**Croydon Philharmonic Choir**

**Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2013 at the home of Jen Hassall, 15 Tindale Close, Sanderstead, CR2 0RT**

**Present**

Jill Aebi (Chair) Jenny Taylor (Secretary)

Clare Power (Membership Secretary) Alan Partridge (Treasurer)

Margaret Ibbott Michelle Zappa

Jen Hassall Rosemary Stone

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Olga Mathews

1. **Minutes of meeting held on Friday 25th October 2013**

Were approved as an accurate record and signed by Jill.

1. **Matters Arising**

**3.1 AGM Minutes.** Jenny confirmed that she had received the final minutes of the AGM, with David’s report included, from Heather.

**3.2 Request from St Matthews for contribution to new chairs for the Church.** Final total raised was £74. Alan will give Jenny a cheque to be forwarded to the Vicar. **Action JT**

**3.3 Coaches.** George has discussed his offer to book coaches for “away” events with Alan and it has been agreed that George will book them in future.

**4. Review of concert at The Croydon Minster 16.11.13**

The Bishop did not attend due to family commitments, however Heather has confirmed the dates of future concerts with him and he has agreed to attend if he can.

**Problems:**

* No heating in the hall and it was very cold for those who did not go home/eat out between the rehearsal and the concert.
* If we use the Minster in future, musicians must be reminded to lock the door of the hall before leaving the building.
* The Church was very dusty from the building work that has been taking place.
* We were not informed that there would be scaffolding in place in the Church.
* Communication with the Verger was difficult and the information we received about the deposit, final invoice and fee for not using the organist was unclear.
* It was decided that if we use the Minster for future concerts they will be held in the summer, not November.

**Positive Feedback.**

* We received very positive feedback from David, who thought our performance was the best for some time.
* Shell, who was unable to sing but attended, said she thought the singing sounded beautiful.
* Jill wanted it noted that Dick, Marc and team did a great job erecting and taking down the staging after the concert. The committee agreed and wished to thank them all.
* Margaret commented that in future we need three people at each table serving drinks.

NB. Jenny mentioned that she had visited St Mary Magdalene Church in Addiscombe with Margaret and Dick, with a view to using it for our concert in June 2015. As soon as she has all the details she will bring them to the committee for discussion.

1. **100th Season 2013 – 2014**

**5.1 Minutes of 100th Group.** Will be referred to as needed.

**5.2 17th December 2013 Christmas Concert at St Matthews.** Jen was hopeful that she would receive the copies of Britton’s *Hymn to the Virgin* that she has on order within the next two weeks.

Shell will email Heather for details of who is reading and what they are reading. **Action MZ**

Need an A3 size poster for St Matthews to display on the notice board. Also Shell needs the programme list from David by Tuesday and details of which altos are singing The Coventry Carol. **Action MZ**

Rosemary will keep a tally of which drinks the audience will want when she sells the tickets. **Action RS**

Jenny gave Shell a copy of her local Residents Association booklet (for Addiscombe) with a view to placing an advert for the choir in future publications. Shell confirmed she had placed adverts in the Resident’s Association magazines for Park Hill and East Croydon and also the CR5 magazine. It was agreed there would be no VIPs.

Margaret greed to ask Dick to turn the pews around and Clare confirmed that she would have no problem obtaining a mike for the readers. **Action DJ/CP**

Gifts for David and Ian were in hand. Margaret will arrange the collection of £2.00 from choir members to cover the cost of their refreshments. **Action MI**

When David joined the meeting we asked the following: Shell urgently needs complete programme order by Tuesday, we asked David to email her with the pieces, order, soloists and audience carols. **Action DG**

Jen informed David of the difficulties she was experiencing obtaining Britten *Hymn for the Virgin*, if it doesn’t arrive in time, could we use on another occasion.

It was agreed that David would audition the soloists on Tuesday and that Clare would inform them by email. **Action DG/CP**

Jenny asked David to confirm that Mark Kincaid is available to accompany us for our rehearsal on Friday 13th December. David to let Jenny know. **Action DG**

**5.3 11th January 2014 Workshop**. The Church has been booked at a cost of £200. There will be a £10 entrance fee for visitors, we do not require tickets.

Shell will advertise on face book and Twitter.  **Action MZ**

Timing for the day is:

* Morning session 10am to 1pm, with a break for Tea, Coffee and Biscuits.
* Afternoon session 2pm to 5pm with a break for Tea and Cakes.

Margaret will ask the choir to bring cakes on the day. Refreshments will not be provided at the start of the day. **Action MI**

Rosemary will manage the registration and if visitors are happy to give their details will ask for contact number and how they heard of the workshop. **Action RS**

Jenny will announce the date in the notices at the next rehearsal. **Action JT**

We asked David if Emily Dickins had confirmed whether she was available for the day, David has contacted her and she will confirm her availability with David by the beginning of December. We need to know the programme for the day as soon as possible for publicity purposes.

