



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th May 2019 at 7.30pm

Held at St. Michael the Archangel, Alcombe, Minehead.

1. 32 Members were present
Apologies were received from 14 members.

The Chairman, Gordon Niccolls welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. The minutes of the 2018 meeting were taken as read and June Luker proposed that the minutes be accepted this was seconded by Diana Page, agreed by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

4. **Presidents Report.**

The President, Jill Strong gave her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

5. **Reports**

Treasurer

The Treasurer, Val Stuart, gave her report. A copy of this report and the annual balance sheet are attached to these minutes.

The Chairman proposed that this report be accepted, seconded by Dave Lowman and agreed by the meeting

Secretary

The Secretary, Penny Brown, gave her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Sue Donovan proposed, seconded by Irene Cross that this report be accepted this was agreed by the meeting.

Musical Director

Sue Donovan read the report as Marcus was unable to attend this meeting. Tim Edmunds proposed that this report be accepted, seconded by Dave Lowman and agreed by the meeting.

Librarian

Audrey Beach gave her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. June Luker proposed that this report be accepted, seconded by Paivi Payne and agreed by the meeting.

Making Music.

No report available.

6. Election of Officers

The Musical Director, Marcus Capel, Treasurer, Val Stuart, and Librarian, Audrey Beech. Jennie Norris proposed that these officers be re-elected, seconded by Eileen Moore and agreed by the meeting

7. Election of Committee

Rita Cramp, Sue Donovan, Tim Edmunds, Dot Niccolls, Gordon Niccolls, Jill Strong. Marlene Richards proposed that these members be elected to the Committee this was seconded by Chris and agreed by the meeting.

The Chair informed the meeting that there was one vacancy on the committee and asked for members to come forward.

8. Comments from the Chair

Gordon thanked the Officers and Committee members for their support and hard work during the year. He told the meeting that Val, the Treasurer would retire at the AGM in 2020 and appealed for an individual to take over this important role. Thanks to Veronica Edmunds who was helping Val in many ways. He informed the meeting that as a Registered Charity it was imperative that a Treasurer was appointed in time to take over from Val.

9. Subscriptions for 2019/2020.

Committee brought the proposal to the meeting that the Subscriptions be £60 per member for the 2019/2020 season. Considerable discussion took place on this matter. It was mentioned that it may be possible to pay this amount in instalments thus avoiding a large outlay. The Treasurer was now using online banking so this would make this easier. After discussion it was proposed by Gordon Niccolls, seconded by Dave Lowman that the subscription be set at £65 this was agreed by the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

Vicky Borland mentioned that she would like help with serving drinks during the interval at rehearsals. This would be helpful when she was unable to attend the rehearsal.

11. Future Dates

3rd September 2019 Commencement of Autumn rehearsal.

14th December Christmas concert.

2020 AGM date to be announced later.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

.....*Gordon Niccolls*.....Chair

Minehead Choral Society

Musical Director Report May 2019

Thank you to everyone for all their support this year. I very much appreciated the thoughts and wishes at the end of last year and, although I felt awful cancelling the Christmas concert, it was the best thing for a number of reasons.

I thoroughly enjoyed being back for the New Year, huge thanks to Gordon for holding the fort for the first few rehearsals. It was great to be back and hearing you all again. This spring programme, although full of choral favourites, was challenging. However we had the advantage of most of us knowing Messiah very well. Ultimately we produced a very fine concert that I was very pleased with and proud of. The balance of orchestral, solo and choral works was very well received by the audience and was a very popular concert. I believe that our Messiah performance was the best we have done so far and some of the choral works in the first half were sublime! Thank you all for your hard work and practice at home and in groups.

Many thanks to Sue for all her hard work in preparing for the rehearsals, together with stepping into whatever was needed for the performance. I also very much appreciated Chris' help during rehearsals, even if it meant taking her away from the tenors!

We are all aware that the balance of male and female voices is very difficult to manage. I very much appreciated the lady tenors stepping in to support the line for this concert, ultimately managing the balance of parts very well. I do want to be careful what we now look at for future concerts. We need to keep the balance and breadth of our repertoire, but be aware of the limitations of number.

Our Christmas concert will be the delightful "Stella Natalis" which we will all love to sing again. Lots of timing challenges, tinging in the right place...a great work which I am delighted we will be bringing back to Minehead. The opportunity for the audience to join in with the Carols in the second will undoubtedly be popular.

