



Registered Charity Number 276649

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Cirencester Choral Society

took place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, in St Peter's Hall, Cirencester at 7.30 pm.

*Notice of the date and time of the AGM was circulated to members via the Members' Newsletter of 12th September 2018*

### MINUTES

- 1 Apologies for Absence: Sue Gilks, Vic Gilks, Jenny Hall, Genny Moody, Pamela Varey.

The meeting was attended by 67 members as recorded in the register.

- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 and Matters Arising

*Draft minutes were made available electronically via the Members' website and a paper copy made available for inspection prior to and during the AGM. The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting, proposed for adoption by Ginny Ravenscroft, seconded by Meg Blumsom and passed unanimously. There were no matters arising.*

- 3 Treasurer's Report; Presentation and Adoption of Accounts;

Appointment of Independent Examiner

*The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements, for submission to the Charity Commission, was made available via the Members' website, with a paper copy available for inspection prior to and during the AGM.*

Treasurer Fiona Cordiner presented a summary of the financial statements contained in the Society's Trustees' Report and began by thanking her predecessor Simon Browning, fellow committee members and members more generally for helping her settle into this important role for the Society.

The Treasurer's role is now supported by a number of people, often working quietly behind the scenes but without whom it would be difficult to carry out the role effectively:

- Jenny Hall who manages the subscriptions process
- Bob Merrill who manages the concert ticket process
- Ginny Ravenscroft who manages music hire and sales processes, and
- David Murray who had reviewed the financial statements once again.

The treasurer then commented on the two main categories of expense for the Society:

- Firstly, Society running costs, which are our general running costs, e.g. conductor, accompanist, rehearsal venue etc. These expenses tend to be predictable and generally increase in line with inflation.
- Secondly, Concert expenses. These tend to vary more as they depend on the works performed, as this determines how many soloists and other musicians that we need. Generally, the concert expenses are subsidised by a proportion of members' subscriptions.

When subscriptions and ticket prices are set each year, these factors are taken into consideration. If, in a particular year the Society performs larger scale works that use more professional musicians, then we may decide to budget for a deficit in that year. However, over the medium term we have to ensure that we balance the books.

Over the last few years we have seen some 'step changes' in the level of concert expenses including, most recently, in the venue hire costs for the coming year. Given this, the Committee agreed to increase subscriptions at a rate above inflation this year, in order to ensure that we keep our retained level of funds at a sufficiently prudent level. In future years, the committee hopes to keep annual increases more in line with inflation.

## **2018 – 2019 Results**

Firstly, it is worth noting that the current year figures are not directly comparable to those for the previous year, particularly for concert income and outgo. The current year figures cover the period from June 2018 to May 2019, so they reflect the 'Come and Sing' Day in July 2018, as well as our normal spring and autumn concerts. The previous year's figures don't include a Come & Sing day, but they do include our 2017 charity Christmas concert.

### **Income**

The Society has two main sources of income:

- Firstly, Membership income: which has increased by £957 to £10,929 following an increase in subscription fees last year.
- Secondly, Concert receipts: which have increased by £800 to £12,488. Ticket sales for our main spring and autumn concerts increased by around £2,500, reflecting an increase in ticket prices this year as well as a slight increase in average audience sizes.

The concert receipts for 2018/2019 have also been boosted by a £600 grant from the Josephine Baker Trust (JBT). This Trust provides grants for events which provide good experience for accredited soloists from the RAM or RCM. Andy was thanked for the hard work he put into securing this income (and the excellent soloists that we secured as a result).

Other income has increased by £395 to £998, which is a very useful addition to the Society's funds. The treasurer thanked those who supported the various activities contributing to this, including the refreshment teams, bookstall team, staging team – as well as those who made personal donations.

