



Meeting Type: Committee Meeting

Location: d:two

Date: 6th September 2022 5PM

Attendees: Committee Members

Item no.	Subject	Discussion	Agreed action	Who	When
1.	Apologies	Fiona Franks, Liz Ware, Paul Scrivens, Jenny Wager, Wendy Hawkins, Dru Ross, Mark Turner, Susan Edwards, Jo Dickson, Nicky Norminton.			
2.	Approval of previous meeting minutes for accuracy.	members introduced themselves. Page 3 Section 4 HYC have received grants Section 5 agenda clarification on fee increase required.	The minutes were approved	All	At meeting
3.	Matters arising	Pricing for part years. Approached by member who was not able to sing for the whole year and asked for a price for one term. £80/term as if you joined late. Spring term should be £120 stack it to incentivise the whole year being £150. Committee is happy with the pricing strategy but paying for individual terms should be the exception not the rule. Meeting with Nigel White from Higgs with an open agenda to discuss rate, process and would they do a special golden programme for us, do not have final date. AL suggested Cecilia could sign some of the programmes. Do they want to sponsor us? Rate or other benefits to be discussed.			

		<p>AL loves Higgs and finds them patient, accurate and pricing to be fair. TW stated that one of the purposes of the meeting was to work towards our best relationship with them.</p> <p>CK stated that we need to find a deputy concert manager; JH suggested we ask at the AGM and TW thought we should speak to someone directly.</p>			
4.	Finance update report	<p>Statement from MT. Just come out of COVID and the Christmas concert cost money rather than raising it not unexpected. Elijah went very well, largely due to sponsorship. The summer concert will probably make a small profit, which is very good.</p> <p>New cashless machine from WorldPay the old one will still be available. Having done due diligence WorldPay was the best deal.</p> <p>HYC update; CK stated that membership numbers are not great.</p> <p>TW stated they are subsidised to the tune of £5000. Not quite as clear as that as we have ticket sales, we get a grant of £1100, Susan arranged a grant of £2,500 for Elijah. The HYC are a part of our charitable objectives. We are effectively subsidising HYC to the tune of £200 per person.</p> <p>Fi has tried many things to increase membership which has had limited success. Discussed changing the day from Thursday to Monday. RH and the trustees are going to keep a watching brief for a full year and use any ideas that RH has.</p> <p>Finances generally healthy. A small loss of £307.</p> <p>Current account = £ 6298.29 Deposit account = £48,077.30 HSBC = £2,864.15 Total = £57, 239.74</p>			
5.	Marketing	<p>Dru has brought up the possibility of a marketing system. Mark is quite keen to maintain a MailChimp database. MT will contact AL in due course.</p>	Contact AL	MT	Before next meeting

6.	Rehearsals and concerts.	<p>Are there any reflections, feedback or anything on the arrangements for rehearsals for COVID. RH would like the seating arrangement to revert to to the previous model this is where conductors expect people to be. COVID restrictions are much lighter now.</p> <p>Some people have returned following COVID and they all adore Richard.</p>			
7.	Workshops	<p>October, just us in d:two, some concerns about what music people should bring.</p> <p>February 2023, just us in d:two, Richard taking it and doing Vivaldi.</p> <p>20th May 2023 at St. Mary's, which has been booked for Bob Chilcot. This will be open to the public. OUP have a workshop hire function we can use for non-members. Pricing was discussed bearing in mind costs to HCS will be about £2000, the Trustees think we should charge, it was decided £25 for outsiders and £15 for members. This may be enough to make a profit. The possibility of a performance at the end with spectators was discussed as we could charge for this too.</p> <p>25th October 2023, Richard taking the "So you think you can't sing?" event.</p> <p>50th Year, 3rd workshop should we try to do something outward facing? "So you think you can't sing?" We are here to spread the joy of music, let's do a workshop to get people involved, for the local community.</p> <p>AL struggling with how to position this for publicity, and suggested we rebadge it as a more positive "the BIG sing" and publish what is going to be sung, including popular songs, to encourage nervous singers. It was also discussed whether a church venue was off putting? Other venues were discussed. Could we use Henley College as a for instance? Pews or set seating not the best for such an event.</p> <p>Perhaps get the Henley Standard to publicise and sponsor it.</p> <p>Need to decide on a price for this event. We discussed doing it cheaply possibly for £10 or perhaps doing it for free. Including children was discussed.</p>			

