



**SLEAFORD CHORAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON WED
28th SEPT AT 7.15pm IN SLEAFORD METHODIST CHURCH.**

Present: Lew Paterson, Rowland Lee, Doreen Bamford (notetaker), Karen Jarvis, Derek Jacobs.

Choral Members Present: 38

<u>Agenda Heading</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1 Apologies for absence	A Harrison, J Seddon, L Boyne, S Lipscombe-Ridley, J Johnson, O Davies, D Scott, M Martin, A Strong, W Kirby, MJ White, J Brewer, Z Curtis.	
2 Minutes of Last AGM (2021)	Approved as a true record. Signed by L Paterson, Chairman. Proposed: A.Ashmore Seconded: D.Jacobs Unanimously agreed	
3 Matters Arising	No matters arising.	
4 Musical Director's Report	It was great to resume rehearsals in Sept 2021 after such a long layoff due to Covid. It was then very sad to lose the Christmas Concert 2021, but the choir did at least have the pleasure of such enjoyable rehearsals. The Easter Concert 2022 did go ahead and it was wonderful to be able to perform in public once more. The Fletcher piece was particularly pleasing - a Centenary performance – and one which is rarely performed. David was, as usual, an excellent accompanist on both the pipe organ and the newer electronic organ. Rowland stressed how delighted he was that the choir was still going strong - other societies have had to downscale their choirs to 2 part only and are struggling to survive. It is important to all of us that Sleaford Choral keeps going and Rowland is delighted to be part of it. R Lee, Musical Director, 28 Sept 2022.	
5 Membership Officer's Report	We started the 21/22 season with a membership of 50 and with 2 people joining and 4 leaving during the season, we finished with 48 members. The 'come along and sing' sessions we held at the end of last term were a success, giving us 2 new members this season! Decreasing membership is, I'm sure, a concern for us all and we have had many discussions at Council Meetings about this and how we can try to reverse the trend. This has involved us thinking 'outside the box' at times and discussing ideas that make some people feel uncomfortable. Even though we know that decreasing membership is an issue for Choral Societies generally, we hope you agree this shouldn't mean we just sit back and accept our fate without trying to do something about it. Hence the reason we have posed you some interesting questions and are very keen to hear your thoughts and ideas in the 2nd half of the AGM! Sue Quarmby and I have been updating the Welcome Information for potential new members, which hasn't been used for some years now, with a view to making people who are interested in joining, feel more informed about the choir from the outset. This is now complete - I'm just waiting to add the bit about female concert dress! Also, we now have a 'buddy' system for potential new members, so they have someone to tell them about the choir, to answer their questions and generally make them feel part of things. Hopefully, this will encourage more of the people, who come along to see if they want to join, decide to stay! To finish on a positive, we have already had 3 confirmed new members start this season, several returners and 2 others who are interested in joining. Karen Jarvis Membership Services Officer, 28 September 2022	

