



Minutes of Paisley Philharmonic Choir AGM

23rd May 2023 Paisley Grammar School 7.30pm

Apologies:

J Armit, I MacDonald, A Winch, R Beattie, M Habeshaw, J Russell, J Martin

Present:

L Dinnett, E Dinnett, A Graham, M Smith, I Russell, M Doole, M Dunn, B Marks, L Anderson, M Russell, K Doherty, L Ramsay, M Nocher, C Gillespie, M Marks, M Murney, M Smith, E Paterson, A Wilson, V Williams, A McKenzie, C Raydon, R Ward, A Burns, L Docherty, D McDonald, J Blair, R Ferrier, Derrick Morgan

Minutes of last year's AGM:

Proposed by Anna Wilson and seconded by Anne Mackenzie

It was noted that the previous minutes seemed to suggest Clotilde Raydon was new to committee, when she had in fact been a member for a few years prior to this.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Marks presented the first half of the accounts with an overall view of income and outgoings over the year.

Incoming accounted for	£12,016.15
Payments made	£14,332.12
This resulted in a net outflow of	-£2,315.97
Final balance on 31 st March 2023	£7,979.16 (inc £100 cash float)

He pointed out that the choir received £716.25 in gift aid so made it very worthwhile for any members paying tax to participate in the scheme.

Edna Paterson continued the finance report with a summary of the concerts. We began the season with a concert in November at Methodist Central Halls

Income from this was	£1,230
Expenditure	£1,323.98
Overall deficit	£93.98

Xmas concert was also in the Methodist Central Hall

Income	£1,736.02
Expenditure	£964.88
Overall surplus	£771.14

March was a bigger concert and was a joint performance with TCMCS in Paisley Abbey with a professional orchestra which made finances a bit trickier as all costs were split evenly between the choirs.

Income	£2,243.37
Expenditure	£3,764.22
Overall deficit	£1,520.85

(These figures are for PPC only)

It was thought that this type of joint event might take place again in the future although having experienced how things worked this year, finances may be worked out differently next time.

The overall figure for the year with regards to concert finance was a deficit of £843.69

The finance report was proposed by Linda Ramsay and seconded by Clotilde Raydon.

Both Edna and Bill were concerned at the level of choir income and felt that this needed to be addressed and an increase in subscriptions would help in the first instance. The committee had previously agreed to a suggestion of increasing the fees to £140 for all, (except those in full time education or unemployed for which fees would be waived) This was put to the members and was agreed by the majority. There were various options looked at as to how the subscription could be paid. Some people suggested perhaps a monthly direct debit but since the choir funds really needed cash at the start of the year to pay for fees and rehearsal venues it wasn't really thought to be a viable option. It was agreed that the full sum of £140 should either be paid at the beginning of the choir session in September, or split with two payments of £70 being made, one in September then another in January. Anyone with any queries about payments or if they would like to come to a different arrangement are encouraged to speak in confidence to either Bill or Edna who will be happy to help.

Musical Director (Derrick) and Accompanist (Tim) fees were also addressed and it was felt that we would like to offer them an increase this year with a view to perhaps a bigger increase next year if funds allow. It was therefore agreed that we would increase both their rehearsal fees by £5 per week. Concert fees would be £250 (Derrick) and £175 (Tim) This was proposed by Avril Graham and seconded by Anne McKenzie.

Musical Director's Report

Derrick was happy that he had a good first year with us.

We kicked off the season in November with a concert in the Methodist Central Hall with two great soloists and was an evening of Handel and Vivaldi.

Next was the Xmas concert, again in the Methodist Halls and was a selection of Carols old and new from the Carols for choirs book.

The March concert with TCMCS was also a great success, the orchestra performed well as did everyone and it was nice to have a large audience and lovely surroundings.

The final concert in May was held in Holy Trinity and St Barnabas church and was very well received. We had an excellent tenor soloist courtesy of the late Jim Forson who sponsors a student studying at the Conservatoire each year. One of the conditions of this sponsorship is that they perform free of charge at one of our concerts as a soloist. Jim made provision for this to continue after his death and his wife will fulfill this legacy each year in his absence.