### **Expenditure**

- Running costs have reduced by £124 to £9,718, mainly reflecting slightly fewer rehearsals this year.
- Concert expenses, however, have increased significantly, from £11,198 in 2017/18 to £16,705 in 2018/2019. The main reason for this increase is that our concert programme for 2018/19 used an orchestra and soloists for both concerts, whereas one of the concerts in the previous year was accompanied by organ only. It is worth noting that the £600 grant from the JBT is accounted as income, although it has the effect of contributing towards the soloists' expenses. In effect, concert expenses could be thought of as £600 lower than the number shown on the face of the accounts.

Taking all these factors into account, the overall financial result for the year was a loss of £2,009, which was broadly in line with our budget for the year.

## Balance Sheet

- **Net Current assets** comprise cash in the bank, adjusted for income/expenses due but not yet paid at the accounting year-end. The net current assets reduced from £10,739 at 31 May 2018 to £9,029 at 31 May 2019, reflecting the loss made in the year.
- The **Total assets** figure of £11,129 includes the net current assets plus a value of £2,100 placed on our rehearsal piano after depreciation.

Clarification was sought by members on the payment for parking. This was the cost of arranging parking for the Come and Sing day and was included in the price for that event.

After no other questions from the floor, the chairman thanked Fiona and the Society's Independent Examiner, David Murray, and asked for a member present at the meeting to propose the adoption of the Financial Statements. Simon Browning proposed that the Society's Financial Statements be adopted. This was seconded by Liz Fleming and passed unanimously.

The chairman confirmed that David Murray was prepared to act as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year. His reappointment was proposed by Simon Browning, seconded by Rob Crow and agreed unanimously.

## 4 Chairman's Report

The chairman began his report with thanks to those who give their time and commitment to keep the Society functioning: elected committee members (who are the Trustees of the Charity), our Librarian, Subscription and Ticket Secretaries, our Webmaster, Voice Reps, and other members of the society who fill important roles in helping at rehearsals, raising funds and erecting staging. Thanks were extended also to members' spouses and friends who help with Front-of-House at concerts.

Messages of thanks and support had been received from some members after each concert and these were much appreciated. The chairman invited the floor to record its thanks also and this was met with applause.

There followed a request that members give some thought to helping in these ways where they did not already do so. The more members who shared the administrative and practical tasks, the easier it would become. The chairman also outlined things which all members need to do or remember on a regular basis, such as observing appropriate rehearsal behaviour and sharing with refreshment duties.

Last winter saw the passing of two of our Honorary Life Members: David White, Conductor from 1990-98 and his immediate predecessor Joyce Lang (1982-1990). The Society was represented at their memorial services. Both were larger than life characters in their own ways and are remembered fondly by our longer serving members.

Andy completed his report by paying tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm of our conductor and accompanist, Carleton and Jenny, to universal acclaim by members.

## 5 Election of Officers

The officers in post (Andy Crane, Chairman; Tim Page, Membership Secretary; Graham Shearn, Secretary; Fiona Cordiner, Treasurer; and Anne Rickard, Communications Coordinator) indicated that they were willing to stand for re-election. There being no further nominations, Jane Reid proposed that the current officers be re-elected *en bloc*, which was seconded by Frances Angus and passed *nem con*.

No nominations were received for the post of Deputy Chairman.

6 Election of Ordinary Members of the Managing Committee

*No more than 7 to be elected, all eligible for re-election if having served no more than 3 consecutive years as Ordinary Members of the Managing Committee.*

Gill Hornby and Bob Merrill were eligible and had agreed to stand for re-election as committee members. There being no other nominations, Therese Munro-Warwick proposed that both be re-elected and this was agreed unanimously.

Dorothy Andrews will continue working outside the committee as Joint Ticketing Secretary, together with Bob Merrill. Roger Heafield had agreed to continue managing the Society's web site, Ginny Ravenscroft as Librarian and Jenny Hall as Subscriptions Secretary.

The chairman added that Gill and Bob would complete their 3 years as committee members and emphasised the need for other members to step forward to fill their shoes at next year's AGM.

7 Members Forum and Any Other Business

There being no other business, the chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.56 pm.



[www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk](http://www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk)

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