

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY
HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2004,
IN THE PARISH CENTRE, DURSLEY**

1. Present:

Anne Shipton (Chairman); Ian Harrold (Conductor); Kate Reeves (Treasurer); Julia O'Connor-Beach (Secretary); and

Catherine Bennett	Jill Brown	Michael Chambers	Fiona Chandler	Mavis Church
Glenis Ewer	John Ewer	Alan Garnham	Anne Glanville	Clare Harrison
Jacquelin Hill	Estelle James	Lynette Magnone	Derek Manning	Marion Miller
Brian Neale	Frances Neale	Anne Nuttall	Wendy Richardson	Audrey Sewell
Dick Skinner	Claire Smallridge	Sandra Tucker	Ros Wakefield	Sue Walshaw
Geoff Whiley	Andrew Young	Elizabeth Young	James Corbett (accompanist)	

Apologies for absence had been registered or were received from

Philip Butcher	Kate Delaney	Barbara Garnham	Peter Harney	Wenna Hills
Sally Lamerton	Lorna Lane	Jennie Leighton	Doreen Manning	Tim Page
John Palmer	Kathryn Palmer	Angela Pendlebury	Lisa Randell	Mirian Salman
Val Skinner	Judith Taylor	Joyce Theaker	Eve Tudgay	Vanessa Weaver
Elaine White	Lesley Wrangmore			

2. Minutes of the last AGM

It was proposed by Sandra Tucker and seconded by John Ewer that the Minutes of the 2003 AGM be approved as a true record. All in favour.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chairman's Report

“Welcome to our AGM. It is good to see so many of you here on this miserable night. You will be pleased to know that we have changed things slightly this year so that the business will not take so long. That leaves more time for eating and drinking!

At the end of this most successful season there are inevitably lots of people to thank. Firstly we have four people who are retiring from the committee. They are Kate Reeves, Katie Emsley, John Hicks, and John Ewer. As I have said many times before, our society relies heavily on the fact that people are ready to serve on the committee and volunteer for jobs, and so we are very grateful to those retiring members of the committee. We have four willing (I think!) replacements but it was touch and go at one time. However, those new members of the committee will be Lorna Lane, Jill Brown, Francis Neale and Catherine Bennett.

Your committee has unanimously elected Julia as a successor to Angela Sinton and I would like to thank her for the amazing way she took over half way through the season and just got on with things. It was no mean feat to take over when she did and she has done a great job.

There are people who help behind the scenes who are not on the committee. Dick Skinner does a great job with the newsletters and the programmes. It is a time-consuming job especially when he has to keep on reminding the chairman that she has not made her contribution to the newsletter yet!

This year, Tim has taken over the printing and distribution of concert tickets, introducing a new system which seems to have worked very well. We certainly sold more tickets before the day of the concert than

previously - the tenors taking the prize for selling all their tickets and more. An extra effort has been made by members to sell tickets and this is most gratifying. We shall continue the new system next season and Tim is grateful for the way people have responded. It is only through our efforts that we sell the majority of the tickets and ensure guaranteed income. I thank Tim for being so enthusiastic and hope he will continue next season.

Two things that seem to crop up in every report I have made so far, I am afraid I am going to repeat. First, fundraising. We need to keep up our efforts – every little helps. This year, Katie, with some excellent letter writing, managed to secure two sizeable donations, but we can't rely on this every year. The committee organises several specific fund raising events each year but there is nothing to stop any member of the society organising an event if they think they could help. Please let the committee know.

At this point I would like to thank Liz and Ros for their hard work on the sales stall. They can be relied on to have something for sale each week and it is a steady source of income. Thank you both – we have a little gift for you both to show our appreciation. Thanks also to all the people who have helped with coffee. This also is a steady flow of income.

Second, I would like to mention membership. Once again I would make a plea to you all to invite new members. We only had 58 people singing in the concert on Saturday. I know some people had good reasons why they could not be there, but it would be good if our membership were in the mid 70's. Tell them what a great time we have at rehearsal, tell them that we are very friendly and tell them that we sing more interesting music than any other choral society! If we had lots of new members it would certainly increase the variety of works we could sing in the winter concert.

Finally, I come to the most important 'thank you' of the evening. I am sure you will agree with me that we have had an extremely happy and fulfilling season and this is due in no small part to Ian. Our rehearsals have been good fun whilst being quite a steep learning curve but I feel that we have increased in confidence throughout the season. Ian has guided us each week with patience and a humour. I hope that I speak for all of us when I say that Saturday's concert was most exciting. All musicians appeared unbelievably calm on Saturday afternoon, and this set the tone for the concert. We were ready! Having been in this choir for quite some time I have, on occasions, seen something quite different! Ian – we have loved every minute of this season and we hope you have too. We look forward to next season with anticipation."

5. Treasurer's Report

"Copies of the provisional balance sheet for the 2004 accounts have been provided [Appendix I to the minutes]. There are still more details to be finalized – money from the AGM cheese & wine and raffle, and the Amberley Christmas concert.

