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**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 7.30pm at  
St Michael's Church, Alcombe**

The Chairman, Jill Strong, opened the meeting and thanked everybody for coming.

**1. Apologies**

Twenty eight members attended and apologies were received from Penny Brown, Lyn Edwards, Pam Disney, Bill Griffiths, Elizabeth Hodges, Jane Jones, Meigan Lyons, Janet Lee, Angela Morecroft, Eileen Moore, Rachel Pope, Jim Parham, Janet Shave, Val Stuart and Diane Sweet.

**2. Minutes of Last AGM**

Minutes of the last AGM held on 11 June 2013 were read and the Chairman asked that they be approved. This was proposed by Alison Andrew and seconded by Irene Cross. All present voted to approve these and the Chairman duly signed them.

**3. Matters Arising – None.**

**4. The President**

The President, David Yates, once again presented his light-hearted and amusing report. He opened by saying “it has been a privilege and honour again to have my name appearing first in the programmes as your President”. He then went on to report on the contrasting concerts held and the pleasure of singing with Taunton Sinfonietta and our regular soloists who took the contrasting programmes in their stride. He thanked Marcus Capel and Sue Donovan for all the efforts put in to preparing us for the concerts. He also thanked Jill Strong and her hard working committee for all they do in the planning and preparation. Jill Strong and Peter Thompson particularly need grateful thanks for the years of service they have given. He then made “perceptive comment” of each of the voice parts of soprano, alto, tenor and bass, which, as usual, were most amusing. Jill thanked David for his words and support.

**5. Reports**

The Society's Officers produced and read out prepared reports.

**The Treasurer:** In the absence of Val Stuart her report was read by Jill Strong, Val Stuart reported that three concerts were held during the financial year and these had left us with very healthy funds in the bank – TSB - £1,985.93 and NS&I - £11,216.82 which gives us a grand total of £13,202.75 which compares favourably with last year (£11,670.10). The Society's membership stands at 82 which is the same as last year. HMRC refunded £666.25 for Gift Aid which was up on last year (£573.21). Many thanks to everyone who signed up to the

scheme. The advertising revenue was slightly down due to losing a couple of advertisers but grateful thanks to Daphne Midwood for doing most of the organising and collection of monies due. All three concerts held this year were successful and great fun and special thanks must go to Marcus Capel and Sue Donovan for all their extra hard work.

Jill Strong thanked Val Stuart (in her absence) for her report and statement and proposed that the accounts be sent to Amhurst & Shapland for inspection. All present voted to accept and re-appoint Amhurst and Shapland as Auditors. Jill Strong did give a breakdown of popularity and audience attendance of all recent concerts and the top two were “The Messiah” and “Lloyd Webber Evening”.

**The Secretary:** Peter Thompson began by stating he had pleasure in presenting his 10<sup>th</sup> and final Secretary’s Report to the Society. He commented on each of the concerts held during the last year, but mentioned that due to other commitments he still had not been able to sing the Faure Requiem with the Society although it had been sung twice since becoming a member! Although he was unable to sing in the Rossini and Faure concert he did manage to listen to the afternoon rehearsal and it was obvious all the practice on the Rossini had paid off. He made reference to Krystal, Stuart and Jamie our soloists as “our friends” (as they are as much part of our concerts as we are). He noted that we still refer to them as coming from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, however they are now fully fledged professionals. He stated that our concert at the end of March could not have been more different and was certainly a departure from the usual Choral Society repertoire. This may not have been to everybody’s taste, but we gained some new members he hoped will continue to sing with us and it certainly went down well with the audience. He went on to thank Don and Jackie Butterworth for maintaining the membership list and the attendance records. He then thanked Chris Pereira for organising the Orchestra teas, our rehearsal and concert interval refreshments and to those that help her; Daphne Midwood and Val Stuart for organising the advertisers for the programme; June Luker for continuing to produce our Minutes and Penny Brown for booking the concert venues, maintaining our Friends list and co-ordinating their concert tickets. He also made special thanks to Andrew Fletcher, who left us at the end of last year, but whose help and support over the years has been invaluable to the Society. Thanks were also made to those outside the Society: Anna Cockcroft, who now books and organises the players for the orchestra, Andy Coward from Choice Stationery, who prints all our posters and programme, and the husbands and wives who get volunteered to do the odd job or two. He summed up stating that he was not standing for re-election as Secretary, but would like to take the opportunity to thank all those past and present members of the committee who have helped and supported him over the last ten years. He stated that you do not have to be a member of the committee to do many of the tasks required in the running of the Society and urged all to consider whether as a committee member or not, what they could do to ensure the Society continues to run as smoothly as it has.

Jill Strong thanked Peter for his report and hard work during the past 10 years as Secretary.

