh

Publicity Officer – Clare Goldspink

The members then went on to hear the reports from various committee members:

Report from the Musical Director – Enid Weaver

Please see Appendix 2

At this point the Chairperson thanked Enid for the time she had spent producing the vocal lines by piano, to aid members' practice.

Report from the Treasurer – Carol Chester

Please see Appendix 3

Following the Treasurer's report a member queried whether the details for making payments to the Choir bank account had changed, and Carol advised that it would be wise to check with members' individual banks if their payment instructions needed updating.

Balance Sheet for 2023

Please see Appendix 4

Report from the Librarian – Wendy White

Wendy began by thanking the membership for their prompt return of music copies from the previous concert. She reported that it had been the smoothest return she could remember and it had saved her the effort of having to chase people for their copies. She asked members to continue to return promptly after concerts and mentioned that it was particularly helpful when music sets were returned in alphabetical order.

Report from the Technical Officer – John Pugh

Firstly, John thanked everyone at the choir for their good wishes during his recent illness and thanked the other committee members for deputising in his absence. He realised that his absence had created a significant amount of extra work and he mentioned all the committee members but Carol Chester, in particular, for taking on extra tasks to cover this.

John went on to say that he would continue to record the weekly rehearsals whenever possible and add them to the website, as he felt this was very useful. He also asked members to let him know if they require a USB stick with the professional recordings of the current repertoire.

Report from the Secretary – Barbara Austin

(Delivered by the Chairperson in Barbara's absence)

Please see Appendix 5

Members Questions and Suggestions:

1. It was asked how Enid decides which songs the choir will rehearse each week and if it might be possible to have advance notice of this.

Enid agreed to try and indicate the songs we will be rehearsing in the coming week on the Thursday prior to a rehearsal.

2. Another member had suggested that it might help the choir to learn the song finale first before the body of the song, when doing rehearsals.

Enid said that she would consider the merits of this idea.

3. Another question was about how we could encourage more men to join the choir.

The answer to this was that the choir is currently full and so it isn't currently a concern.

4. It was suggested by one member that the choir could include more solos or small group pieces.

The committee had considered this but decided it was better if the choir continued to sing as a larger group, as solos could be problematic.

5. Another member was keen that Clare received some recognition in the concert programme.

The committee had consulted Clare on this and she definitely did not want her name to appear in the programme.

6. It was asked if it would be possible to make the matinee concerts a regular feature of every concert season.

This is not without problems and so it was deemed likely that going forward there would only be a matinee when the choir sings at Rise Park Methodist Church, and this is likely to happen around once a year.

7. One member was concerned that it was not clear to our prospective audiences that, even though we sing at church venues, we do not sing exclusively sacred music. An assumption that the choir is performing purely church music could deter some people from attending.

It was decided that going forward the committee would try to make this clear on our posters, and give more of an indication of the music to be performed.

8. Another member suggested that we could have some background music playing as the audience enters the venue on concert nights, to create some atmosphere.

This was generally thought to be a good idea, but it raised the issue of performance rights when playing music to an audience, and the matter would need further investigation.

9. It was asked if we could move the start time of rehearsals from 7.45pm to 7.30pm so that the rehearsal did not finish quite as late.

The committee unfortunately had to decline this request as it was not thought fair to those members who work and who would then struggle to make it in time.

Any other business

- Enid gave notice to the members that there would be alternated early finishes for the ladies and then the men, in order that each cohort could concentrate on their parts in some of the more complicated pieces without the other group idling while this was done. Please see below:

Tuesday 12th March: Ladies will leave at 9.30pm while the men stay to rehearse until 10.00pm.

Tuesday 19th March: Men will leave at 9.30pm while the ladies stay to rehearse until 10.00pm.

- Concert attire was then discussed. The committee confirmed that the dress code would remain the same as previously. For the summer concert the women would be wearing a navy blue outfit with a white flower and the men would be wearing the blue short sleeve shirts they had last year. John mentioned that he still had shirts available to purchase, for any new members.
- John also mentioned that he had a stock of concert folders available to purchase for new members or anyone who might need a replacement.

The meeting was closed by the Chairperson.