

Note that these minutes are in draft until approved by the 2023 AGM

HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY (1164776) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2022 IN CHRIST CHURCH PARISH CENTRE, HARROGATE

PRESENT: Paul Jackson, Amy Moseley (Co - Chairs), Gill Walsh (Treasurer), Ruth Pridmore (Secretary), Marilynne Davies & Tom Moore (Deputy Music Directors) and 46 members

- 1. APOLOGIES:** were received from Simon Berger, Trevor Berry, Aileen Bussooa, Jill Chadwick, Kim Fraser, Sue Fraser, Rosy Goodyer, Jenny Harris, Dawn Hey, Verity Hodgson, David and Janet Hutton, Caroline Jackson, Bruce Jagger, Carolyn Johnston, Margaret Knight, Mick Leach, David Little, Judith McKenna, Alastair Martin, Lynn Morrison, Alison Mundie, Janet Murdoch, Stephen Murdoch, Rachel Parker, Kate Rogata, Celia Selway, Joanne Trigg, Dee Walsh, Alison and Graeme Williams (Friends of HCS), Brian Kay (President)
- 2. MINUTES** of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 July 2021 have been distributed by e- mail with the agenda. There were no matters arising.

3. MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report from David Lawrence - Music Director for the Season 2021-22.

(Please note: In view of travel involved for voice assessments the Co-Chair (PJ) suggested that David send his report in writing, which was shared verbally by Co-Chair (PJ) at the meeting) I began my first year with you not as Musical Director but as Conductor, a distinction which probably left many of you rather non-plussed, but it felt important to me at the time. The role of Musical Director is far more involved in the planning and long term strategy, something that I didn't want to leap into, having not conducted a choral society for more than 25 years! However, it all came flooding back, I am thoroughly enjoying it, and now very keen to get stuck right into whatever we see is the next part of the journey for HCS.

Trust me, the role of Musical Director sounds a lot grander than it is. I am but one cog in your wheel. One of the primary reasons I was attracted to this position was the because of the strength of the administration. From everything I had garnered through the interview process, I felt confident that Amy, Paul, Ruth and their team were really strong. It turns out I had no idea just how right I was. They are a delight to work with and I am so excited about planning a future alongside them. I also want to say before I go any further just how important to me Marilynne and Tom have been. Marilynne's knowledge of the choir, its history, of each of you, let alone her musical pedigree combine to offer to me the best sounding board imaginable. Her support and encouragement have been simply invaluable, and I could not imagine doing this without her. Now, we conductors are ten a penny, but musicians like Tom are few and far between, and between us we need to hold onto him. Don't get me wrong, he's not once mentioned leaving, but realistically this would have been an obvious time for him to move on, and he hasn't! With Tom literally at my right hand there is nothing we can't do musically, and it is high time we saw Tom on the podium in a concert, so start looking forward to that!

Last Season

As I said in my opening letter to you, there would be no better way to get to know me than to sing Brahms Requiem together. I had never before conducted the version with two pianos and my goodness me how blessed we were with Tom and Stephen. Soloists were great, but as much as of course I loved the Brahms, I also loved the feast of Elgar we had in the first half. The Messiah was an eye-opener for me! It was such fun discovering what you like to do with it, and I am very excited about doing it with you later this year. I genuinely learned so much watching Brian Kay conduct, and have made no secret of the fact that I want him to work with us more frequently than he has up to now.

How disappointing was it once again to have the Puccini and Rossini cancelled with a week to go. A cruel revisiting of what happened two years ago, and I felt very sad for you, and particularly Andrew. Let's hope that we are never in that position again. I'll take this chance to express our gratitude to Paul and the way he looked after us and our Covid protocols. However bad that was in the Spring, it would have been much worse without his strength and perseverance.

The Summer concert was of course the first chance I had to programme something with you, and it was clear from the rest of the repertoire that it needed to be more contemporary. Please get used to this! It is the responsibility of living performers to perform the music of living composers, and yes the stalwart requiems, masses and oratorios have their place, but we need to really broaden out the repertoire. Whilst there were elements of the performance I was not happy with, I was particularly thrilled with the reaction *Seascape* received from both you and our audience. As you know, Christopher was delighted to hear it again, and I hope we can do some more of his music before long.