We have not yet confirmed the 2020 spring concert, the repertoire committee will meet soon to discuss. I very much want us to do something different for several reasons: to tackle something that is not so reliant on large tenor / bass sections and also maybe to attract members who may be wary of tackling some of the "great" choral works. I want to explore some of the Lloyd-Webber works, our last concert several years ago was very popular (and financially very profitable). This doesn't mean moving away from all the classics, but keeping our repertoire varied and fun for us all. Please let me know of any other ideas.

Enjoy the summer and I look forward to seeing you all again in September

Marcus Capel, May 2019

MINEHEAD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY AGM 2019

President's Address!

Gordon, Marcus, Fellow Members of the Society

What a season of changes it has been! We had changes of conductors, from Jackie, to Gordon, to Marcus, changes of music, from Rutter and carols, to possible Brahms, and then to Choral Classics and Messiah 2 & 3, and changes of soloists, from Stuart to Leonel, Jamie to Ryan and then Owain! –All this caused some anxious moments behind the scenes, but despite all of that, what a concert in the end! The soloists and Taunton Sinfonietta did us proud. I think particular congratulations should go to Andy Stark for his performance in The Last Trumpet Shall Sound. The tenors and basses, who were few in numbers, were not daunted and can also be proud of the part they played. And so, we achieved an evening of music, in which it was a pleasure for both choir and audience to participate. I am sure you would like me to thank Marcus on your behalf for taking on the challenge of this concert, for he is the lynch pin on whom it all depends.

There are two incidents I would like to share with you which caused me amusement and means I shall always associate them with this concert! One gentleman who shall be nameless, appeared looking very dapper in his DJ and bow tie, but if you looked at his feet, he was still wearing his gardening shoes! He had forgotten to change them! Mind you, that may not have been a bad ploy, for by the end of the evening my own feet were killing me! The second incident arose, when the very kind gentleman, a husband of one of the orchestra members and an experienced singer, stepped in to supplement the basses at the last minute. He had arrived in casual dress, expecting to be in the audience, so had to be dressed for the part! Jane and Keith Jones took him in hand and provided a pair of trousers, together with a cummerbund to disguise the gap in the waistline. The problem came with the Jacket – no DJ was available, but Keith had a black blazer with gilt buttons, so he then proceeded to cover them with black sticky tape!! Did any one notice?!! Thank you, Jane and Keith! This is what goes on behind the scenes!!

We all know and feel the benefits of singing and music, I am sure, but if you have watched Our Dementia Choir on TV recently, you will be even more aware of the lasting and powerful influence music has on the brain. I have seen this from my own experience, when playing in our recorder group at Stroke Club – how someone, unable to speak, suddenly started to sing along with us! Likewise, I used to play my recorder and the piano at Westerley to my mother, who was not very with it, - and when I sat her at the piano, she began to pick out the notes of a tune. She had been a good pianist and had taught the village children but hadn't been near a piano for years! So, I will end with thanks to Emily Feldberg for her sterling work running Singing for the Brain in this area and my message is, as last year, KEEP SINGING!!

Librarian's Report for AGM 2019

I would like to start, as usual, with thanks to all who have given me assistance this year and without whose help I might have given up in despair.

Firstly, a huge thank you to those who have carried boxes to and from my car for rehearsals and helped me hand out scores. Also I am exceedingly grateful to everyone who helped to carry out the full boxes at the end of a concert. Particular thanks also go to my husband and the Music Director who carried a large number of heavy boxes into Minehead library for me!

I again want to express my appreciation of the efforts members of the society make to clean their scores and return them after each concert. Also thanks to those people who know in advance they have to miss the concert and make sure I have their music. Obviously, last minute problems cannot be helped, but the pleasure in a successful concert is rapidly diminished if we have to spend the next week chasing missing scores. The library will not accept back incomplete sets so we have to put up with 12 or so boxes in our small sitting room until all the music is back or I have purchased replacements. It is a relief to be able to clean the room!!

A huge and unexpected thank you goes to the Librarian of Taunton Sinfonietta who nobly collected up all the orchestral music for us after our last concert.

The societies yearly sub of £70 has been paid and most of the music for the next concert has been ordered. Mandy, who used to be at Yeovil, has sadly left but her replacement, Paul, is being very helpful. As we are a smaller choir now and quite a few people have copies of Stella Natalis and the Rutter and Chilcott carol books, I have only ordered 60 of each.

Paul has obtained all the music except for half the Rutter carol books, this is due to Surrey library having a refurbishment and not taking orders yet. They couldn't tell him when they were reopening and, presumably, no other county could help. We will just have to wait! Again, thanks to husband David who took over ordering when I was about to throw my iPad away in frustration, all the orchestral music is on order.

