



# St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 25th November 2019 7:00 pm  
Three Kings Fornham All Saints

- 1.1 **Apologies for Absence:** None
- 1.2 **Present:** Rob Bream (Chair), Ross Van de Zande, Ian Robertson, Ivor Thulborn, Andrew Conquest, Mark Jefferson, Nick Gane, Kevin Farrell, David Peck, Andrew Mackenzie, Den Cartwright, Ed Wilson, Justin Ballam and Malcolm Lodge (Sec.)
- 2.0 **Acceptance of Minutes of Last Meeting:** Minutes of the meeting held on 21/10/19 were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
- 3.0 **Matters Arising:** No Matters Arising
- 4.0 **Section Leader's Reports: AM, DC, EW, JB**
- 4.1 **AM** (Bass Section) Nothing to report, everyone OK.
- 4.2 **DC** (Second Tenor Section) 15 members in the section, average attendance at rehearsal 9, and average concert attendance 8. Barclay Dutton has not attended a rehearsal for over 12 months and **DC** believes he will not return as he doesn't like driving at night. Unfortunately he does not live close to any choir member so cannot get transport to rehearsals. He is still paying his subscriptions.
- 4.21 **DC** said he was continuing to get the Choir's archive material digitised and was open to suggestions for the best way to store the material. Use of Dropbox, storing on memory sticks or even storing on the Choir's website were all mentioned as possible ways to store the information. **RVdZ** said he would speak to Viv in relation to storing on the website. **RVdZ**
- 4.3 **EW** (Top Tenor Section) Nothing to report, everyone OK.
- 4.4 **JB** (Baritone Section)
- 4.41 **JB** asked if there was going to be any music sung in German for the Austria Tour. **MJ** responded that he was hopeful there would be but nothing could be rehearsed until the recording at the Apex was complete on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
- 4.42 **JB** asked if new members could be put next to a competent member of the choir. The committee agreed this should happen and believed most of the time it did. They were in full agreement that the Section Leader should ensure this happens.
- 5.0 **Music Team Report: MJ**
- 5.1 **MJ** felt it is important that all members use their music during rehearsals. With the choir recording on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 only a few weeks away the only music being rehearsed up to that date will be the 16 sixteen songs that have already been identified. As the music is being worked on in fine detail **MJ** believes all choir members should be using the music. **MJ** added that members who are using tablets should be using the correct apps for music so that they can make alterations if necessary. If members are only using an Adobe app they cannot do this. **MJ** said he would speak about this at the next notices during rehearsal. **MJ** added that he would like to see members using copies during all rehearsals unless requested not to.
- 6.0 **Treasurer's Report: AC**

6.1 **Funds Held:**

Current Account £31940  
Deposit Account £29458  
Sterling equivalent of Euros £153  
Total £61551

Of funds held £18565 net relates to payments in advance for the Austrian tour less the deposit paid. Our funds excluding this total £42986.

Re the Austrian tour £6500 is outstanding in relation to instalments due by the end of November (of which £3600 relates to four couples and one single who have only paid their deposits of £100 per head) - I have just issued a reminder.

The balance is struck after paying £100 deposit for the Apex re the proposed recording

We have yet to pay c£1400 Re the legal costs associated with the code of conduct and reporting to the Charities Commission . The exact amount payable has yet to be agreed.

**Fund balances**

The fund balances held at 31 March 2019 totalled £42023 of which £10,956 was allocated to a general CD fund, £10k to staging, £1000 to music, £7489 to a Travel fund and £1112 specified for the President's fund, leaving a general fund of £11466.

The proposal in the Minutes of the recording sub-committee is for us to spend c£7000, including on food and entertainment for an after party. There is sufficient in the general CD fund for this expenditure but it is a moot point as to whether it is appropriate for the food and entertainment cost of £1050 to be borne by the fund.

Also given the substantial involvement of the Music Team in the recording (and given the amount set aside for percussion)– should the budget include an additional cost for the music team?