We started the year in a very healthy situation (£2,219.69) but, like me, most of the committee has spent the year anxiously awaiting the Autumn Concert and the expenditure it brought and trying to compensate for this through more fundraising. It was not a situation I would recommend, to feel dependent on fundraising, since, as a small choral society, we do need to live within our means. And I am glad we have ended the year in the black. We have done so well on our fundraising this year (see Appendix I), with many thanks to all involved. Definitely an excellent effort and one which we need to repeat next year. The society has done exceptionally well from donations this year - £250 from Renishaws, £250 from Magnox (British Nuclear Group) and £400 from an anonymous source. Tax refunds were also up (£349.46) since a few more members had filled in the form, and I was able to collect Gift Aid from the £400 anonymous donation. Interest was healthy, with November and December to be added, due to use of the Lloyds TSB Business Instant Access Account. We have had a good number of members (65).

The Summer Concert income was £875.10, expenditure £415.00 = Profit of £460.10 (2003 £315.55).

The Autumn Concert income was £1,102.50, expenditure £4,356.01 = Loss of £3,253.51 (2003 £1,940.75).

So I hand over a satisfactory amount of money for the Choral Society to my successor, with the knowledge that next year's November concert should be less expensive. This, combined with continued good fundraising (as we may not receive such healthy donations again), is essential in order to keep our reserve money built up for future years."

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her report. On the Treasurer's recommendation, it was proposed by Sandra Tucker and seconded by Dick Skinner that the annual subscription be increased by £1 to £39 (prompt payment) and £40 (late payment). The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Conductor's Report

"I suppose I started my tenure as Conductor of the Society with at least one advantage: I had been lucky enough to work with you before as occasional deputy. But this only underlined the sense of tradition and expectation you had of your Musical Director, so it was with some trepidation that I began in March. How would some Johnny-come-sometimes-and-go-again fit in week by week? Well, that is still a voyage of discovery, but I can certainly report with delight that I have been warmly welcomed. My ways, as I said at the outset, must inevitably be different from Michael's but I hope we both have the joy of making music together at the heart of it, in the great tradition of your Founder.

To launch into a new season with the world premiere performance of my *Jubilate* was an act of faith on your part. I like to think it was vindicated; many of you seemed to enjoy working on it, and the final performance was a great joy to the composer! I suspect the Handel Chandos Anthem was again something new to most of you and I thought the performance stunning, but even more enjoyable were the rehearsals on it. It is hard to say much new in the Vivaldi *Gloria* but I think we managed a fine festive performance with some very accomplished choral singing, both loud and soft!

As to *Hiawatha* – well, I think we turned an Autumn concert into an Indian Summer, with a brave reinterpretation of a work out of favour. I have no reservation in thinking we couldn't try better! There was, of course, no squawking, and no comb is needed to tease out all the great bits. Seriously, I was delighted with the choir, soloists, and orchestra alike; all contributed to a memorable evening. Chris Monk, the baritone soloist, said to me he thought I was smugly comfortable in front of the orchestra; I hope it was confidence rather than smugness, but yes I was – it was a great feeling after some six years. I thank you all for taking on a work which not many local societies would; I think it is an underestimated piece whose time will return.

So we look to the future. There are carols of course which will be fun, and the lighter delights of Richard Rodgers, John Rutter, and Percy Grainger in the Spring will not be easy to bring off convincingly; there will be some hard rehearsal needed. The Haydn Nelson Mass is pretty well known, but it is a wonderful piece and I hope the Bliss Pastoral will captivate you all as it has me in the past.

Such a demanding season needs real commitment. I know I have that from most of you, and I do thank you for that. If I have one observation which has disappointed me a little this year, it has been the absence from rehearsals in September and October. I appreciate many of us are of an age that can take holidays outside the bonds of schooldom, but it is a pity to start a rehearsal with one tenor and half the soprano section, as I recall we did one evening. That was of course the exception and the final concert was a joy, but if we are to undertake different and challenging music we will need to make use of all our short season, with Tyndale Choral as our first priority on a Monday evening.

I love standing in front of you waving my arms, offering suggestions, illustrating tunelessly in a conductorly sort of way, bullying! But none of this could happen without the backup of a well-run Society. I hope we all realize how lucky we are in having James Corbett as our rehearsal accompanist; we could not achieve half of what we do without that ever-present support. And we wouldn't sing much without music in front of us, so I am really grateful to Doreen Manning for tracking these obscure pieces down and organizing them for us; I have done my stint as Librarian to various choirs and I know how much hard work is involved. I have separately thanked Diggory Seacome for the excellent band we had last week. Finally, this is all possible through the hard work of your Committee. I thank them, as Anne has already done, but there is one person that holds everything together and that is your Chairman. The chairman's job in an organisation such as this is hard work at the best of times, but a new Conductor brings added headaches and problems. Anne has been a tower of strength in this first season for me, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart. Please keep it up! It is good to see that many of you will join me in the carol sing, and I look forward to that. Finally, to all of you, thank you for this season and please come back for the next!"

