

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY  
HELD AT 8.50 PM ON MONDAY, 6 APRIL 2009, IN DURSLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

**1. Present:** (taken from rehearsal register)

Lorna Lane (Treasurer); Julia O'Connor-Beach (Secretary); Ian Harrold (Musical Director).

Jim Austin Liz Barnes Catherine Bennett Brian Bolsher Jill Brown Mike Chambers Mavis Church Jenny Coles Jenni Culverwell Sue Davies Pam Davis Diane Freeland Anne Glanville Joy Green Annette Heylings Angie Hill	Jacquelin Hill Diana Hobbs Sheelagh Hudleston Estelle James Monica James Maggie Jordan Brian Kitching Sally Lamerton Rosemary Lea Christine Leeding Colin Levine Margaret Lloyd Alastair Macleod Angela MacNair Lynette Magnone Derek Manning	Doreen Manning Len Miller Marion Miller Brian Neale Frances Neale Anne Nuttall John Palmer Angela Pendlebury Julie Phillips Lisa Randell Kathie Rebbeck Kate Reeves Wendy Richardson Rosemary Robinson Miriam Salman Audrey Sewell	Dick Skinner Val Skinner Joyce Theaker Wendy Thomas Sandra Tucker Eve Tudgay Ros Wakefield Sue Walshaw Geoff Whiley Elaine White Mary Wright Andrew Young Elizabeth Young  (61 members)
Apologies for absence:			
Niall Bird Fiona Chandler Jean Dabinett John Ewer Glenis Ewer	Shelagh Fitzarthur Christine Gourd Jenny Hamley Peter Harney Claire Harrison	Marjorie Harrison Betty Hebditch John Hicks Carole McDonald Liz Rymer	Barbara Sanderson Anne Shipton Vanessa Weaver Mark Wright-Davies (19 members)

In John Ewer's absence, Dick Skinner had kindly agreed to chair the meeting, and was thanked by the Secretary.

**2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

**It was proposed** by Lisa Randell and seconded by Sandra Tucker that the Minutes of the 2008 AGM be approved and signed as a true record. All in favour.

**3. Chairman's Address**

The Chairman had reported on the 2008 activities in the Spring newsletter, and therefore confined himself to the following message which was read to the meeting:

"Greetings from Madeira. We chose this week as it meant missing one rehearsal only and, unfortunately, the AGM was chosen for this date. Holidays in Madeira run Monday to Monday for UK, Wednesday to Wednesday for Germany etc due to the small airport.

Following our acquisition of the new staging and extra members, we have shown our ambition to make a real mark on the County music scene and our liaison with other choirs is very encouraging. However, we have lost some singers over the winter and need to encourage replacements as well as fund raise during the year. I believe that we are all very supportive of each other, probably due, in part, to the very positive response from our established singers towards our recruits from the ABC course. I am therefore certain that we can go forward with confidence, and be in a very good position to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday next year."

**4. Reports and Accounts**

The documentation required by the Charity Commission, viz The Trustees' Report, the Independent Examiner's Report, the Statement of Financial Activities, and the Balance Sheet, which had already been approved by the Trustees, had been distributed in advance of the meeting by the Treasurer. **It was proposed** by Jacquelin Hill and seconded by Ros Wakefield that the audited accounts be adopted. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **5. Proposed Budget 2009**

The Treasurer had distributed the proposed budget for 2009 activity, and commented as follows:

- Summer concert – the tickets are £8, not £10 and this figure will be revised accordingly
- Subscriptions – the budgeted figure of 90 will not be attained, due to the loss of members over the winter. This figure will be revised downwards.
- Friends – this should read, “10 single at £25...”

There were no further questions or comments from the meeting. The budget is a management tool, constantly under review by the committee. It will be revised throughout the year to take account of any decisions taken by the committee (e.g., additional rehearsals, workshops, etc), to ensure that the society remains on a sound financial footing.

## **6. Auditors and Auditors' remuneration**

The appointment of an independent examiner was to be left to the new Treasurer, when appointed.

## **7. Conductor's Report**

Ian had written on the subject of the past year's activities in the Spring newsletter, and asked the membership to take that article as his Report.

Ian announced that he had notified the committee of his decision to retire as Tyndale's Musical Director at the end of the 2011 season (to give the Trustees time to plan for the recruitment process) and that he had been asked to make this known to the membership. Ian recalled that, when he retired and moved to Gloucestershire, it had been his intention not to conduct but to sing for others. In the event, he had been encouraged by Michael Power to take up the baton again, this time for Tyndalers. Ian said how much he had enjoyed working with the choir, but had decided to leave Tyndale at the end of the 2011 season, conducting the programmes which have already been planned. Ian will by then be approaching his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and plans to move to the West Midlands to be nearer his family members.