<u>6 Hon Treasurer's Report</u>	<u>SLEAFORD CHORAL SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022</u>	
	<p>Accounts for this year show the comparison with 2019 as well as 2021 as 2019 was the latest full year without the effect of the pandemic. Membership subscriptions were down from £4345 to £3035, a drop of £1310. Gift aid was also down at £498 due to the drop in subscriptions. Also down were the net proceeds from the weekly raffle. In 2019 and previous years the net proceeds were over £600, but this year the proceeds were £168. One reason for the reduction is the fact that the raffle did not restart until the beginning of February. If the raffle proceeds are extrapolated to cover a whole year that would give a figure of £426. This is still down on the 2019 figure and may be due to the reduction in the number of members. The one bright spot was the NKDC lottery receipts which bring in approx. £50 per month. Derek has been able to reduce the printing costs for concerts. The Xmas concert showed a profit of £89 even though it never took place. This was down to the generosity of members who bought tickets but waived a refund. The summer concert, which did take place, gave a profit of £58. However, it should be borne in mind that no account is taken of the storage costs for the staging which now costs us £540 a year. At the beginning of the year we were paying the Methodist church £17.50 per session for our rehearsals. This was increased to £28 on 17 November and again at the end of the year to £40. This means that in the current year the cost will be £1,520, an increase of £620 on the year ended 31 August 2022. Taking all of the income and expenditure into account it shows that the Society has lost £1103 in the year and that total funds are down to £2,303 (They stood at £4,233 on 1 September 2020). The answer to the Society's future lies in recruiting new members and increasing the annual subscription charge. A Harrison Treasurer 26 September 2022</p>	DB
6a Approval of Treasurer's Statement & Accounts	<p>Choral Accounts Statement for year 2021/22 Proposed: K Jarvis Seconded: E Healey Unanimously agreed.</p>	
6b Membership Subscriptions for Season 22/23	<p>Proposal is that the membership subs should be raised to £90 per annum and that they are due from tomorrow, 29 September 2022. If members are able, it would be helpful if they could pay the full amount but, if members prefer to pay in 2 stages, the first is due tomorrow and the second is due at the first rehearsal meeting in January 2023. Agreed unanimously.</p>	
7 Chairman's Report	<p>Chairman's Report for Sleaford Choral Society AGM Sep 22</p> <p>After the Covid "break" we are starting to get back to "normal". We hope to produce 3 concerts this season – indeed as you will hear, we need to make some profit to keep our head above water. Ladies and gentlemen: In this, my last day as Chair of the Choral Society I would like to commend to you your Council. These are the people who keep the Society running - sitting at the top of the pile, as it were, I see the hard work that goes into the Society. Your Council, however always needs a transfusion of new members. Although we are lucky to have acquired some new blood over the last year or so we really need a new Chair to steer us for the next few years and so I am not standing for re-election. I will, however, continue with the support tasks which I have acquired over the last 15 years of Council membership. It is nice to see new faces appearing – and the voices to match of course. Having heard of the demise – or at least shrinking- of other local societies I feel we are lucky to have maintain a full SATB choir for Rowland to play with. Talking of which, may I finish by saying that we are so very lucky to have Rowland as our MD – I thank him for the last years' work and so on to this next year - Hallelujah! Thank you Lew Paterson (retiring chairman)</p>	

8 Election of Officers & Council	<p>There is 1 vacancy on the Council – Chairperson. All other members of the Council agreed to continue for the next year.</p> <p>There were no nominations for the role of Chairperson and no one stepped forward to volunteer for the position. The position will therefore remain vacant. Members of the Choral Council will cover the role of Chairperson on a shared, rolling basis until a replacement can be found.</p> <p>DB (Hon Sec) will continue to head up the Publicity/Mailings role Election of Committee 'en bloc' Elected unanimously.</p> <p>Vote of thanks by N McFarlane to the Council for all its work, and also to Rowland for his enthusiasm and hard work – the choir owes a debt of gratitude to all after a dreadful couple of years. There has been a constant choral presence in the town since the 19th century, great to keep going.</p>	
9 Appointment of Musical Director	Rowland Lee has agreed to remain in this position.	
10 Appointment of Deputy Conductor	Alwyn Kirk has agreed to remain in this position.	
11 Music Programme for 2022-23 Season	<p>Christmas Concert - Saturday December 10th 2022 The programme for the concert is Christmas Messiah, plus Hallelujah Chorus. 2nd half is a selection of carols taken from the C for C Bk 1, with individual seasonal pieces - Lully, Lulla, Lullay (P Stopford), The Holly and the Ivy (Gardner), O Magnum Mysterium (Lauridsen) and others.</p> <p>Spring Concert – Saturday March 25th 2023 In honour of the late Queen Elizabeth II and new King Charles III, Faure's Requiem (1st half), Coronation Mass (Mozart) 2nd half, also Te Deum (Walton) and The King Shall Rejoice (Handel).</p> <p>Summer Concert – Saturday 24th June 2023 Lighter themes? Invite William Alvey Choir? To be decided.</p> <p>Christmas Concert Sat 16th December 2023</p>	DJ
12. AOB	<p>Thanks to Judith Perry for offering to provide a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival from the Choral Society.</p> <p>Formal AGM terminated at 7.40pm Discussion in voice groups continued until 8.15pm, when the rehearsal began after a short break.</p> <p>Hon Sec gave a vote of thanks to outgoing Chairman, Lew Paterson, at the end of the rehearsal to thank him for his excellent work over the last five years steering the Society through very tricky and challenging times.</p>	