



**Annual General Meeting
St Andrews Chorus
Friday 26th February 2016 in Physics Department University of St Andrews**

MINUTES

Chair: Eric Priest President
Present: Musical Director, 135 Chorus Members including Office Bearers of the Committee
Apologies: David Hughes-Hallett, Liz Lucas

1. Minutes of AGM 20th February 2015: were circulated electronically prior to the AGM and placed on the Chorus website. These were accepted as a true record.

2. President's Report:

The President Eric Priest opened his report with a varied collection of photographs taken throughout the year, including many lively occasions singing and fundraising together.

- The Chorus is thriving and the financial position strong thanks to the hard and dedicated work of the treasurers: Barbara Crowe and Deirdre Mansbridge. Annual running costs are around £25,000 and generated income is approximately: £10k from subscriptions, £10k from ticket sales and £5k from fundraising. Fundraising included Barbara Crowe's innovations such as The Great Bake Sale and Give as You Live, which Eric explained in detail how to access. Forty five members have raised £200 in just a few months with GasYL.
- Fun fundraising coffee mornings have been organised by Lindsey Sandford, Sheila Blair and Margaret Cardno, with music provided by Victor, Emil and the Gilbert and Sullivan singers. Thanks were extended to all the enthusiastic stallholders, kitchen, washing up and serving teams; contributing to raising over £1000 each time in just 2 hours. The next coffee morning is on Saturday 12th March and active support by as many members as possible for this in many different ways was encouraged.
- Eric felt that one aim of the Society is to have a friendly and vibrant Chorus. Student members contribute greatly to this and Eric hoped that students would graduate with a wish to join a similar society wherever they were and continue to enjoy choral singing. Particular thanks were given to the 6 Choral Scholars: Hannah, Melissa, Seonaid, Kristel, Peter and Emil. The Chorus greatly enjoy singing under the inspirational direction of Michael Downes, most ably supported by our wonderful accompanists Marilyn Boulton and Walter Blair.
- The programme last year included, in April 2015, The Apostles by Edward Elgar and in November Haydn's Creation. The year finished with a Christmas concert conducted by Gill Craig, and carols in the Scores on Christmas Eve. Brahms's German Requiem will be performed on 23rd April 2016 at 7:30pm, a work that the Chorus also performed in 1997 and 2006.
- Announcing the programme for next year, Eric generated great excitement from the Chorus with Handel's Jephtha on, Nov 19th 2016 7pm, and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Walton's Belshazzar's Feast on April 22nd 2017, 7:30pm.
- Eric concluded his report by thanking the Chorus committee for their hard work behind the scenes. 5 members would be standing down: Ann Kearns, Sheila Blair, Mary Popple, Paula Tyack and Darya Owen. Eric expressed his sincere thanks for all their contributions, in particular that of Sheila who, over many years, had served tirelessly in countless roles.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Barbara Crowe presented her report with reference to the financial statement:-

St Andrews Chorus Income and Expenditure Account: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

- All funds are unrestricted, which means that we do not have any restrictions placed on us as to how we can spend the money. In addition, no remuneration or expenses were paid to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee.
- There has been an overall loss of £8,402 for the year 2014 -2015 :- total receipts £27,612 and total payments £36,014. Part of this deficit was a planned loss for the Elgar concert. (Autumn concert Mozart Requiem made a loss of £3,124 and the Elgar Spring concert a loss of £9,346. Therefore, total concert deficit £12,470.) Reserve funds had been built up to £21,116 to undertake such a big concert. However, there had been an additional unexpected £3000 expenditure to cover the cost of a new piano.
- Current reserve funds in the bank are £12,714 and will be £10,800 after payment of the November Younger Hall hire.
- Barbara highlighted the following income areas: subscriptions are up from £10,116 to £10,350. Friends and Donations are up from £562 to £904. Grants have gone down to £450 and this is likely to be the pattern in the future.
- Barbara aims to maintain a buffer of £15,000 reserve funds, increasing annually by £1000 to build up again for a future big concert. Therefore active fundraising by all Chorus members was essential.
- There were no questions from the floor
- Barbara concluded her report by thanking Deirdre, Assistant Treasurer, for her huge input of work and also Pam our independent examiner of the accounts who gives her services free to the Chorus.

4. Election of Office Bearers:

- It was noted that under the constitution that all office bearers: President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and ordinary members are required to stand for re-election annually. At this point Vice President Richard Burns temporarily took the chair in order to elect the President. Richard took the opportunity to voice the Chorus' huge appreciation of Eric's enthusiasm and tireless work on behalf of the Chorus. Eric agreed to stand (possibly, he said, for his last year) and was re-elected unanimously to loud applause as President. Proposed Richard Burns and seconded Elizabeth Sinclair
- Richard Burns was re-elected as Non-Student Vice President, proposed by Eric Priest and seconded by Sue Armstrong.
- Peter Sutton was re-elected as Joint Student Vice President, proposed by Mary Popple and seconded by Sue Armstrong.
- Meg Hyland was re-elected as Joint Student Vice President, proposed by Margaret Cardno and seconded by Alastair Ramsay
- Barbara Crowe was re-elected as Treasurer, proposed by Deirdre Mansbridge and seconded by Richard Burns.
- Secretary post:- Pret Houston was proposed by Elizabeth Sinclair and seconded by Heleen Plaisier. She was duly elected as Secretary of the Chorus
- Six committee members were willing to stand for re-election as ordinary members of the committee. Proposed by Eric Priest and seconded by Richard Burns they were duly elected.
 - David Kennedy: Librarian -
 - Deirdre Mansbridge: Assistant Treasurer -
 - Robin Evetts: member of Publicity and Concert Management teams
 - Heleen Plaisier: Assistant Secretary
 - Lindsey Sandford: Membership Secretary and Coffee Morning Convenor
 - Elizabeth Sinclair: Friends and Minutes Secretary
- The following four members of the Chorus were willing to stand for election and were elected as ordinary members of the committee.
 - Kristel Knudsen as Student Representative proposed Eric Priest, seconded Deirdre Mansbridge
 - David Hughes-Hallett proposed by David Kennedy, seconded by Barbara Crowe.
 - Vicky Turner proposed by Peter Sutton, seconded by Meg Hyland.
 - Sandra Wahl proposed by Heleen Plaisier, seconded by Richard Burns.

5. AOB None

Following the election and re-election of Office Bearers and committee members, there being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:35pm.

Elizabeth Sinclair Minutes
26th February 2016