

Cardiff Bach Choir

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 September 2008

Present: Mr Cecil James (in the Chair), Mrs Diane Daniel (Secretary) and thirty seven members

Apologies for absence were received from twenty members.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2007 were confirmed and signed, subject to the addition of the name of Mrs Chris Snow to the list of apologies submitted.

2 Matters arising

The Secretary reported on the investigations made during the year by the Committee in response to a request made for an alternative rehearsal venue. Enquiries had been made in relation to a number of possible venues; it was noted that several required larger weekly hire fees – in some cases considerably larger. Parking problems in relation to other possible venues had ruled them out also.

After a brief discussion, it was **agreed** that arrangements would be made to re-hire Coed Glas School, Llanishen, for the current year. It was however noted that the next four rehearsals (until 8 October) would be held at the University Department of Music in Corbett Road.

3 Financial accounts

In the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer, Mr David Evans, the accounts were presented by the Secretary.

Diane Daniel reported that, in response to an enquiry, she had confirmed with Mr Evans that the expenditure of £1500 to the conductor was an annual honorarium, while the other payments to him were for his work in relation to individual concerts. It was noted that fees to the Council for Coed Glas School had been greater in 2007-08 than in the previous year because of the Council's delay in submitting an invoice.

The AGM discussed the Treasurer's disappointment in the level of pre-concert ticket sales for events, particularly for the Llandaff concert. For a major concert with more than usually large expenses (soloists, orchestra, increased venue fees), the sale of tickets had been poor. Some suggestions were made for ways of enhancing ticket sales in the coming year – including mailing lists and inclusion on additional websites - and members were reminded of the importance of selling tickets to friends and family in advance, wherever possible.

In relation to the increased costs of the Cathedral venue, the Committee undertook to investigate some alternative locations for its May concert in

2010, including the Atrium in Bridge Street, and the new Hoddinott Concert Hall at WMC.

It was noted that the Choir accounts showed a credit balance of £1158 for 2007-08. However, this would not have been the case without a grant from WAMF (the Welsh Amateur Music Federation) and a Charity Tax rebate organised by the Treasurer. It was expected that the concert programme for 2008-09 (*see minute 5 below*) would incur fewer costs.

David Evans was warmly thanked for his hard work during the past year.

4 Annual subscription

It was **agreed** that, in order to maintain financial stability for the coming session, 2008-09, the subscription level be raised from £85 to **£90**. Members were requested to settle this by the end of October.

In response to a request, a brief discussion was held on the feasibility of staggered payments, (two/three payments). It was generally agreed that this would not be sensible, although the Secretary stated that in cases of hardship, individual arrangements could probably be made.

5 Conductor's report

Tim Taylor thanked the Choir for a very successful season's work. The *Elijah*, and particularly the soloist Paul Kerry Jones, had been very good, the University concert in February (Brahms, Vierne etc) had gone well, artistically and economically, and the *St John Passion* (Llandaff concert in May) had been extremely well received. Tim noted, however, that it was becoming difficult to recruit orchestral players for the major concerts.

It was noted with regret that the planned Cowbridge concert had to be cancelled.

Tim Taylor outlined his plans for the coming year: *The Christmas Oratorio* (JS Bach) would be performed in the University on Saturday 29 November, and on 16 May 2009 the choir would perform Haydn's *The Creation* in Llandaff Cathedral, almost exactly 200 years after the composer's death.

Other, smaller, events, might include a Penarth concert (possibly in June 2009), and a concert or services in St Woolas Cathedral, Newport, which Tim would be arranging shortly.

The recent death of choir member Llew Jones was reported with regret.

6 Election to the Committee

The Secretary reported that two nominations had been received to fill the vacancies caused by the resignations of Gerald Harbour and Sandra Moeller. It was **agreed** that Dr Margaret Roberts and Mr Bill Jones be appointed.

Thanks were expressed to the retiring members. It was noted that Gerald had kindly undertaken to continue his work for the website.

7 Election of Officers

The following re-appointments were agreed:

Chairman Mr Cecil James
Secretary Mrs Diane Daniel
Treasurer Mr David Evans (for a final year)

The Chairman extended his thanks to the Committee for its work in 2007-08.

Other Business

8 Rehearsal timing

In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that the official starting time for weekly rehearsals was **7.15pm**, not 7.30pm. Members undertook to ensure a prompt start, which would in future include a 'warm-up' session.

9 Fund-raising event

The Secretary reported that a fund-raising party was being arranged for **7pm on Friday 14 November 2008**, at 3 Heath Park Crescent, Cardiff (02920 635 498). Further details and tickets would be issued in due course.

10 Future repertoire

Tim Taylor invited suggestions from members at any time, for repertoire for future concerts.

11 Rehearsal etiquette

The problem of chatting during rehearsals was again raised. Some members mentioned that it was becoming difficult at times to concentrate on the rehearsal, because of the volume of other noise. It was **agreed** that effort to avoid unnecessary talking should be made by members.

12 Website coverage

The Secretary undertook to investigate the inclusion of the choir's details and concert programme on an additional website suggested by a member.

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

