

Minutes of AGM 2022
24 October 2022

1. Welcome and Apologies

Liz Mackie, Acting Chair, opened the AGM by welcoming all. The apologies were from: Penny McKee, Pat Wearmouth, Chris Nichols, Jean Murray, Jo-Anna Marshall, Mhairi Allen and Jenny Brockie.

2. Committee's Annual Report

Liz began her Report by reminding the choir that much had changed since its last meeting pre pandemic. Ronnie Seiler had resigned as Chair and Liz thanked him for his much appreciated time in office. Liz then had reassumed the role, on a temporary basis, for none knew at that time what the future held for the choir.

Liz declared that it had not been an easy 2+ years and much had been done to keep choir members together as a group and involved, by organising social events and publishing newsletters. Liz gave Alison's work during this period special mention.

Towards the end of the pandemic, when Philip stood down, the Committee began a drive to recruit a new Conductor, a drive with a most successful outcome. Liz reminded the choir that we have been very lucky to secure Tim Coleman's services, bringing as he does a breath of fresh air, youth and fun to our rehearsals.

Liz also mentioned Morley Whitehead who, in returning as accompanist, had been warmly welcomed.

Liz reminded the choir of the support given to us by Merchiston Castle School through senior management, the Bursar, and Stephen Dennis, Director of Music. All that they do for us, including allocating rehearsal and performance space for us, is so very much appreciated. We could not have resumed without them.

Looking to the future, Liz expressed her view that we have good reason to be upbeat and that to secure our future it really is up to us all to spread the word and help boost choir numbers.

3. Receipt and Payment Accounts for year ending 31 July 2022: Treasurer's Remarks

Libby Campbell, Treasurer, referring to the accounts, pointed out that before the pandemic we had reserves of £4,000. In the two years in which we couldn't meet to sing we had essential expenditure amounting to £1,160 and we organised Socials costing £240, so total expenditure amounted to £1,400, and our reserves now stand at a little over £2,500. Our sources of income are subscriptions and concert retiring collections and so it is up to us all to help maximise income figures by recruiting new members and inviting friends to attend our concerts.

Libby thanked Nigel Fairhead who checked the figures for each of the three years to 31 July 2022 and she asked the membership to approve the accounts for each of these years. Approval was then proposed by Jannet Robinson and seconded by Lesley Hay.

Libby thanked Nigel for all the years he has helped the Committee by checking the accounts. It was decided, however, that now that he is a member of the committee it would be appropriate to appoint a new independent examiner of the books and records.

4. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

Liz, Acting Chair, stood down. In seeking a new Chair, Ann White proposed that Lesley Hay, alto, be appointed, a motion seconded by Janice Sutherland. Lesley's appointment was approved.

Lesley thanked Liz for her chairing of the Committee and proceeded to seek re-election of Alison Kennedy as Secretary, and Libby as Treasurer. These motions were approved as was the appointment of Liz to the Committee as an ordinary member.

The meeting then proceeded to approve the appointments to the Committee of:

Nigel Fairhead, to assist the Treasurer, no longer as Accounts Examiner

Jean Murray and Christine Cotter as Librarians

Anne Cairns, to assist the the Secretary

Margaret Kieran as Concert Promoter

Jo-Anna Marshall as Liaison with Merchiston Castle School

Helen Talbot intimated that she was happy to take charge of maintaining the Choir Website but not as a member of the Committee. This was accepted.

Lesley mentioned that a Choir member with an issue or a concern, or a point of information to pass on, should feel free to raise the matter with any member of the Committee for follow up.

5. Approval of the Committee's appointee to examine the accounts

Libby proposed the appointment of Alistair Beattie as Accounts Examiner, Liz Mackie seconded the proposal. The motion was approved.

6. A.O.C.B.

Lesley informed new members at the meeting that black folders are required to hold music while singing at concerts. These cost of the order of £8 - £10.

Referring to the posters advertising the Christmas Concert, Libby made it clear that should members be without a printer or working printer, paper copies will be provided for distribution and display.

Libby, reminding the Choir of the drop in financial reserves since 2019, encouraged all to publicise the coming Concert and seek to recruit new members.

Anne White spoke for the meeting when she remarked, in addressing Tim, that it was a joy learning from him.

Alison Kennedy
29 October 2022