Next Season

Next year is not fully planned, and for many reasons this is something we need to get better at. What is planned is very exciting! So, we have a trio of Magnificats to start with! This beautiful text has inspired composers for years, and we have versions from the 18th, 20th and 21st centuries to enjoy. I am hoping to have time to do one of my little introduction videos like I did for the summer: not because I feel I need to, but because I quite enjoy doing them and would love for you to be as excited about the repertoire as I am. Knowing more about the background of a piece can surely only enhance our enjoyment of it.

Then the *Messiah*! I am not sure if we will do this every year, but I am very excited about doing it with you. Those of you who have sung in the choir for a while will know it well, and of course if you are new to the choral society the chances are still high that you know it from elsewhere. However, I am always thinking for those few who don't. If you have never sung this piece before then it would be worth getting ahead: buy the score now, start using the rehearsal tracks if you need them, and you will get so much more out of taking part if you are more prepared - it will be our pleasure and privilege to share the stage with you at your first *Messiah*!

In the Spring we are welcoming back Brian Kay, and he is going to conduct ... the Puccini! Lucky him — you were singing it so well by the end of our rehearsals, and I am sure it won't take long to put it back in place. We will do the Rossini before long, don't worry. It is right though that we are singing it alongside something else and if you don't know the *Cecilia Mass* by Gounod, then you are in good company, because nor do I! I know however, that Brian is passionate about it, and you will be in the safest of hands.

Please at any point feed in your ideas about what you would like to sing. The combined choral experience of all of us is tremendous, and it can take one idea from you to spark an entire programme in me. Sometimes I find the worst place to start is with a blank piece of paper! Now, a word about attendance, and to begin with, mine. You need to know that I will be with you in Harrogate every Wednesday that I possibly can be. Don't forget this is my job - it is how I earn my living, and if I am not with you then it will be for a very good reason! And to be more specific, one of two reasons: either that I am working abroad and physically can't get to you, or I am working on the Young Voices Concert Series which takes place in the UK in January and part of February. You took me on knowing about this, and I was quite prepared for the committee to say, "It's Young Voices or us!" I am so glad they didn't, and I hope you are too.

I am sure that it is the same for you, that if you are not at a rehearsal then there is a very good reason. I am looking at the attendance records for last term and when I have finished doing that I may well have one or two recommendations, all designed towards the betterment of HCS from the musical perspective, since that is within my role. I think if anything I have been more concerned about non-participation in concerts. With an apparent 140 singers on the books we fielded 79 at our last concert, and of course there were many reasons; Covid, the date change, illness, all perfectly understandable. Don't get me wrong, those 79 singers sang their socks off and gave a truly wonderful performance, but that is an experience I want for all of you, not just over half.

The committee knows that I want to lengthen the rehearsals, as well as start them earlier. Of course this is so we can get more done, but also so that we can have a proper break, and socialise a bit more. Have a think about this, and I hope you can discuss it this evening.

Finally, well done! Recovering after the pandemic has been tough on all choirs. Choirs received a really rough deal during that most awful of times, and not only have you managed to come through, you have also dealt brilliantly with a change of conductor. That is a big ask, and all credit of course to your committee but also to each of you. When I say I enjoy my rehearsals with HCS I wonder if you have any idea what I mean! There is such a great energy about you: you were already a good choir, and you want to be better. I feel like there is a real place for me in Harrogate, and I thank you for welcoming me with such warmth, grace, generosity and spirit.

David Lawrence

4. DEPUTY MUSIC DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Report from Marilynne Davies, Deputy Music Director for the Season 2021-22.

It has been a delight to us this season to be able to get back to singing together albeit in rugs, kagoules and warm boots. However nothing could have been quite as challenging as having to play near an open door with freezing fingers!

Perhaps we did not realise how much we had missed it until we got together again.

The season has been a very interesting one in which fundamental and vitally important decisions have been made. It has been a season in which Tom and I have had the privilege to take a number of rehearsals. However we have all been amazed to have Tom's one man show of conducting a rehearsal and teaching us while accompanying us at the same time. How does he do that and crack jokes? Thank you, Tom you are amazing.

The process and deliberations that surrounded the appointment of our new MD were fascinating, demanding but also fulfilling. I have been involved in this process 4 times now and each time I think we become more demanding and involve the Society in the process and decision making more, and this is excellent.