In hopes that we can obtain the rest of the music, we can look forward to a great Christmas concert.

Treasurer's report for AGM - 14th May 2019

2018 - 2019 was different to normal as we were only able to hold one concert. The December concert was cancelled but fortunately minimal costs were incurred due to the goodwill of music suppliers, printers and the Avenue Methodist Church. Special thanks to our Librarian who coped admirably with the return and refund of music already ordered.

The bank account looks quite healthy because we only held one concert and is just £212.73 down on last year.

The bank balances are as follows:

TSB current account	£2,450.44
NS& I deposit account	£4,505.37
TOTAL:	£6,955.81

The membership stands at 71 which is less than the previous year (79) but the increased subscription meant we were only slightly down financially. Thank you to those who pay by BACS as this makes life a lot easier for the treasurer.

Our Gift Aid rebate was £797.07 which is only slightly down on the previous year (£816.13).

Our Friends' donations were down on last year - £426.01 compared to £632.00 - but thanks must go to our loyal supporters who continue to contribute in this way.

The profit from the weekly refreshments was £85.27 and thanks go to Vicky Borland and her helpers.

Income from the programme advertisements is down on last year - £125.00 compared with £290.00. Daphne Midwood does a marvellous job of approaching businesses and accepting cash payments. However, some businesses wish to pay by BACS and their payment is not always forthcoming. Tim Edmonds has prepared a spreadsheet clarifying who has paid and who hasn't and this is quite complicated due to the 'advertising' year being different to our 'financial' year. He has recommended we align this. We also need a volunteer to help Daphne approach businesses especially in Minehead.

Lastly I would like to thank Veronica Edmonds who has been dealing with all the computerised accounts and has helped me enormously.

I would also like to thank Mully Woolmer who helped with the collecting of subs at the beginning of term.

CONCERT ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

2017-2018		2018-2019
2,519.00	Admission tickets	2,346.00
152.50	Programme Sales	73.00
290.00	Programme Advertising	125.00
<u>2,961.50</u>		<u>2,544.00</u>
<u>6,024.19</u>	Deficit for year	<u>3,221.99</u>
<u><u>£8,985.69</u></u>		<u><u>£ 5,765.99</u></u>

PAYMENTS

2017-2018		2018-2019
6,008.50	Soloists, orchestra	3,822.79
1,229.28	Music Hire	960.00
700.00	Venue Hire	345.00
553.85	Programme printing	198.00
346.40	Posters & banners	302.40
94.01	Concert refreshments	40.31
0.00	Performing Rights	42.34
53.65	MATA commission	55.15
<u>£ 8,985.69</u>		<u>£ 5,765.99</u>

GENERAL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

2017-2018		2018-2019
3,830.00	Members subscriptions	3,795.00
816.13	Gift Aid revenue	797.07
632.00	Friends & Donations	426.01
79.45	Refreshments	85.27
195.00	Miscellaneous income	48.00
34.78	Interest NS&I	38.86
<u>£ 5,587.36</u>		<u>£5,190.21</u>

PAYMENTS

2017-2018		2018-2019
500.00	Rehearsal Room	500.00
313.50	Subs & Insurance	301.00
1,000.00	Conductor	1,000.00
350.00	Accompanist	350.00
67.00	Folders	29.95
99.97	AGM	0.00
<u>2,330.47</u>		<u>2,180.95</u>
<u>3,256.89</u>	Surplus for year	<u>3,009.26</u>
<u><u>£5,587.36</u></u>		<u><u>£5,190.21</u></u>

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Opening Balance at 1 May 2018