		<p>Concerts All set till the end of 2023. A successful meeting was held between Richard and Cecilia.</p> <p>Mark and Jane are going to do the measurements for the staging at Christchurch. We are going to make a callout for crew volunteers at the AGM.</p> <p>St. Mary's want us to do a risk assessment for the staging and send them the forms.</p> <p>Programmes: Because COVID restrictions lifted and most people buy online, we do still need someone to sell tickets at the door, David Bentley has volunteered to do this. Up to now we have been selling programmes at the door working closely with the ushers pointing people to buy a programme and then get seated. Dru would like to change this to having a person in the aisle selling programmes. Also, she doesn't want the programme price added to the tickets. This needs to be discussed at next committee meeting.</p> <p>JE is working on the Christmas Concert publicity, good and early.</p>	<p>Talk to Judith Whittaker to book.</p> <p>Ask Dru to attend 24-Nov-2022 committee meeting to discuss this proposal.</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>TW</p>	
8.	50 th anniversary	<p>AL reports.</p> <p>Two objectives; Make sure the concerts are successful make sure the year is a great success for the choral society as a whole. Make sure we also organise money making activities.</p> <p>Gold friends – Drafted a statement about becoming a gold friend for a minimum of £50 with no upper limit and what you will get for that investment. This is being tweaked, the details of which will shortly be sent to the Trustees for approval. Some discussion followed on the pricing and methods of payment.</p> <p>Gala Concert, could we use the Town Hall on 1st Apr 2022 to do the talk and drinks there and then people could wander down to St. Mary's in their finery? Talked about the launch event in January involving meeting Celia and the librettist, Richard, the Mayor, perhaps John Howell and key sponsors for a press launch, not a party, main purpose to get the Henley Standard there. Some discussion about potential venues.</p> <p>Gold Sponsors – Commercial Friends like Davis Tate, we have written an outline on the benefits that they would get. This will require some involvement from members to</p>			

		<p>engage local businesses and business owners using a pro-forma letter. A logo is under development which will feature gold. Various merchandise offerings are under consideration. These will be presented to the Trustees for approval in the next week or so.</p> <p>We are going to announce these plans and make a call for action at the AGM to warm people up about getting sponsors and friends.</p> <p>Because of the unique nature of this event, the 50th Anniversary and the public figure of Cecilia we should look at going to local radio in Oxford, Berkshire and BBC3 as it is a good story for us and for Henley. It is a new original work by two leading contemporary female artists inspired by the river at the heart of Henley on Thames. People will be interested.</p>																		
9.	Friends	<p>No change to the number of friends. Plus, the concept of the Gold Friends which has already been covered.</p> <p>TW stated we should focus on getting the MailChimp process started.</p>																		
10.	HYC	<p>Arthur stated that it's held it's first rehearsal of the year earlier with 12 juniors and 7 seniors. As always, we are struggling to find numbers. Richard did brilliantly. A natural. The outlook is bright with lots of work to do in promoting the choir.</p> <p>Richard is happy with the amended contract.</p> <p>TW stated that we are sponsoring the HYC quite a bit. Because Richard is new we are keeping a watching brief. Suggestion to help the HYC do the big sing in the morning for adults and a youth big sing in the afternoon?</p>																		
11.	Voice Reps. reports	<p>No change since last committee meeting.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Section</th> <th>Members</th> <th>Singing in concert</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sopranos</td> <td>42/43 (5 may return)</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Altos</td> <td>33</td> <td>Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenors</td> <td>9 (2 new not in this count)</td> <td>Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basses</td> <td>Unknown (Nearly 20?)</td> <td>Unknown</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Section	Members	Singing in concert	Sopranos	42/43 (5 may return)	35	Altos	33	Unknown	Tenors	9 (2 new not in this count)	Unknown	Basses	Unknown (Nearly 20?)	Unknown			
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		Total	Variable	Unknown			
		<p>Question from a member; Would not be able to attend one of the terms can she expect a reduction? This has been raised by someone else who was offered a discount. This may be rethought if lots of people opt out. It should be a matter for discretion as covered by the constitution. The feeling at committee was that most people are likely to pay.</p>					
12.	AOB	<p>Publicity: AL updated us on the mailing list, she has been emailing people before concerts and it does have a positive effect. Will forward those to Mark. We used to have a champagne draw at each event where people would fill in their details to grow the mailing list. We could also use the list generated by ticket tailor as a legitimate business interest. To be considered.</p> <p>MK statement, Caversham Heights Society paying a company to do leafleting. It was a good investment and picked up quite a few members. Should we do it for The Big Sing? Also to be considered.</p>					
13.	Close	@ 8:36PM					

Next Meeting – 24th November 2022 7:30PM d:two