In October 2021 David Lawrence conducted his first concert with us as our new MD and we were delighted to have him. The talented brothers Moore played the Enigma Variations on two pianos. Quite a revelation. This was a lovely programme with which to return to performing in the Royal Hall.

Our Messiah at Christmas saw the return of our president Brian Kay. As always it was a joy have him with us but this time emphasising the meaning of the words much more than I ever remember which made us all think about what we were singing.

Our final concert of this Season was at St Wilfrids performing a programme chosen and directed by David. For those of us who were able, available and willing to sing it was a joy. For us all there was repertoire that was new to us particularly Seascape. I am very grateful to those who took the trouble to try and do some homework on this in between our rehearsals for we believe it paid off. Maybe such diligence should form the expected pattern for the future!

One of the highlights of that concert was Tom's solo which was absolutely incredible. We are fortunate to have him.

I recognise that HCS is not yet back to the pre covid numbers and we hope that as time passes and confidence is regained they will return to HCS.

I auditioned a number of new members this season some of whom have joined us and we are delighted to see them taking an active part in the Society. Some have not yet joined us but hope to next season. Others, although we have contacted them, have not replied and some still have concerns about returning to a corporate activity such as singing. However, I am a little concerned that we do not always make our new members sufficiently welcome. Maybe we should return to the name badges, maybe there could be a significant role here for the voice reps maybe those of us who audition should be more proactive in introducing them to the Society. All of these measures I am sure would help

During this Season we have called upon Christine Alp to help with accompanying and we are very grateful to her for all she has done. We also called upon Beryl to help with some of the accompanying at the voice assessments and it was good to see her again.

No Society runs smoothly without the diligence and hard work of a number of people. We are all greatly indebted to our Co Chairs Amy and Paul, to Ruth our indefatigable Secretary and to Gill who makes sure that our finances are all in order. Thank you to you all.

As we move forward to the next season I would like to feel we do so with hope and a sense of commitment to David and to HCS so that we can present to an audience choral music of the highest standard and we can also enjoy making music together.

Marilynne Davies.

Report from Tom Moore, Deputy Music Director for the Season 2021-22, shared verbally by Co-Chair (AMo)

In addition to Marilynne's report to the AGM, and with thanks to her for her kind words about my own contribution to the choir, I would like to express my great admiration for the Harrogate Choral Society singers for what has been achieved in a very difficult season.

It is quite correct for Marilynne to say that that it has been tremendous to get together to make music again after the Covid hiatus, but we have not been without challenges during the season. For example, the inclement conditions in the rehearsal room for some of our rehearsals. Hats off to the members for turning up week in week out to sit in freezing conditions throughout the winter and early spring months, and for paying for that privilege through your subs too! And I particularly admired you all in executing the Brahms/Elgar concert so professionally after having learnt the main work in the programme during the back end of the pandemic, one of the anthems over Zoom rehearsals, and then performing it all under the baton of an MD who had been in post for such a short period of time.

It has been a real pleasure to direct so many rehearsals for the choral society this season, and I feel this has strengthened my working relationship with the choir a great deal. I am fortunate to have worked with you in this capacity so frequently this last year. And between everyone involved in the preparation for concerts, we have managed three most memorable gigs. Of course, that should have been four concerts with the ill-fated Puccini/Rossini concert which was regrettably pulled at the very last moment. What a great pity that was, after all the hard work of the spring term. But the important thing to remember here was that everyone reconvened for the summer term with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, despite the challenge of certain areas of the repertoire taking many out of their comfort zone!

It was a pity that not more members of the choir were available for the summer concert, although I know some were disadvantaged by the change of date for this event. I would strongly urge members to strive to be available for as many rehearsals and concert performances as possible as we progress, as we all feel the absence of colleagues very much. Think of it like a football team: we wouldn't play a match without a goalkeeper or our strikers.....and so it hurts us to go into a concert short of team members, all of whom play an important part in the HCS family and its success.

My thanks also to the management which supports the work of the society; to David, Marilynne and Christine; but first and foremost to you, the choir members, who play a very important part in my own personal musical enjoyment and fulfilment each week.

Tom Moore

5. CO-CHAIRS REPORT

Report from Paul Jackson and Amy Moseley Co-Chairs for the Season 2021-22

There have been some truly joyful moments this Season, albeit that for your Committee this has not been an easy period. It has been a year of great highs, but also of lows.