TSB Current Account	£2,202.03
NS&I	<u>£4,966.51</u>
	£7,168.54

Surplus general account 2018-19 £3,009.26

Deficit concert account 2018-19 -£3,221.99

Closing Balance at 30 April 2019 £6,955.81

Represented by balances at 30 April 2019

TSB Current Account	£2,450.44
NS&I	<u>£4,505.37</u>

£6,955.81

TICKET SALES AND COSTINGS

<u>Concert</u>		<u>Ticket price</u>	<u>Ticket Sales</u>	<u>Concert costs</u>	<u>Profit/Loss</u>
Dec-14	Vivaldi Magnificat, Haydn Te Deum + carols	£8 MATA Door	£ 419.69 £ 472.00 <u>£ 891.69</u>		
Mar-15	Mendelssohn Elijah	£10 MATA Door	£ 500.00 £ 540.00 <u>£ 1,040.00</u>	£3,950.00	Loss: -£ 2,910.00
Nov-15	Carmina Burana, Opera, Orchestra	£10 MATA	<u>£1,715.00</u>	<u>£5,889.00</u>	Loss: <u>-£4,174.00</u>
Mar-16	Mozart Requiem, Vivaldi Gloria & Cantique de St Racine	£10 MATA Door	£ 708.39 £ 615.00 <u>£ 1,323.39</u>	<u>£4,237.00</u>	Loss <u>-£2,913.61</u>
Nov-16	Handel Messiah	£10 MATA Door	£ 1,089.09 £485.00 <u>£ 1,574.09</u>	<u>£3,406.00</u>	Loss <u>-£ 1,831.91</u>
Mar-17	Mozart Messa Brevis in D & Solennes de Confessore de St Racine	£8 MATA Door	£ 203.24 £ 352.00 <u>£ 555.24</u>	<u>£ 442.00</u>	Profit <u>£ 113.24</u>
Nov-17	Opera Highlights & Puccini Messa di Gloria	£10 MATA Door	£ 471.71 £ 543.00 <u>£ 1,014.71</u>	<u>£ 4,693.44</u>	Loss <u>-£ 3,678.73</u>
Mar-18	Armed Man/Spirit of England/Flanders Field	£10 MATA Door	£ 793.00 £ 690.00 <u>£ 1,483.00</u>	<u>£4,210.25</u>	Loss <u>-£ 2,727.25</u>
Nov-18	Advent Concert - cancelled		<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£471.00</u>	Loss: <u>-£471.00</u>
Mar-19	Choral Classics	£12 MATA Door	£ 1,716.00 £ 630.00 <u>£2,346.00</u>	<u>£4,772.99</u>	Loss <u>-£2,426.99</u>
Dec-19	Christmas Concert <i>advance payment</i>			<u>£324.00</u>	<u>-£324.00</u>

Secretary's Report : 2018-19

I would like to start by welcoming you all to this year's AGM – I don't know where the time has gone as it doesn't seem that long ago since the last one!

The Choral Society has had to face its's share of challenges this year but we have tackled them head on, and are continuing to do so. We continue to have a healthy membership (although more men are always needed), welcoming several new recruits, and we have worked hard throughout the year, culminating in a fabulous concert in March. And this, I believe, is an appropriate point to thank Gordon Niccolls for more than ably stepping into Marcus's big shoes in the first few rehearsals of 2019.

The Autumn Term re-acquainted us with John Rutter's "Magnificat", and I for one enjoyed the opportunity, although never an easy piece of music to learn. I hope we will have another opportunity to perform this once again in the not too distant future. Having changed the programme for our Spring Concert, I believe the Society felt a lot happier and more confident, and with both Gordon & Marcus's input throughout the term, we produced one of our finest concerts, well in my humble opinion anyway. Our 4 soloists were on top form– how lovely that they keep wanting to come back to sing with us – we must be doing something right! And it was lovely to hear Taunton Sinfonietta play Mozart's Divertimento, not a piece of music I know. And who can forget the trumpet player's sublime playing in the bass air "The trumpet shall sound" in the Messiah.

I am sure you would like to join me once more in thanking Gordon & Marcus for expertly guiding us, to Sue for skilfully accompanying us, and to Chris Pereira for filling in for Sue whenever needed. You are much appreciated by us all.

I'd also like to give my thanks once again to those who very quietly and proficiently get on with the jobs that make our Society run smoothly:

Jackie Butterworth for maintaining the membership list and the attendance records; Tina Salter, Vicky Borland and volunteers from ›Save the Children‹ for organising Orchestra teas, and rehearsal and concert interval refreshments; Daphne Midwood and Val Stuart for organising the advertisers for the programme; Jill Strong for ensuring we have fabulous soloists and orchestra when needed; Dot Niccolls in producing our Minutes in record speed; Tim Edmond for producing our excellent concert programmes; Audrey Beach for hiring, collecting and distributing music in time for our first rehearsal of each Term, as well as collecting said music after concerts; and finally Gordon Niccolls for keeping us all on the straight and narrow!!

And as usual there are thank yous to those outside the Society: in particular to Lynn Carter, who has been organising and booking the players for our concerts with Taunton Sinfonietta for a number of years; she is now stepping down from this role. Also thank yous to Ian Gabb from ISOK, who prints all our posters and programmes, and last but no means least our family and friends who support us in so many ways. But we can always do with more help - you do not have to be a member of the committee to do many of the tasks required in the running of the Society.

Finally, as in previous years, I want to end with a big thank you to you, the members, for providing Minehead with diverse, entertaining, sometimes challenging, but always enjoyable, programmes of music. None of these can be done without you.

Thank you.