7. Election of Officers

Nominations had been received as follows:

Chairman	Anne Shipton
Hon. Treasurer	Lorna Lane
Hon. Secretary	Julia O'Connor-Beach

It was proposed by Marion Miller and seconded by Jacquelin Hill that the above officers be elected to serve on the Committee for the year commencing 1 January 2005. The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Election of Committee Members

Nominations had been received as follows:

Concert Manager	Catherine Bennett
Publicity/Printing Secretary	Jill Brown
Patrons Secretary	Frances Neale

It was proposed by Wendy Richardson and seconded by Mavis Church that the above be elected to the Committee for a period of three years commencing 1 January 2005. The motion was carried unanimously.

9. 2005 – 45th Birthday of the Society

Previous milestones of the Choral Society have been marked with formal dinners, to which members, partners, past members, etc., were invited. It was the general feeling of the meeting that a less formal gathering might be appropriate for the 45th year – leaving a more prestigious occasion for the half century. A garden party was suggested. The Chairman invited members to give the matter further consideration, but commented that a decision would have to be made early in the new year.

10. Any Other Business

Concert Programmes: it was agreed that the membership roll would be included, if space was available.

Day of Concert: Jacquelin Hill commented that, with setting up the staging in the Church in the morning, then a full rehearsal in the afternoon, followed by the concert itself and the returning of the Church to its former condition, the day was very long and tiring. Jacquelin enquired whether the chorus' participation in the rehearsal might be shortened. Ian Harrold appreciated the difficulty, but felt that the full rehearsal with the chorus and orchestra was necessary. Ian promised to keep repeats to a minimum, however.

Michael Power: A letter had been received from Michael, saying that he could not attend the concert due to a singing engagement, but wishing every success.

Wotton Church – Lack of Staging: Derek Manning asked if the arrangements at St Mary's might be improved to enable the basses and tenors to see, to be seen, and to be heard better. The Chairman explained that this had been discussed at the July Committee meeting, and that an extra visit to the Church would be made to look for ways to improve the situation.

2005 Concert Dates: These were confirmed as Saturday, 16th July and Saturday, 12th November. First rehearsal would be on Monday, 21st March.

11. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31 December 2004, Provisional Account Statement

2003		Receipts	2004		2003	Payments	2004
2149.00	(60)	Members subs	2421.00	(65)	820.00	Conductor	1200.00
412.00	(20)	Friends & Patrons	396.00	(17)	400.00	Accompanist	500.00
					500.00	Rehearsal Hall	440.00
		<i>Fundraising</i>			158.78	NFMS Insurance	157.87
172.00		Sales stall	161.35		8.75	Music purchase/ hire	41.80
228.96	Net	Tea and coffee	237.62		40.00	Piano tuning	
140.66		Cheese and wine	65.88		50.00	Piano removals	
71.00		Raffles	132.35		80.00	Hire of Town Hall/Parish Ctr	15.00
37.00		Quizzes	85.00		65.00	Newsletter	74.00
155.00		Donations	900.00		10.00	Misc.	26.14
9.00		Mugs	15.00		31.92	Admin.	31.98
115.50		Cake stall	104.00		124.43	AGM Hospitality	
73.35		Jumble sale			12.50	Xmas cards P&P	5.00
		Harrold CD	179.00		189.76	Photographs	
		Town Hall teas	161.85		10.00	Alcohol licence	10.00
177.69		Tax refunds	349.46			<i>Summer Concert</i>	
27.28		Interest	32.10		110.00	Soloists	175.00
153.44		Photos of choir			100.00	Organist	100.00
88.70		Music fund	111.00	Prov.	63.50	Church	55.00
		Dursley Town Trust	30.00		73.00	Tickets, progs, advertising	40.00
		<i>Summer Concert</i>			52.69	Refreshments net	36.50
555.50		Ticket sales	688.70		11.10	Sundries	8.50
50.40		Programme sales	35.00				
119.94		Refreshment sales	151.40			<i>Autumn Concert</i>	
		<i>Autumn Concert</i>			425.00	Soloists	350.00
996.90		Ticket sales	991.05		2278.00	Instrumentalists	3670.22
46.60		Programme sales Inc. CT leaflet	126.45		153.25	Church hire	156.10
		<i>Amberley concert</i>			93.00	Tickets, progs, advertising	115.70
246.00		Ticket sales net			25.00	Staging	25.00
					10.00	Sundries	38.99
						<i>Amberley</i>	
					40.00	Organist	30.00
					22.50	Advertising	
					20.00	SHS Nov 2002 concert	
£6,025.92		Total receipts	£7,374.21		£5,978.18	Total payments	£7,302.80
		<i>Account balances</i>			2171.95	Balance b/f	2219.69
		Lloyds TSB Current	1039.31		6025.92	Total receipts	7374.21
		Lloyds TSB Bus. Inst.	1251.79		5978.18	Total payments	7302.80
		Total	2291.10		2219.69	Balance c/f	2291.10