There was a suggestion from one of the members present, namely Tim Edmonds, that the reading of the previous AGM minutes was not necessary as they were posted on-line for all to see. However, it was pointed out that not all members have a computer. The point was taken and would be discussed further within the committee.

**The Conductor:** Marcus Capel reported 18 concerts together and still going strong! He said the we had a very varied season this past year and was thrilled by the Rossini Stabat Mater

and wanted to do the whole thing again. Fabulous soloists and orchestra combined with sublime music, does it get any better? He said how pleased that we pushed ourselves in a different direction for the Lloyd-Webber concert in which our soloists did not let us down and thrilled the audience with their performance and reinforced our own professional approach to all our music. He is pleased that we consistently challenge ourselves and our audience, providing a wide range and depth of music for Minehead and the surrounding area. Thanks, as always to Sue Donovan for her supporting role. He reported that he was very much looking forward to next season, with the fresh challenges this will bring. He then went on to thank Jill and Peter for all their hard work over the past years and stated that they will be very much missed in their roles on the committee but he wished them both many more happy years of stress-free singing.

Jill Strong thanked Marcus for his report and his hard work.

**The Librarian:** Audrey Beach firstly gave thanks to the kind people who had assisted her over the year in giving out the music, thus saving valuable rehearsal time. Secondly, equally grateful thanks to all those members who were so efficient after the concert, not only in making sure their copies were handed in but also in the time they spent in cleaning up their copies. This enables the copies to be returned to the library on the Tuesday after the concert. Audrey did request that if the label comes off a copy of music on loan to let her know and she will renew it as it saves guesswork as to whose copy is whose. The music for next term is all on order and she expressed grateful thanks to the librarians at Yeovil who are always helpful and efficient.

Jill Strong thanked Audrey for her report and her continued efficiency in obtaining music for concerts. Jill did emphasize that members' subs were very reasonable compared to other Societies and that most of our music was obtained through libraries on loan, whereby some other societies have to pay for the hire of the music themselves or buy their own copies.

**Making Music:** Jackie Butterworth said she had received 28 e-mails on a variety of subjects as well as the monthly i-notes which include a section of particular relevance to the South West area, Jackie then went on to give a monthly breakdown of these events which ranged from Autumn Conference, groups recording CD featuring film music, introduction of new Managers within Making Music, Training Courses, etc. Quite a lot of activity but though interesting not relevant to us and what we do so successfully here in Minehead. There is so much happening around West Somerset and the surrounding area but we can only support each other if we know about local events before they happen.

Jill Strong thanked Jackie Butterworth for her report and keeping up to date with all events, particularly our local events and hoped all members would continue to supply information on these.

## **6. Election of Officers and Committee**

Officers: The Treasurer and Librarian agreed to continue for another year. The Secretary, Peter Thompson, is standing down but wished to remain on the committee.

There were no other nominations and their re-election was proposed by Felicity Belton and seconded by Vicky Borland and agreed by all present.

Committee: Chris Pereira and Don Butterworth are standing down, but the remaining committee members, June Luker, Penny Brown, Gordon Niccolls and Jill Strong agreed to stand again. Their re-election was proposed by Sue Donovan and seconded by Margaret Don and agreed by all present.

It was noted that Jill Strong would be standing down as Chairman but would remain on the committee. Gordon Niccolls offered to replace Jill as Chairman and this would be decided at the first committee meeting after the AGM. Jill Strong then invited any volunteers for the two remaining committee posts to come forward and Laurie Hambrook put himself forward for committee. Tina Salter had previously said that she would help with the refreshments but did not wish to become a committee member and help was also offered by Vicky Borland.

## **7. Annual Subscription**

It was agreed to keep subscriptions the same at £45 per year.

## **8. Plans for Season 2014/2015**

Marcus Capel outlined plans for the coming season:

13 Dec 2014 – Vivaldi's "Magnificat", Haydn's "Te Deum", assortment of music by Peter Brown and Carols.

28 Mar 2015 – Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with orchestra and soloists.

Nov 2015 – "Carmina Burana" at the Regal – date to be confirmed.

12 Dec 2015 – Nine Lessons and Carols – to be confirmed.

## **9. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will be held 7.30pm 8 September 2014 at Dene Cottage, Alcombe.

Rehearsals for next term start 9 Sept 2014

Next AGM – 2 June 2015

## **10. Any Other Business**

Jill Strong informed the members present of the costs involved when using our professional soloists (Krystal, Stuart and Jamie) and invited any comments for or against. The general feeling was that we should continue to use them, as it encouraged good audiences and helped the choir raise their standard of singing. However, it was agreed the Guildhall of Music & Drama would still be approached on some occasions.

Jill Strong reported that Jamie Rock (one of our regular professional soloists) is willing to give voice coaching to any individual or group and anyone interest should notify Jill.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm

