

Ipswich Hospital Community Choir

Committee meeting minutes

28th March 2024 7.30pm at Nick's house

Minutes of the last meeting (18/01/24)

- **The minutes were approved and accepted**
- **Action updates**
 - IF will investigate the prices of fold back speakers
 - AV has received the list of past members to approach about the return of concert dresses.
- **Matters arising**

Membership

- **Attendance**
 - The attendance records were shared and discussed. The alto section has dropped to below the expected 75% for the year so far.
- **Requirements for member attendance prior to major performances.**
 - Section reps and MD to encourage attendance at critical times of the year.
 - This expectation will be communicated in the email following this meeting. IF
- **Future term dates including a decision on longer terms**
 - There has been a request that we pay subs in longer blocks, This would also cut down on the admin for the Treasurer.
 - The proposal is that we change to regular three monthly standing orders to pay subs after 1st January 2025. Until that date, payments will still be due in blocks but with the deadline for the new sessions the week before the first rehearsal.
 - Members to be informed by email. FH
- **General membership housekeeping (joiners/leavers etc)**
 - The responsibility for this is part of the new section rep guidelines.
 - FH to send a copy of the guidelines to other reps.
 - PR to publish them on the website.

Finance

- **Statement of Income and Expenditure**
 - The committee discussed the Profit And Loss Account By Trading Activity figures.
 - It was agreed that £164.90 would be donated to the Jess Grant Celebration charity DI/FH
 - The charity concert profits will be donated to the Children's Appeal.
 - The committee may consider an increased charity donation later in the year.

Musical director's report

- We are producing a very good sound.
- NC expressed some concern about the ambitious concert repertoire for May and will need to rely on members reinforcing the learning at home.
- NC shared a selection of possible items for the Christmas Concert. This will need further discussion with LK.
- After the May concert, new learning will be spread out to take some pressure off members. **NC to devise schedule.**

Section reports

- **Soprano**
 - The sopranos are happy at the moment.
 - Some are asking if the concert formation has to be different to their usual places. **Reps to send the usual formation to NC** but soloists may have to be placed specifically.
- **Alto**
 - One member has left.
 - Another member will be working away more often so may withdraw her membership.
 - The committee discussed a tricky situation arising from a lack of support for a new member which did not meet our expectations of appropriate behaviour. A pointed comment about welcoming new members will be included in the chairman's email following this meeting. **IF**
- **Tenor/Bass**
 - This section expressed their willingness to pay fees in larger chunks of money.
 - Some members are not comfortable standing next to other members of the section.

Website

- **New events enquiries page update**
- **Membership enquiries**
 - There have been teething problems with both of the above pages but the level of security has been increased to stop inappropriate entries.
 - Abandoned entries due to the increased security will be checked. **PR**
- PR will cease to host our website in the near future. He has recommended GROW to take over. This would cover what we need our website to do. The payments will be approximately £100 annually by card. We need to check that our bank account can provide a debit card. **FH**
- The change over will take place after our May concert when the members use of the website has lessened. **PR**

Clothing

- **Long blue dress collection** Past members will be contacted to see if they will return choir uniform garments. Hopefully the long formal dresses can be sold as a job lot to another choir. **AV**
- A new consignment of fleeces and hoodies have been ordered and received.

Past events

Future Events

- **Spring Concert at St Peter's – 04/05**
 - We need to confirm with VT when the joint rehearsals will take place. **NC**
 - MP will need to be told that Rick Double will compere and that he and the charity representative will need reserved seating. **AC**
 - IHCC are happy to fund tickets for Daniel and his family as our official photographer.
 - Prizes and raffle tickets will be organised in the near future. **SN**
 - VT will be contacted to name the musical pieces by the orchestra to help prepare a script for the compere. **DI**
- **Suffolk Remembers 21 /06** We have not been invited to sing at this event.

- **Ipswich Music Day 07/07**
- **Welly Walk 13/07**
 - This is a new event that we have been asked to do at Jimmy's Farm'
 - It marks the end of the Children's Appeal and will take during the day,
 - A poll for this and the Music Day will be put on the website. AC
- **Christmas Concert at St Peter's 07/12**
- **Christmas Shopping And Pamper Evening 22/11**
- **Light Up A Life service 15/12 tbc**
- **Suffolk Show 2025**
 - To be considered for this we need to act early. It may be that we could do something alongside the Hospital Band. AC to contact MP to see if the band will be performing there.

Social Events

- **Christmas Party 2024**
 - This is booked for 13/12 and the deposit has been paid.
 - We may have a charity raffle on the night.
 - It will cost £15 a head.

AOB

- Kelly Barker will look for any filming of our performance at the Volunteer Party and send it on.
- NF asked if the Hospital Radio could record the May concert.
- AV shared the new reusable cheque for charity donations, Thanks to Carle Vince for making it. It will be stored by **PR**

The next meeting will be on 6th June 2024 at Nick's house at 7.30pm.