In March we had to cancel our concert at a week's notice due to Covid, just as we were feeling that we had begun to be able to put the pandemic behind us.

Covid is not what I wish to be talking to you but talk about I must. Three things of note have occurred recently.

Firstly, the number of Long Covid cases has it is believed risen to 2 million..

Secondly, reported new cases locally in the week to 1st July rose by 47%. And this in summer!!

Thirdly, an Employment Tribunal has recently determined that symptoms (exhaustion, fatigue, pain, constant debilitating headaches and so on) of Long Covid constitute a disability for the purposes of the relevant legislation. That's not of direct relevance but..... that growing, distant rumble you can hear is the advancing thundering herd of lawyers. My own former firm are already pursuing large numbers of negligence claims on behalf of employees who have symptoms that are impacting upon their ability to carry on with their careers and who believe that their employers failed to take adequate steps to protect them, didn't enforce the rules, didn't follow the advice or didn't do so adequately.

We are not quite as exposed to negligence claims as are employers, though exposed we are. We are now in the realm of advice rather than rules. Nonetheless we are obliged in my view to follow the prevailing advice in order to protect not only our Members but also to protect the Society. It is not, absolutely not, outwith the realm of possibility that a Covid outbreak here could lead on the balance of probability to someone suffering Long Covid symptoms such that they present a danger to livelihood for example. Nor is it out of the question that someone in such a position might be advised to at least consider a claim against HCS.

We have to continue to do everything that we can to reduce the risk, and importantly to be able to demonstrate that we have done everything we can in what is a recognised higher risk situation.

This is the current, quite possibly now permanent, commentary from Making Music's website ... "The new general public health guidance is about long-term thinking and changing behaviours. So rather than thinking about how long to keep measures for or 'when can we stop doing X', the focus is on adopting safer behaviours into your standard procedures. Things like thinking about how we ventilate buildings..... thinking about where we go / what we do if we are unwell, and more regular hand washing may well become the norm now. Other measures like face coverings and social distancing are more likely to phase out over time. Covid risks may still change and so risk assessments need to be reviewed regularly, and you might vary what you do over time. For example, risks change as the weather gets warmer and colder – and a new variant of COVID could change the picture again..."

Our current rehearsal room has served us well for years but we now know that it is from point of view of ventilation very poorly designed. The only way we can maintain air quality is by keeping the doors open.

The church itself is one option, but has no ventilation, no fresh air, albeit that it is much larger. It has other deficiencies however. The low ceilings being one issue. They present an increased Covid risk as well as an acoustic challenge. The inflexibility of the space is another shortcoming. Pews, rather than chairs. The church can also be of an evening rather too dark. We could try out the upper seating in the church but then we are closer to the ceiling.

We're not convinced that the church is a long term solution. We think that we are probably going to have to at least look for an alternative rehearsal venue. We'll give it some thought.

The prospect of another winter of exposure to the elements is not attractive. To anyone.

The cancellation setback, in hindsight, had even more of an impact than we had first thought. It had felt that we were beginning to build up momentum, following two successful concerts in late 2021. We don't think on reflection that we ever quite got over the March cancellation. It took away some of the joy, and rather confirmed to the Committee the need to always anticipate the worst. Furthermore, whereas it had previously felt to be worthwhile enduring Spartan conditions in order to rehearse, thereafter the mood changed. Perceptibly so.

Choir numbers dropped off.

There were good reasons. We had had to switch the summer concert date and put it back to the end of June. That move, necessary as it was to avoid other pre-existing commitments for David, meant that a number of singers, who had already booked holidays in the period between the proposed earlier concert date and the AGM, were going to be unable to sing in our summer concert. The Basses were in particular reduced in number by this switch. In addition, there were other perfectly good reasons for absence, including I understand a number of June family weddings.

I have not been told of anyone who actually decided not to sing in our summer concert simply because they did not like the programme. I very much hope that such was not the case. It happens now and then I am sure but we have always discouraged selective commitment. The concert, based on all accounts that I have heard and read, was another success. It is unfortunate that choir numbers were low. I myself was very sorry to have had to miss the concert due to a long term commitment of my own.