Derrick had chatted with Patricia McMahon (our Honorary President) who was at the concert and had volunteered her services to take a singing workshop perhaps next season with the choir which Derrick thought may be advantageous.

Finally, we must address recruitment this year as choir numbers seem to be getting lower.

This should be well in advance of our return date. The committee will get together over the summer to think about what can be done but it's important that every member of the choir tries to encourage new members along.

Chairmans Report

Rhona felt this year hasn't been as testing as previous and apart from our membership numbers things are beginning to get back to normal. It has been a successful year which included the challenge of a larger work which may not have appealed to everyone but the other concerts made up for that and provided something for everyone throughout the season.

Rhona thanked Derrick for taking over as MD and felt we seem to be getting used to each other now with Derrick bringing the best out in us. She also acknowledged Tim's contribution as accompanist for which we are very grateful.

As always, the committee kept things running smoothly throughout the year and at the last AGM there were 4 new members who have slotted in well and introduced fresh ideas.

Bill volunteered his services as treasurer with a view to taking over from Edna last year however they have decided to continue working the accounts between them as this was a particularly complicated year with finances and until they are both happy, they will continue as a team. Rhona thanked both for looking after the choir finances especially to Edna who has kept meticulous records for the last 8 years and for her help in familiarising Bill with our accounting systems.

Edna will also continue dealing with the school let as well as the concert tickets which is much appreciated.

Thanks to Valerie for keeping the membership records current and to Linda for sending out flowers and cards on behalf of the choir. She has also agreed to take on the role of concert manager.

Anne Mckenzie has volunteered to take over as President/Chairman, Rhona will help out until she is fully in place.

Clotilde has been responsible for choir flyer/tickets/posters/programmes for the last few years and is doing an amazing job. She will continue to do this and remain on committee, her work is very much appreciated.

Thanks also to Anna who has kept us going in providing for social events over many years but who is standing down now, also thanks to Muriel and Judith who stayed on committee after last AGM to help out but who will also be standing down this year.

Huge thanks to Ray for being the librarian for a very long time and also for housing much of the music in her loft. She has been weeding out old, scrappy music over the last few months, disposing of it and shaping our music library for a new librarian to take over. It has been a huge job for which we are extremely grateful and over the summer she will be placing it in our new storage facility at finding your feet charity offices in Paisley. She is happy to help introduce the new librarian to the system and show them the ropes.

Rhona thanked Martin for all his help with standing in for Derrick, Tim, opening and closing church halls etc. and we very much appreciate all he does.

Thanks were again given to everyone involved with the running of the choir and for helping make Rhona's job a bit easier.

Appointment of new committee members

Some new committee members are required with the previous ones standing down.

Volunteers were Morag Smith, Rebecca Ward, John Armit and Doris Macdonald with Isla Ginnelly taking on the social media role.

Some of the more specific jobs have not been assigned yet such as secretary, librarian and vice president but will need to be decided at the first committee meeting.

AOCB

In her absence, Anna conveyed Ray our librarians thanks to Muriel, Judith and Rhona for their help in assisting her in consolidating the music library and disposing of old music. There is still a bit to be done however she is hopeful by the end of the summer all of the library will be in its new position and ready to hand over to a new librarian/s at the start of the next session.

Anna also thanked Rhona for her long service as Chairperson before handing over to Anne Mckenzie next session.

Martin queried the possibility of using a smaller hall for rehearsals due to hearing issues for some people however the school let is so much cheaper than other hall costs, this was the governing factor. We will check if there are any other suitable rooms available when we return in September.

Becky volunteered to set up a plan to help people read music if there was a demand for this and which may encourage new people to join. There seemed to be a few members interested at the meeting so worth looking into when we return.

The return date for rehearsals is Tuesday the 5th of September in Paisley Grammar School.