On behalf of the membership, Dick Skinner thanked Ian for the years we have so far enjoyed, and for the years we have yet to have under his baton.

## **8. Confirmation of Officers**

It was proposed by Sue Davies and seconded by Lisa Randell that John Ewer be appointed Chairman and Julia O'Connor-Beach be appointed Secretary for the term of one year. Motion carried unanimously.

Dick Skinner explained that Lorna Lane had given a full year's notice of her intention to step down as Treasurer of the society, having completed 4 years in the post, to allow for a smooth handover to a successor. In spite of repeated announcements, this very important post had attracted no volunteers/nominations from the membership, which was extremely disappointing.

Monica James offered to take up the post, but indicated that her business workload (as an Accountant) was such that she would require a deal of assistance, and could not guarantee that she would always be available for events/meetings. It was agreed to leave it to the committee to liaise further with Monica, and Monica was warmly thanked for her loyal gesture.

Dick Skinner then thanked Lorna on behalf of the membership for the excellent work she had done as Treasurer, and Lorna was presented with an orchid houseplant as a token of the society's gratitude.

## **9. Appointment of Charity Trustees**

Doreen Manning had retired from her position of Librarian after 27 years of service, and Audrey Sewell from her position as representative to NFMS, now Making Music, after 20 years of service. Both ladies were thanked for their extraordinary contribution to the society, and were each presented with a gift (Royal Doulton vase/fruit bowl) and a bouquet of flowers.

It was proposed by Angela Pendlebury and seconded by Elaine White that Lynette Magnone be confirmed in her position as Librarian and Julie Phillips be confirmed in her position as Representative to Making Music. Holders of these positions are Trustees *ex officio* (trans. “by virtue of their office”). Motion carried unanimously.

## **10. Section Representatives 2009**

As there was no policy in place regarding the appointment, period of tenure, or role of the section representatives, the committee had felt it desirable/helpful to draw up a 'job description' for the position, which had been described in the Spring newsletter and posted on the noticeboard. The sections were therefore invited to nominate their representatives for 2009. This was intended to be achieved informally, and it certainly was. The existing representatives were nominated by their sections to continue. Bass: Derek Manning; Tenor: John Ewer; Alto: Wendy Richardson; Soprano: Marion Miller.

## **11. CIO – Charitable Incorporated Organisation status (arising from AGM 2008)**

The Secretary reported that the legislation was still not on the statute book. When it is, the committee will evaluate the position and make its recommendation to the membership at the appropriate time.

## **12. Employment contracts and recruiting procedure (arising from AGM 2008)**

The Secretary reported that this is currently being considered by the Trustees. This will be in place before the search for Ian's successor commences. The Trustees will consider sending a delegate to the Making Music AGM and conference 2009, which will focus on musical directors, recruitment, the relationship with the choir, contracts and negotiations etc.

## **13. Staging – Report on stability/safety concerns**

The Secretary reported as follows:

The rear row side rails had clashed with stone carvings on the pillars; Maltbury Staging had completed the site survey themselves, and therefore took responsibility for this problem. New rails will be provided.

Brian Neale and Brian Kitching (engineers by profession) had raised some concerns regarding stability of the staging, which had been forwarded to Maltbury Staging. Although Maltbury Staging said they would take issue with some of the concerns raised, they did not wish to enter into protracted discussion when the fixes were comparatively simple. Maltbury Staging will provide additional bracing at no further cost. They will also send a technician to assist with the rigging of the staging in November, so that any further questions can be dealt with on the spot.

## **14. Other Business**

### **14a Summer Concert**

Jacquelin Hill asked if the Summer Concert could be performed twice, as it is a profitable event. The committee will consider this option.

### **14b Christmas Event**

Marion Miller asked what was to become of the Christmas event. The secretary reported that the membership consultation (56 responses) showed that 35 members were interested in singing something simple, somewhere, at Christmas. The committee will consider the options open to us. Ian commented that achieving a sound balance was the hardest task.

### **14c Summer Break Length**

The membership consultation had shown that equal numbers wish to have a long 6 week break, as wish it to be shorter (ie, 4 weeks). The committee will consider this conundrum.

### **14d 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations**

51 members (of whom 20 wish to bring a guest; official 'Friends' are also welcome to attend) are in favour of a party of some description, with food and home-grown entertainment, and the majority is willing to spend £10 for tickets. Suggestions for affordable pleasant venues are now needed.

## **15. Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, Dick Skinner thanked the Secretary and the meeting was declared closed at 9.35 pm.