We know that some of the choir have found the Wednesday night changes in personnel somewhat disconcerting. Perhaps, I suggest, this is because we are not accustomed to such changes. We are perhaps possessed, perfectly understandably, of a collective mindset, shaped by our shared experience. This possibly informs us that if our rehearsal is not being conducted by the Choral Director then it's somehow not the same, that it is a less significant event. This isn't the case however, of course.

Tom has, since January, been rehearsing us when David has been absent. Tom's rehearsals, as everyone I speak to agrees, are absolutely excellent. There is no inconsistency. David, Tom and Marilynne are working together. It was always going to be the case this Season that David's attendance would be impacted upon by pre-existing commitments. We will be seeing more of David next Season. He will be covering 30 of our 40 Wednesday night rehearsals. That is more than last Season, albeit less than we were used to seeing Andrew. This in our view is perfectly acceptable and we hope that you all agree. Tom by the way is happy with the division, and it should be emphasised, happy to be Deputy Director.

Membership of an organisation such as ours, where we aim to provide highly-skilled professional musical leadership and where we contract with talented and experienced professional soloists and musicians, is brought to members for a relatively modest annual fee. Adult, single membership works out, adding in fees for copies of music, at a few pounds weekly over 52 weeks. The Committee of course continues its operation throughout the year. This summer for example Kate Rogata is leading on the preparation and the lodging of our application to the Bramall Trust for continued funding over the next five years, with input from the Committee and from David.

Our ability to keep membership fees as low as is reasonably possible rests however upon the commitment and responsibility of choir members. That means that we are dependent upon as much support work as possible being carried out voluntarily. Inevitably sometimes there will be glitches. It is not always easy for our volunteers. I wanted to put across, howsoever ineptly, the message that when things do go awry, there is also a need for all members to take responsibility, to take ownership of these issues. I recognise, absolutely, that not everyone can afford the time to volunteer for the sorts of jobs for which we seek additional assistance but we all of us however have to do our best to help out when problems arise. The Committee and other volunteers are not able to micromanage every aspect of choir activity, as I know will be understood.

To matters more uplifting!

Whatever concerns I might have we know that HCS is in a very positive position, despite the very stressful time that we as a Committee have experienced over the past three or so years. In David, Tom and Marilynne, and of course Christine, we have an enviably talented team that we believe is as strong as that of any comparable choral society. We are continuing to receive new membership applications and if we could only escape from Covid's clutches, the numbers where needed could be increased. I worry constantly that new members are not receiving the same amount of attention that we would like because we have been discouraging singers from mingling, for Covid reasons.

Our rebooted online presence, now contracted out professionally, is raising our profile exponentially.

David, with his vast experience of working with younger choirs, has been asked to review whether, and if so how, we should progress to the relaunch of the Halcyon choir or its successor.

We have a wonderful concert planned for the Autumn, there will be a return of the Christmas concert with HSO, and then Messiah at the Royal Hall. Our President will be leading us in our March concert. The Proms concert in summer will go ahead, subject to us being able to comply with whatever Covid advice is by then applicable. I remain anxious about the Covid-compatible options for rehearsing and performing with an even larger choir.

It was never going to be straightforward to move out of Covid, but I think we can all look back at this Season with a sense of achievement.

A huge thank you from the two of us for all your support and for your communication of support. We cannot tell you how much that means to us.

Finally..... next season will be our seventy fifth anniversary year. It seems but five minutes since our longest serving member, Jenny Goodwin, cut the cake at our seventieth birthday party! Marilynne will be retiring as Deputy Director at the end of next Season and we hope to combine our anniversary celebration with a celebration of all that she has done for the choir for, incredibly, fifty of the seventy five years of our existence. Marilynne has been and remains a precious asset. Her incredibly generous gift to HCS over five decades of her time and expertise, for so much of it has been gifted, will be, quite simply, irreplaceable.

