

Manchester Community Choir Committee Meeting: 7th November 2013

Present: Chrissie Gibson (Chair), Freddi Greenmantle, Sian Richards, Maggie Seaby, Polly Fallows, Mary O'Mahony, Sandra Hunt, Tudor Owen (minutes).

Apologies: Julie Firth, Sue Somerville, Flo Bertrand

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS ARISING		
Agenda item	Action	Responsibility
3.1	Liaise with Ruth Abraham re performance on Saturday 18 th January 3pm to 8pm – benefit gig for Abiola's daughter.	Freddi
9.1	Report back on prospects of MCC appearing at Llangollen International Eisteddfod	Tudor
9.2	Organise Library Service gig on December 7 th	Freddi
15.1	Organise bi-annual concert "MCC & Guests" in March 2014	All
15.2	Produce info leaflet for prospective gig bookers and new members.	TBD

ACTION POINTS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS / LONGER TERM ACTIONS / NOTES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS		
Meeting	Action	Responsibility
July 2013	Peace Day 2014. Contact MWB nearer the time	Chrissie
July 2013	Criteria for travel assistance to be reviewed – look for inspiration from other choirs.	All?

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

3.1 No outstanding matters arising.

It was noted that:

- Liz had responded positively to the request to end rehearsals on an upbeat note.
- Ruth Abraham had rescheduled the date of the benefit gig for Abiola's daughter Oleyinka's campaign to stay in UK, at which we have been invited to sing.. New date is Saturday 18th January 3pm to 8pm. Venue tbc.

4. Renewals and registration

Sandra reported that we have 103 paid up members, plus 1 whose subs are waived. Two more paying members are due to return in January 2014.

After a discussion about the Union Chapel limit of 120, it was decided on a maximum of 122 members, which – when Liz, Briony and Sheila (whose husband and carer is one of the basses) are added – would make a total of 125. Given that a number of people do not attend all rehearsals, this was felt to be a reasonable interpretation of the UC limit.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Tudor estimated that income this year would be about £6,700 and outgoings would be about £5,800, leaving us £900 in the black by the end of the year. Touch wood!

5.2 Chorlton Arts Festival 2013 had paid us £60 as our share of the St Ninian's concert takings.

6. CD sales update

Sales 140 to date. Need to sell about 240 in total to break even. Many MCC members have bought multiple copies, and it was noted that they would be aggrieved if we drop the price in future in order to get rid of unsold stock.

7. AGM preparation

7.1 Planned the proceedings and it was decided to ask Sophie Gosling to take minutes, in Flo's absence. Noted that two MCC members had put themselves forward as committee members – Sophie Gosling and Arthur Burns – and that Polly would be leaving the committee at the AGM. Chrissie expressed the thanks of the committee for all her sterling work, and hope she would stay involved, organising workshops etc.

8. "Motherland"

8.1 The committee had received complaints about having this song in the Choir's repertoire, because the word "motherland" has nationalistic connotations. The committee discussed the pros and cons of singing it, and in the end the consensus was that, although the songwriter had not meant to promote this meaning, and although Liz would assure audiences of this, it could still be misconstrued and didn't sit well with the choir's current support for the asylum seekers amongst its membership.

So it was decided that it would be removed from the repertoire.

9. Correspondence and future gigs

9.1 Sian had circulated a table of correspondence received. The item about the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen in July 2014 led to some discussion. Non-competition performances for choirs have recently been introduced and Tudor was asked to research dates etc, bearing in mind that the weekend clashes with the Street Choir Festival in Hebden Bridge.

9.2 The Local History & Archives section of Manchester Libraries had invited MCC to perform at their Christmas event on Saturday afternoon December 7th. Liz is available that day so Freddi was asked to agree in principle and organise the gig. It was agreed that an additional rehearsal would be organised at the Co-op Hall on the evening of Thursday December 5th, subject to the venue's availability (Mary to check out). Chrissie to announce all this at the rehearsal next Sunday (10th Nov).

10 Celebration of 15th Anniversary on 1st Feb evening

Maggie produced and sold tickets to committee members. Sales drive planned for next few rehearsals. Ex members had been emailed too. Maximum attendees 125, including MDs.

11 Parties

It was agreed that there would be a party during the rehearsal on Sunday Dec 8th and during the first Sunday rehearsal in September 2014, but there would be no party in July 2014.

12 Northern Harmony visit

Polly confirmed that the workshop and concert would take place at St John's in Trafford on 27th September 2014. More details as she gets them.

13. Workshops

Polly also said that the workshop on Corsican music – to be run by Caroline Bithell – is now likely to be held in the Summer of 2014. More details as she gets them.

14 Announcements for next Sunday's rehearsal

- Library Service gig on Dec 7th.
- Reminder re Hebden Bridge
- Reminder re 15th Anniversary celebration
- Bring food please to the party on Dec 8th

15 AOB

15.1 Bi-annual concert due in 2014. It was agreed that "MCC and Guests" would be the best format and a couple of dates were suggested – March 14th and 21st. Further discussion at next meeting.

15.2 Publicity material.

Freddi urged the production of a comprehensive information leaflet that we could give out at events, in order to encourage potential bookers to do so. For discussion at next meeting.

15.3 Alan McDonald has offered to help Siân with web and other IT, (but not be on the Committee).

16 Dates and venues of meetings up to July 2014

7.15 for 7.30pm start – all are Thursdays

5th December 2013– this now clashes with a rehearsal. Chrissie to rearrange.

9th January 2014 (Liz to attend)

6th February

6th March

10th April

8th May (Liz to attend)

5th June

24th July 2014

Venue : Freddi's, Trafalgar Court Meeting Room, 201 Withington Road, Whalley Range, M16 8JW