

Royston Choral Society
Treasurer's Report
To the Annual General Meeting 26.09.23

We are all here primarily to sing, but that singing is necessarily supported by our administrative and financial systems. Those need to be reported on, and so the AGM is important, if not the biggest attraction of our year. I'm producing a written report on the attached accounts in order to minimise the pain on the night!

Our income and expenditure account for the year to 31st July looks very healthy, but there are several things to be said about that.

There is no doubt that our increased numbers have made a huge difference to our financial position. Our subscriptions now cover all our rehearsal costs, with some left over to contribute to the costs of concerts. It should be noted, though, that this year our rehearsal costs have been significantly lower than usual, as Michael chose not to use an accompanist for the term of Andrew's sabbatical, when he took over the conductor's baton.

Our concerts have also turned a surplus on each occasion, a first in my time with the choir, but this is due to the enormous amount of grant funding that Carole was able to obtain for us. Those sorts of sums are not available every year, and without them our position would have been very different. In December, there is no doubt that we benefitted from curiosity locally about the newly reopened St John's, and we saw a lot of new faces in the audience. Let's hope they return!

Our hundred club continues to contribute a useful amount to funds, and every extra member increases that contribution. Please encourage friends and families to support us in this way if you feel able to do that (we know some people don't support this kind of fundraising).

Buying music for members who want to own their own earns us a little. We sell the copies to you at the full price, and RCS keeps the discount we receive.

Our management and administrative costs are mainly insurance, membership of Making Music, performing rights fees and storage of our staging in the unused chapel.

It was always our intention to contribute to the costs incurred by the church as it rebuilt and refurbished. During this year, we sent the church a grant of £1,000, with the wish that it might be used towards the purchase of a new keyboard. We don't know exactly where our grant was applied, but a new keyboard has appeared, and it's a great improvement (how could it not be?) on the one with which we've been struggling for almost as long as I've been singing with RCS!

In summary, our reserves are looking pretty good right now, but we have planned an ambitious programme for the coming season, and we will not be looking this flush by the summer of 2024 – I'm forecasting a total deficit on concerts alone of just over £7,000 for the 2023/24 year!

I am grateful to all of you who have paid your subscriptions on time and returned your gift aid forms, saving me time and effort chasing you. My thanks, too, to Julie, who looks after the hundred club, to Carole, who works tirelessly to find us grant funding, and to Tom Furnival, who has the misfortune of being a friend of one of our former members and got roped in some time ago to examine our accounts. It's particularly kind of him, as he has no direct link with the choir, and even Lewis has moved and no longer sings with us.

I am happy to take questions on the accounts or on the finances generally, either on a one-to-one basis or at the meeting.

I propose that we adopt these accounts for the year to 31.07.23, and that we reappoint Tom as examiner.

Caroline Franks
18.09.23