Paul Jackson, Amy Mosely

6. TREASURER'S REPORT including presentation of draft accounts for 2021-22

Report from Gill Walsh Treasurer for the Season 2021-22

Harrogate Choral Society: Financial Report for 1st August 2021-6th July 2022

The Harrogate Choral Society

1 August, 2021 - 6 July, 2022

	Beati	HCS	Brahms	Messiah	Puccini Rossini	Voices Organ Brass	Total
Income							
Admissions			2,035.00	9,605.00		896.00	12,536.00
Choral Music		168.82	114.00		425.00	373.50	1,081.32
Donations		25.00			100.00		125.00
Friends		625.00					625.00
Membership		22,190.00					22,190.00
Other Income		510.00					510.00
Float return						34.00	34.00
Seascape CD		40.00					40.00
Sponsorship		11,000.00					11,000.00
Sundry income							0.00
Amazon Smile		16.97					16.97
Easyfundraising		92.44					92.44
Events		360.05					360.05
Folders Scarves Ties		406.00					406.00
Gift Aid - estimate		2,000.00					2,000.00
Other Sundry income	400.00						400.00
Refreshment Income						227.00	227.00
Total income	£ 400.00	£ 37,434.28	£ 2,149.00	£ 9,605.00	£ 525.00	£ 1,530.50	£ 51,643.78
Expenses							
Accompanist			593.00	1,116.50			1,709.50
Accountancy		540.00					540.00
Advertising/Promotional			101.78		244.86		346.64
Artists			2,304.00	2,100.00	1,226.15	1,325.00	6,955.15
Box Office			60.00	60.00			120.00
Computer Costs		9.99					9.99
Concert Venue		36.00	1,638.00	1,020.00		320.00	3,014.00
Conductor				3,000.00		1,568.02	4,568.02
Deputy Music Director			3,075.50	546.00	2,192.00	1,746.00	7,559.50
Dues and Subscriptions		100.00					100.00
General Admin (includes sumup)		83.40					83.40
Friends Expenses Admin		22.00					22.00
Office/General Administrative Expenses		85.76					85.76
Instrument Hire			1,100.00				1,100.00
Making Music		622.00					622.00
Music Choral		288.70	206.04		183.31	1,708.70	2,386.75
Music Director		800.00	2,150.00	400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	6,150.00
Music for Orchestra			31.02				31.02
Office/General Administrative Expenses		650.95					650.95
Orchestra/Musicians				8,125.20	5,400.00	3,426.07	16,951.27
Other Miscellaneous Service Cost		137.91					137.91
Catering		179.34	24.45				203.79
Refreshments		65.00					65.00
Printing, Postage and Stationery		155.82					155.82
Programme Print			46.49	50.99	56.54	62.57	216.59
PRS			97.68	450.24	0.00	44.80	592.72
Publicity		40.31	399.88	449.63	209.46	224.26	1,323.54
Purchases		13.80					13.80
Folders							0.00
Ties and Scarves		104.50					104.50
Rehearsal Room			984.00	520.00	815.00	760.00	3,079.00
Concert Specific Sundry Expense			62.00	35.00		121.37	218.37
Total Expenses	£ 0.00	£ 3,935.49	£ 12,973.94	£ 17,973.66	£ 11,727.32	£ 12,706.79	£ 69,116.99
Net income	400.00	33,498.80	-10,724.84	-8,268.56	-11,202.32	-11,176.29	-7,473.21

Gill noted the following:

1. As usual at this stage the report is merely a report on where we are now, bearing in mind that our last performance was only 2 weeks ago and financial transactions from this are still being processed.
2. Again, as usual, I still have gift aid to claim on membership incomes for the season 2021/22. There have been a few reminders to members to complete a Gift Aid for if you are able to contribute this way (ie you pay tax!) – please consider doing this if you don't already and please let me know if you no longer pay tax so need to come off the list! Gift Aid can increase the choir's annual income by around £3000
3. Please also look at Easyfundraising and Amazon Smile if you shop online – we can receive small donations to funds if you register with them. There is info on our website!
4. The season's income and expenditure:
Savings:
 1. United Trust 2 year fixed term account
This will mature in 2023 with interest of £422.91 to be added at that stage. Currently the account stands at £21040.33
 2. Cambridge and Counties easy access (31 day notice) account
This account holds £21,483.65
For cash flow reasons from now until November 2022 we are moving £15000 into the current account. This will take place at the end of July.

Current Accounts

1. The Halcyon current account:
Balance £4019 1 payment made to DL for planning work £600
 2. HCS current account:
Balance as of 6/7/22 is £7012
5. Request for help: Previously there was a helper to the Treasurer, for example overseeing membership fees. If anyone is willing to help that would be really useful.

Question - Patrick McCreanor asked if the Rossini concert had gone ahead what difference would that have made to income.

GW – This would not have been a cheap concert.

