

Minutes of Zoom Committee meeting, 21st May 2020

Present: Steve Campbell, Lynne Elliot, Lizzie Gent, Lesley Hoyes, Jo Melzack, Tudor Owen, Jenny Seward, Margaret Seaby, Maria Yagudina

Apologies: Cath McBain, Annie O'Malley, Carolyn Pugh

1. Welcome

Thanks to Tudor for sending out papers for the meeting, and thanks to all for their contributions since the last meeting.

2. Draft Minutes for April's meeting and matters arising

Passed as correct.

3. Internal complaints procedure

This draft document arose from the need for a system for dealing with complaints by choir members about the behaviour of other members (including trustees), steps to be taken to resolve such issues along with instances where behaviour of any choir member falls short of what we expect all members to abide by when they join, and a general safeguarding process for all. Making Music has a number of useful guidelines, and these, together with comments on the draft submitted by Committee members, will be incorporated into a second draft by Tudor for consideration at the next meeting

Thanks to Tudor for all his work on this.

4. Finance report.

See attached. Swann's Coaches have sent a refund. We have gained a new members. We have cancelled the standing order to DBC.

5. MD liaison

Rose has worked a lot on improving the zoom sessions which now run for 60 minutes and are bookended by two songs that we can sing all the way through for pleasure. The two songs in the middle are for us to work on and develop our repertoire.

Agreed: this format works really well and gives a sense of achievement, and a more structured session.

Agreed: Margaret will act as co-host to let people into the session and relieve Rose of that extra responsibility.

Sunday sessions: Rose would like to incorporate some of the social aspects of real life Sundays by using break-out rooms where people can chat.

Agreed: four people per break-out room for 10 minutes would be ideal

A discussion followed on easier-to-use platforms for the session.

Agreed: to try out Jitsu for the next Committee meeting.

Rose is planning to work on “Shout” by Tears for Fears to be ready in September.

She would like to hear from singers who aren't joining the zoom sessions, with an offer to help if needed. She passes on her best wishes and thanks to the Committee for all their work.

The Committee expressed our deep gratitude for all she's doing to keep us connected.

6. MCC and Covid-19

Report from the working party, the main points of which are

i) The importance of keeping non-zoomers involved in the choir. A draft email to send to all members with the addition of Rose's offer to help (see above) was agreed.

ii) Subscriptions for 2020-2021. This was discussed at some length.

iii) Didsbury Baptist Church and need for them to do a full risk assessment on how many people can be safely accommodated in the building to allow for social distancing, which would apply to all groups using the premises, plus other issues such as refreshments and toilets.

iv) How we plan for different scenarios depending on the situation in September.

Agreed: ask Faustina in the tenors for advice as she works for Public Health England.

An example would be if the gov't decides that younger fitter people can meet as a choir but that older (70+) people still need to shield.

Agreed: anything we can do to keep a physical choir going is worthwhile

Agreed: seek advice from Making Music, and from Rose and her contacts in the Natural Voice Network.

Agreed: to offer Rose a full year's contract as usual for September 2020

7. Making Music

This has a whole array of resources on its website, plus links to the Govt and Public Health England, suggestions of online platforms, ideas on how to occupy members in lockdown, e.g. free online courses. It is currently promoting Making Music Day which we can all participate in by sending in individual videos.

Thanks to Maria for her work on this.

8. Membership

Average attendance at real life rehearsals from January to early March was 60. This compares to an average of 53 at zoom rehearsals.

The new member who joined after lockdown is very happy with the zoom sessions and the practice tracks.

9. Newsletter

Thanks to Jenny for so swiftly compiling the draft newsletter for May. A brief discussion on the contents resulted in some small amendments and additions.

10. Llangollen

Tudor reported that this falls on 11th July 2021 which clashes with Street Choirs Festival. However Llangollen runs all week.

Agreed: we could attend on the preceding Wednesday and still go to SCF in Middlesborough, subject to Rose's availability.

11. AOB

Dates for next year 2020-2021. Possible problems include Easter Sunday. Rose would prefer the following Sunday, April 11th 2021. Jo to update the calendar accordingly.

Noted our decision by email not to accept Didsbury Baptist Church's offer of a refund for April's payment.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 18th June 2020 at 8.15pm