- 6.2 The committee debated the point made by **AC** concerning the choir funding the cost of the buffet in the Apex after the recording. The committee agreed that it would be a thank you to the members for the hard work that would be put in on the recording day but decided to put it to the members at the next rehearsal for confirmation. **RB** said he would raise it at notices. It was agreed to invite partners and friends for a cost of £15 per head for the buffet. **RB**

7.0 **Concert Secretary's Report: IT**

- 7.1 The concert at the school in February 2020 is now unlikely to go ahead will know for certain in January. **IT**
- 7.2 Music for the concerts in Great Barton and Felsham, both in March are on the website as is some of the music for the Austrian Tour.
- 7.3 After discussion the date for next years Sing for Your Supper was agreed for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Horringer Community Centre (subject to availability). **IR** to check. **IR**

8.0 **Concert Manager's Report: IR**

8.1 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February will be the Choir's Annual Dinner and **IR** asked for suggestions for entertainment. After some discussion it was agreed for **RVdZ** to approach a local disco that he knows to see if they are available for that date. **IR** suggested that a red rose be given to each of the members partners. This was agreed by the committee. **RVdZ**

9.0 **Chairman's Report: RB**

9.1 Sylvia Wilson has sent some information to Tim Freathy regarding the Safeguarding Policy that needs to be in place in the event the choir has members under 18 in the choir.

9.2 The safeguarding Policy is yet to be published on the website. **RB**

9.3 **RB** said he had some new information regarding the Austrian Tour and said he would let **MJ** look at it before informing everyone coming on the tour. **RB/MJ**

9.4 **RB** asked **IT** if he would expand on the recording sub-committee meeting to the committee. **IT** said that they had met up with the recording engineer (Matt Dilley) that had been recommended and they were very impressed. Matt did say that he thought recording 16 songs in one day was optimistic but offered use of his recording studio, The Granary if the choir needed more time. The Granary is in Stapleford just south of Cambridge. Matt and **MJ** agreed it would be beneficial if Matt met and heard the choir before the recording date. A date of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December was mutually agreed and **MJ** said he would like if everyone was in agreement to have the rehearsal at the Granary. The committee agreed to this, **MJ** said he would ask the members during notices at the next rehearsal. **MJ**

9.5 There will be 3 recording sessions, 2 of 3hours and 1 of 2 ½ hours. **MJ** explained for everyone to perform to their best ability it was important to eat and drink properly. Once at the Apex everyone will be expected to stay in the building all day. Choir members will be advised to bring food based on salads with no bread or potatoes recommended, Drinks should be water or coffee and tea with no milk. **MJ** said he would also explain the dietary requirements at notices. The Recording Sub-Committee Report detailing all the timings and information will be sent to all members by **NG** . **NG**

9.6 **RB** to ask **MMVC** for a donation for the music that was forwarded to them. **RB**

9.7 Ros Pitcher will attend rehearsals on a monthly basis. **RB**

10.0 **Vice-Chairman's Report: RVdZ**

10.1 The Choir display board has been revamped.

10.2 Several CD's were sold at the last concert for the TEAR Fund Charity at St Mary's Church. The money raised was given to the charity.

11.0 **Secretary's Report: ML**

11.1 **ML** asked if the choir proposed to rehearse on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 even though the school is officially closed. **IT** said he had spoken to Tina, the school caretaker and she has agreed to open the school for the choir.

11.2 **ML** proposed that a minimum number of rehearsals should be set for the recording but the majority felt it wasn't necessary. If nearer the date of the recording any individual had missed a significant number of rehearsals the committee would address it.

12.0 **Membership Secretary's Report: NG**

12.1 Putting together folder numbers and tracing folders from ex members.

12.2 Two emails from people enquiring to join the choir.

13.1 **DP** asked **MJ** if he wanted the copies of “We’ll Rise again” distributed to the membership. **MJ** said as the only music being worked on currently would be for the recording on 25<sup>th</sup> January he would like **DP** to wait until the end of January before issuing it.

14.0 **Web Site Report: KF**

14.1 **KF** reported there had been no activity on social media regarding the choir.

15.0 **Any Other Business:**

15.1 **MJ** said it would be Simon Shirms 60th birthday on 19<sup>th</sup> December the night of Carols and Chips. He asked the committee if anything could be done to recognise this. The feeling was to see if a cake could be made in the shape of a guitar, **RVdZ** said he would try and arrange this.

**RVdZ**

16.0 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 Three Kings Fornham All Saints 7:30 pm.