

Wetherby Choral Society: Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date:	21 October 2024
Time:	7.30pm
Place:	St James' Church Wetherby

Attendees :	Heather Marsh (Chairman), Kathy Hart (Treasurer), Malcolm Smith (Secretary), John Dunford (Musical Director), and 81 other members of the Society
Apologies :	Julie Barnes, Christopher Gibbs, Margaret Jacob, Lois Page, Joan Roberts, Bren Walters and Liane Williams

Item	Description
1	Apologies - see above
2	Minutes of the AGM 23 October 2023. These were agreed as a true record (Proposed Tony Gooch: seconded Chris Outram)
3	Chairman's report Heather Marsh had circulated her report in advance of the meeting. There were no questions. Heather had also circulated a paper on how members would be involved in the recruitment of our new Music Director. She explained how the Committee felt it was very important that members felt they were able to make a contribution to this vital decision, and outlined the process and the timetable. Both reports are filed with the papers for the meeting.
4	Treasurer's report The approved accounts for 2023/4 and the Treasurer's projections for 2024/5 had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Kathy Hart said that she was pleased with the outcome for the past year and felt that it put the Society in a good financial position for the current financial year. She was thanked by the members for all the work she had put in as Treasurer.

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	<p>There were no questions on the accounts.</p> <p>Kate Auld proposed that the financial statements be accepted. This was seconded by Jackie Faulkner and carried <i>nem con</i>.</p> <p>The report and accounts are filed with the papers for the meeting.</p>
5	<p>Music Director's Report</p> <p>John Dunford's spoke to the meeting as follows:</p> <p>Concerts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Paul Carr/Karl Jenkins – this concert went down very well with the audience. The sustained top As for the sopranos were a challenge (perhaps still in the recovery period post Covid) but the sopranos were now more confident.2. Messiah with Carols – John had Covid and he was very grateful to David Grealy for stepping in to conduct at the very last minute. John was delighted for David and for him also returning in the Spring to give an organ recital at St James'.3. Sea Symphony – John felt that this concert was the best he had ever done with WCS in St James'. The orchestra and the soloists were excellent. The rehearsals suffered from issues with the accompanist which had the unfortunate effect of undermining the confidence of some members who decided to drop out of the concert. John issued a plea that all members attend regularly, rehearse between times and stick with him – we can manage the works he has chosen for us.4. Baroque music – lots of short numbers – not easy to learn. fine support from soloists, despite many changes in the weeks leading up to the concert. High quality soloists raise the standard of the performance for us all, and John re-affirmed his belief in getting the best quality of soloists that we can afford and to maintain the same level of trust in the new Music Director. <p>John thanked everyone who donates to the choir, and to all those involved in the large range of fundraising activities, coordinated by Chris Outram. He is pleased that the choir is now on such a firm financial footing, and paid tribute to the work Kathy Hart has done to ensure our financial year matches the choir year. Our financial strength will be important going into the period where we are recruiting a new MD and we will be able to support our new appointee appropriately.</p> <p>John also thanked the Committee and in particular the officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) for their effective teamwork, and the meeting applauded them in recognition of all that they do.</p> <p>John reported that he was pleased with the way that William Campbell was settling in as our</p>

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	<p>accompanist, although he was sorry that William was not able to attend tonight due to another commitment.</p> <p>John finished by saying that he will work as hard as he can with the Committee to ensure that we find a worthy new MD and that he will help us to retain the contacts he has built with orchestra players and soloists over the years.</p> <p>There were no questions on the report.</p>
6	<p><i>Election of Committee members</i></p> <p><i>Committee members</i></p> <p>One nomination had been received.</p> <p>Christopher Gibbs (proposed Heather Marsh, seconded Malcolm Smith) It was noted that Christopher had been co-opted to the Committee as Membership Secretary but it was now time for him to become an elected committee members.</p> <p>There were no other nominations and the meeting gave its unanimous approval to the election of Christopher Gibbs.</p>
8	<p><i>Any other business</i></p> <p>One member stated that it was not always possible to hear what John was saying at rehearsals and wondered whether a microphone could be used. Heather responded that the committee was aware of the issue and had tried many options but there was no easy solution.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 19.55.</p>