**5.4 Spring 2014 away concert with Basingstoke.** Jen confirmed that we would be performing Verdi *Te Deum* (from Four Sacred Pieces) as well as Rossini *Stabat Mater.* Copies will be to buy only. Jen will inform the choir. **Action JH**

George will organise the coaches. **Action GJ**

David confirmed that BCS had only recently decided on the Verdi *Te Deum*.

**5.5 100th Birthday Dinner.**

**Ticketing.** Shell agreed to design a special ticket for the event, which she assured us would be lovely! The event will begin at 7pm, when drinks will be served. Each member of the choir can bring a guest, former members will also be invited. **Action MZ**

**Food.** We have to agree the menu. We hope that by combining a starter and sweet from the Edward Heath menu and the main from the slightly more expensive Sandringham menu, we will have a meal that will appeal to everyone. We need to agree the cost of this with the Selsdon Park and hope they are open to negotiation. Jill, Barbara and Jenny will arrange a visit, after Christmas. **Action JA/JT/BW**

**Entertainment.** Jenny thought it would be pleasant to have a pianist playing whilst we ate. After some discussion as to the entertainment it was agreed that Jill would send a survey to the choir with our suggestions. These were,

* Ceilidh band with dancing
* disco
* Entertainment organised by members of the choir (Adrianne Fresco?)
* Two in a bar, keyboards drums duo, with vocals`
* Jazz band
* No entertainment

We would also welcome suggestions from the choir. **Action JA**

**Non- paying Guests.** It was agreed that we would invite David and his wife, Ian and his wife, the photographer and his wife (if appropriate) also Crispian and his wife. Jill will send formal invitations to them. **Action JA**

**David joined the meeting at 9-15pm.**

**We had several questions to put to David and I have added them and his responses under the appropriate headings for ease of reference.**

**5.6 14th June 2014 Bach Magnificat Cadogan Hall**

David confirmed that we are singing the shorter version of the Bach*Magnificat.*

Jenny asked about the soloists, whether we could use the soloists who sang for us at the Minster and if we will approach them directly. David definitely would like Nathan Vale and Erica, also Katie Bray and Hakan Vramsmo. David mentioned that we should have five soloists in total, to include a second soprano. He agreed to approach them directly. **Action DG**

**David left the meeting at 9.35pm.**

It was agreed that Jenny would now contact Adam at the Cadogan Hall re invoice for the deposit and confirm the soloists with David. **Action JT**

**5.7 6th December 2014 Messiah Fairfield Halls.**

**Drinks reception.** Jenny had heard from the FH and the Arnhem gallery is not available for us to use. The rest of the available rooms would not be large enough to accommodate us, as they are only suitable for around 100 people. After much discussion it was agreed that Jenny would contact the FH to see if the bar would be open (if not would they consider keeping it open for us) at the end of the performance. **Action JT**

Jill will ask David to book Crispian for the performance. **Action JA/DG**

**6. Friends Association.** The members have now held their final AGM and have formally ceased to exist. Approximately £7,000 funds will be handed over to Alan. They have requested that some of the money be kept in a reserve fund until all life members are deceased. Alan has requested the contact details of the remaining life members and will contact them. Margaret asked if we could draw on the funds for some music stands, Alan said that was a possibility once he has received the funds from them.

**7. Membership Secretary Report.** Clare had nothing to report.

**8. Treasurers Report.** Alan had circulated a Concert Receipts and Payments Analysis to the committee which showed a deficit of £3,513 for the concert at the Croydon Minster. Jill requested that the Treasurers report in future be placed higher on the agenda to ensure that Alan has more time to discuss our financial position with us.  **Action JT**

**9. Recruitment committee report.** Clare had spoken to Dick about continuing on the recruitment committee. Dick is happy to be on the committee, but not to lead it. It was agreed that Clare would approach Olga and ask her to go on the committee for us. **Action CP**

**10. Choir Website.** Nothing to report.

**11. Any other Business.**

**Flyer.** Alan raised query about the wording of the flyer in regard to reading music. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**David’s yearly contract.** Alan wants to use the contract David has with BCS as a base for our contract in future, as it is better fit for purpose. Alan asked Jenny to send him a copy of the existing contract. **Action JT**

**12. Date, time and place of next meeting.**

It was felt that we needed a meeting before the workshop in January to discuss any problems/matters arising. We agreed to hold an informal committee meeting after the break during our first rehearsal after Christmas on Tuesday 7th January 2014.

The next full committee meeting will be held on Friday 17th January 2014 at 7.30pm at the home of Margaret Ibbott 14A Sanderstead Hill CR2 OHD.

Jen was thanked for her hospitality and we also expressed our appreciation for the lovely cake Rosemary kindly brought to the meeting.