Patrick noted £11,000 cost. GW – this was as a result of more notice about cancellation fees

PJ For the first cancelled concert we were in a stronger position as no one could perform for example soloists. The 2nd concert was only us affected and this resulted in costs, for example Manchester Camerata payment

Acceptance of items 2-6: Chris Shovelton proposed that all the items 2-6 be accepted, this was seconded by Fiona Young and approved by all

7. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

There have been no nominations received for anyone to join the trustees and therefore we do not need scrutineers. We do not have the full quota of trustees so during the season further people may be co-opted as our constitution allows this.

8. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4 (a) OF THE HCS RULES

Current

“The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a committee of the Society Trustees of which the Executive Officers will be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer appointed in accordance with the Constitution. This committee will be supported by a management committee which will include the Trustees and Officials of the Society and/or other invited members as necessary.”

Proposed

“The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a committee of the Society Trustees of which the Executive Officers will be the Chairman, Business Manager and Treasurer appointed in accordance with the Constitution. This committee will be supported by a management committee which will include the Trustees and Officials of the Society, a Secretary (who need not be a Trustee) and/or other invited members as necessary.”

Christine Collier proposed that the amendment be accepted, this was seconded by Sheila Boyle and approved by all.

9. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES FOR 2022/2023

Details had been circulated with the agenda, there being no further nominations Nick Brown proposed, seconded by Bryan Dexter that Gill Walsh, Marilynne Davies, Kate Rogata, Dee Walsh and Alastair Martin be re-elected. This was accepted unanimously.

10. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

There is no need for independent examiners for the AGM accounts at this stage as the accounts are not yet the final version, but Gill Walsh proposed that we continue to use Barkers for the finalisation of the accounts in the Autumn term. This was seconded by Ruth Pridmore and agreed by all.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Q1 Sheila Boyle - would it be better for people near the doors if we reverse the way we rehearse, so our backs are to the wind, fresh air would travel over us and take any infection away., so not breathing it in.

PJ – Suggested that this may be an issue for expert opinion. There might be a need for a dynamic risk assessment at the beginning of each rehearsal. He thanked Sheila for her suggestion which would be considered.

RP - David has expressed a wish for more friendly choir seating arrangements – perhaps a horse shoe arrangement as previously. Ruth to raise with the committee.

Liz Wearing - Altos are finding it difficult to hear, this was supported by Jane Burniston.

Q2 Shelagh Lamont - Please can Altos sit next to Sopranos as in a recent rehearsal.

Q3 Val Saunders asked if the membership fee had been decided for next year 2022-23.

GW - the membership fee will be agreed over the summer when we have a better understanding of next year's costs.

4. Comment Sarah Sherliker thanked the committee for their efforts to keep us safe and for all the committee's hard work.

5. Comment - Anne Wilkinson commented that whilst some of the programme of music at the concert was somewhat 'weird', how pleased she was, and her grandchildren and partners who came to the concert were, with the programme notes and explanations which were written for the performance, in particular the Seascape. The notes were terrific and all loved the concert.

6. Comment - Christine Collier noted there seemed no choice in the size of posters, and fliers didn't stand out colour wise. There was a need for posters out there to attract our audience.

PJ – the poster was designed to be online, and also to aim to attract a younger audience.

MD – added there was a need to get young people to come to bring down the average age of our audience.

PJ – Thanked all for their questions and comments which will all be taken into due consideration.

Long Service to the Choir - RP

Heather Hodgson and Anna Thornhill-Jones were congratulated in achieving 25 years membership during the lockdown. Heather was presented with her certificate and Anna will be presented with hers at an Autumn term rehearsal.

Nick Brown and David Cork were congratulated in achieving 25 years membership at the end of this season 21/22. Both were presented with their certificates.

Finally, Marilynne Davies has reached an amazing 50 years of membership, including being on the committee for 24 years. As Marilynne is already a Life Member of the choir RP proposed that in recognition of Marilynne's service and very significant contribution to the choir that Marilynne be made a Vice President. This was seconded by PJ and agreed unanimously by all. Marilynne received her gold certificate and a beautiful arrangement of flowers.

MD responded that this was a very great honour and a prestigious role for which she was very grateful. She thanked the choir for the flowers and privilege to work with the Harrogate Choral Society and expressed great confidence in the choir going forward.

At 8.27 pm Paul Jackson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.