

Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

Committee meeting minutes

14th July 2022 at 7.30pm at Phil's house

Apologies: NC

Minutes of the last meeting (14th April 2022)

- The minutes were approved and accepted.
- PR was thanked for his work in securing our new posters and fliers.
- FH was thanked for sourcing the new uniform stock.
- Action updates NC will send the download instructions to PR for inclusion in the website manual. **NC**

Membership

- **Attendance**
 - The attendance register was shared and members showing amber or red concerns were discussed.
 - It is disappointing to note that the number of members with less than 50% attendance has increased. On average, the number of members attending weekly is 22/34.
 - It was decided that no action will be taken against the infrequent attenders at this time due to the current low membership numbers.
- **Recruitment of new members**
 - SN advised the committee that our posters advertising the choir have been sent to 14 departments in the hospital, Seckford Golf Club, Rushmere Golf Club, Ipswich Sports Club and St Augustine's Church.
 - VM has a contact who will display posters for us. **VM**
 - The cost for advertising in the Martlesham Flyer is £400 per annum. The Ipswich Flyer charges £145 for a one off quarter page advert accompanied by a quarter page editorial. Considering our financial position no further action will be taken at this time.
 - IF has tried to get the choir mentioned in hospital publications but there has not been much response so far.
 - A suggestion was made about our poster being included in a local facebook group eg. What's On In IF will talk to NF about this possibility **IF**

Covid arrangements

- We have suspended our special precautions although the windows will still be opened for extra ventilation. IF will advise if the hospital change policy on this in the future. **IF**

Finance

- **Statement of Income and Expenditure**
 - We are running at a loss due to low numbers and our subs are currently not covering our outgoings. A break even number is 42 members. To remedy this shortfall, it was agreed that the subs will be raised to £4 a session. This will be communicated to the members with the new term dates and membership forms. **FH**
- **New uniform order update**
 - New stock has been ordered.
 - Members will be reminded of the uniform requirements. **SN – new members. Reps – existing members.**
 - The charges for second hand uniforms will be £5 for a polo shirt and £10 for a fleece.
 - The information about uniform will be updated on the website. **FH**

Musical director's report (sent in advance by email)

Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

Musical Director's Report

1. Concerts It has been a real pleasure to conduct the choir at the three prestigious events we have performed at recently, all of which have been a resounding success, culminating in an outstanding showing at Ipswich Music Day, where we produced a quite glorious sound – well done to all.

2. Rehearsals and Membership I have been very impressed by the speed at which the choir has picked up new material since Christmas, and we have a strong core of circa. 20 members who are clearly benefitting from singing together for so long. However, I remain a little disappointed by the attendance figures, and often those who miss too many rehearsals are the ones who really need to be there the most often! Ideally, we need another 15 to 20 members who are of the same high standard as the core membership and, in particular, another 5 of each of tenors and basses, as in concert it is sometimes tricky to hear the men because there just aren't enough of them. I keep my fingers crossed that the recent spate of interest in the choir continues.

3. Repertoire I am aware that we have a number of pieces which we started some time ago and have not been completed, including The One And Only, Les Miserables Medley, A Million Dreams, Rhythm Of The Night, Shadowland, Simple Gifts, Speechless, Thriller and What's Goin' On. It is my intention to complete all of these, but in a steady and measured way over the next year, whilst introducing a few new pieces such as Move On, Music and Heartbeat.

After the summer, I will also revisit the Christmas carols plus other Christmas material, but I would like to mix this up with non-Christmas pieces rather than obsess with Christmas for 18 weeks! The only Christmas pieces I'd like to really have a go at properly are the 5-part harmony version of It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year plus Fairy Tale Of New York.

FYI, other new pieces where I have arrangements already written include Africa (Toto), Four Seasons Medley, Hi Fidelity, Kiss From A Rose, A Little Respect (Erasure), My House (Matilda), Say Something, Somewhere Only We Know, Viva La Vida, We Are Family, You Will Be Found (Dear Evan Hansen).

I think the re-visiting 2 oldies at each rehearsal as shown on the rehearsal schedule has worked well so will continue this if the committee agrees.

As always, any other suggestions and comments would be gratefully received.

Nick Coleman Tuesday 12th July 2022

Marking our 10th Anniversary

- It was proposed that we mark our anniversary by holding a musical evening that we host ourselves in Spring 2023. Initial thinking:
- Possible venues: Hospital/ Gardners Arms/ Kesgrave Community Centre
- Participants: IHCC/ IHB/ Emma Dodds (First half)/ soloists/ Limelight Performers

Patron

- What is their role? Maggie Porter will be contacted to be asked about the orchestra's patron's role. **FH**
- Possible names to approach: Laura Wright/ Kerry Ellis/ Ruthie Henshall/ PR has contact with Framlingham College alumni who may have names.

Section reports

- **Soprano** No specific feedback from members. Two new members.
- **Alto** No specific feedback from members. Two new members. They are enjoying their section socials.
- **Tenor** No specific feedback from members. One returning member. The Autumn/Spring only member has committed for the full year.
- **Bass** No specific feedback from members. One new member.

Website

- **Progress with the manual for web site management.**
A list of sections will be created for the committee to look at. **PR**
SN has trialled the notes for one section and will feedback to PR. **SN**
NC has a section to contribute. **NC**
DI will show VM how to add events **DI**
The front page will be updated. **IF**

Future Events

- **Booth Court** This event was cancelled due to risk of infection from rising Covid rates.
- **Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening 25/11** Expected to go ahead.
- **Hospice Remembrance Service 18/12** Expected to go ahead.
- **Possibility of recording a carol concert in St Augustine's to be recorded for hospital radio.** To be considered.
- **Singing on the children's ward** This will not take place in the foreseeable future.
- **Choir 10yr anniversary Jan 2023** See previous section.

Past Events

- **Concert with Ipswich Hospital Band** A successful evening collaborating with the band led by James Symington. A good venue to perform at with good technical support. Special thanks to NC and VM for their involvement.
- **Suffolk Remembers 21/6** A privilege to be invited to take part in this touching event. It was well organised and worries about the outdoor sound were largely unfounded. Thanks to VM for contact with the organisers.
- **Ipswich Music Day 3/7** We were proud to give one of our best ever performances and we had many positive comments from the public and organisers.

Social Events

- **No social events are planned.** We could perhaps consider singing at one of the Dove's bbq events, planning a theatre trip to London/ Norwich or a meal out locally.

AOB

- The AGM will be held on 21st September. Annual reports will need to be prepared. Soprano and Alto rep roles are up for election. Nominations for these roles need to be with the committee by 7th September.
- The restaurant manager will be contacted to request access to the light switches for rehearsals and to see if disturbance from hospital staff can be minimised. IF
- We will have a three week summer break followed by a nine week half term from 24/8 to 19/10. This will be immediately followed by another nine week period up to Christmas.

Next meeting date and time

The next meeting will be on 1st September at 7.30pm at Phil's house.