

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at Holy Trinity School, Bury**

**Officers:** Tina Dixon, Chairman; June Bowker, Vice Chairman; Jean Seymour, Secretary/Programmes; Graham Bolton, Treasurer.

**Committee:** Dorothy France, Minutes Secretary/Membership; Keith Ball, Programme Advertising; Gordon Jones, Outreach/Publicity; Sarah Taylor, Facebook; Deirdre Elliott, Website; Tony Patten, Seating Organiser; Naomi Jahoda, Social Events Co-ordinator/long service certificates; Chris Babbs; Rosemary Artley; Geoffrey Stokes.

**Ex officio:** Juan Ortuño, Director of Music.

**Apologies for absence:** Naomi Jahoda.

**Minutes** from the previous committee meeting on 7 October had been circulated and were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The balance in the bank was £11500 including £2000 funding for Cotton Mills. GB referred to the dissatisfaction with CAF and intention to transfer to another bank. The COOP was the preferred choice, with their special benefits for charities, but they are closing their Bury branch so Graham would look into transferring the CAF accounts to an alternative bank.

The November concert tickets included 57 adult and 2 student additional sales (4 adult and 2 student via The Fusiliers Museum/Bury Info Centre) and 16 additional season tickets. 126 stubs were collected but all 130 programmes were sold. Some members of the audience had not handed in their tickets as there were more than 150 people there. We needed more help on the door at concerts and programme sellers needed to be away from the ticket desk. The choir would be reminded to volunteer to help in various ways at future concerts and fill in the Helper Survey. Very few had volunteered so far. 'Friends' of Bury Choral would also be asked to help.

We made a profit of £380 from the concert including £78 that had not been accounted for. This was encouraging as the orchestra fees were around £1000. Advertising had also brought in £1000 and Keith was thanked for his efforts. A card and donation was received from Margaret Lindsay.

### **Christmas Concert**

Tuesday 16 December at United Reformed Church, Bury at 7.30pm. The programme would include popular carols for audience participation and the church would provide carol sheets. The programme had been circulated to members and some items required soloists from the choir. There would be a raffle with hampers as prizes. Choir members will be asked to bring items to be included in the hampers rather than a cash contribution, before 9 December. Tina and June would collect these and make up the hampers. Graham would organise refreshments - mulled wine and mince pies. The pies had been donated last year. Helpers would be needed to serve refreshments on the night.

Programmes had been sold at last year's Christmas Concert but we made a loss. There was a discussion as to whether programmes should be provided free and include the words for carols. Keith had promised the advertisers that they would appear in four programmes for the season. Deirdre offered to print sixty informal programmes to be given out rather than sold but it would be onerous to produce a larger number. Graham will cost out the programmes with Printforce and Bury Training who provided the flyers for the November concert for £15. The Christmas concert is not obligatory for ticket sales so there is no base income.

Dress code would be coloured bow ties with white shirts for men and red or green long sleeved tops for ladies with black trousers or skirts.

### **March Concert**

The venue would be St Margaret's Church Prestwich. The programme would include Elgar *Scenes from the Bavarian Highlands*, Suk- *Lieder*, Schubert *Der Tanz* D826, *Geselligkeit* D609 and *An Der Sonne* D43, also Brahms *Liebeslieder Walzer* Op52. There is a grand piano available.

### **May Concert**

Venue All Saints Church Stand. Programme: Goff Richards *A Cycle Round Britain* and Orff *Carmina Burana*.

An extra piano would be needed and Graham had contacted Forsyth's to enquire about the cost of hire and delivery but had not had a reply. Keith offered to follow this up.

Juan was asked whether we would need an orchestra for *Carmina Burana* but he said it would need to be a large orchestra and would be too expensive to hire the parts and pay players. Sara Helsby-Hughes and her husband Nick Sales were interested in singing in *Carmina Burana*.

### **Any Other Business**

Sarah was concerned about the seating of the sopranos at concerts. Some were seated in a long line at Bury Parish Church and had difficulty hearing the other parts. Some members were reluctant to move away from their usual places at rehearsals. Tony would go to St Margaret's Church and plan out the seating arrangements for the March concert. The choir could be moved into concert positions for rehearsals leading up to the concert, this had been done in previous seasons.

Keith was concerned about the tenors as they were not confident when he was absent. Juan would arrange for the tenor soloist to help them in the May concert. Committee members were asked to try and find tenors to help as well. Members had said that the sectional rehearsals had been helpful and could be repeated.

ITV would be filming at St Mary's Prestwich on Monday 8 December and would like singers to join in. The filming would be from 6pm until 10pm and an immediate response would be needed. The Chairman would make an announcement at the following rehearsal.

There would be a wedding on 15 August 2015 in Horwich and Bury Choral Society had been asked to provide the choir.

**Date of next meeting:** 6th Jan 2015 at 6:30pm.