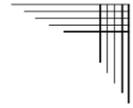


Royston Choral Society

Charity number 1090459



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held virtually on Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 8.00 pm

Committee members:

Huw Jenkins (Chairman), Caroline Franks (Treasurer), Andrew O'Brien (Musical Director)
Heather Howard, Jenny Leitch, Carole Kaszak, Tessa Rock, Fay Skinner, Lewis Thompson, Olivia Tomkins

Part Reps: Suzie Harrison, Chris Lee, Sue Pegram (minutes), Anthony Pigg

Action

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8,00 pm. Due to the Covid19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually over Zoom. Approximately 40 members present.

Apologies received from Janet Backer, Julie Wells, Julie Clements, Nick Keep, Debbie Davies, Lindsay Dew, Melanie Dawson-Dew, Janet Backer, Ian Palmer, Julia Wells, Julie Clements.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

Minutes accepted, proposed by Jenny Leitch, seconded by Anthony Pigg.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Report had been submitted and uploaded to RCS website for members to read prior to the meeting.

Summary from Huw's report:

As for so many other organisations and businesses, what was shaping up to be another very successful and exciting year came to an abrupt end in March as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. We had worked hard rehearsing for the Bach B Minor Mass in March but the concert had to be cancelled. We also had to postpone the planned singing trip to Rome in July.

When we can return to regular in-person rehearsals and concerts we will have an exciting future in front of us. Whether that is after Christmas, after Easter or not until next September is just impossible to tell right now. But as long as we all 'keep the faith' and come back when we can, Royston will be filled with the sound of excellent choral singing again.

Particular thanks recorded to:

Carole Kaszak, who continues to do a great job in tracking down and successfully applying for grants to help offset the costs of concerts.

Chris Lee for continuing to keep our supporters warm with regular news updates. Thanks also to the many of you that help him by providing material. The Methodist Church for continuing to host our rehearsals.

Chairman's full report available to view on RCS website.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report, Society Accounts and Independent Examiner's report had been submitted and uploaded to RCS website for members to read prior to the meeting.

Summary from Caroline:

It has been a bizarre year which has thrown up several financial challenges as well as the obvious ones around our purpose as a choir. Our March concert had to be cancelled and we haven't rehearsed since. As the season wasn't able to run its usual course, there are many loose ends to carry over to next year, and because we now prepare receipts and payments accounts rather than income and expenditure, that makes for a "messy" cut off at the year end, and some decisions to be made, individually and corporately.

Some items in the receipts and payments accounts are described as 'restricted'. Restricted funds are amounts received for specific purposes, which may not be used for any other purpose. In this case, it is the amounts received and paid for our proposed trip to Rome which we had to postpone to 2021. Some members have paid more than the required deposits, and those balances must either be used to pay for the trip when it happens, or be refunded to the members who paid them. Those and the other items that need to be carried over to next year (not least the grants received for the Bach concert) serve to skew the results and that means that our surplus is more like £1,900.

Accounts accepted, proposed by Val Hirst, seconded by Brigid Hickey. It was also agreed to reappoint Tom Furnival as independent examiner.

Subscriptions: it is not possible to refund subs for the last term. Those members who have paid for the year can carry forward the summer term's subscription to next year. If they wish to do so, they should contact the Treasurer.

Bach B Minor Concert ticket refunds: concert cancelled due to Covid19, if members wish to obtain refund for tickets already purchased, they should contact the Treasurer for refund or to carry over to a future concert.

100 Club: Because of Covid19, the draw has not been held for some months, and subscriptions have not been collected. Recommended to start up the draw again when rehearsals are able to be restarted. If members require refund on their subscription, they should contact the Treasurer.

Further information and explanations are available in the Treasurer's full report uploaded to the RCS website.

6. MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report had been submitted and uploaded to RCS website for members to read prior to the meeting.

Summary from Andrew's report:

Andrew thanked Huw, Caroline and the committee for all their work in supporting the life and development of the choir. He also thanked Michael, Richard and Laurence for all their unstinting support.

It is hoped that in the not too distant future we can resume rehearsals, and hopefully after Christmas it would be great to start singing in sections. It is hoped that our return to singing as a full group will coincide with rededication of Royston Parish Church. It has been a tough time for us all and over the coming years we are going to have to rebuild trust amongst our audiences and act as a flag ship for bringing the arts back to life in Royston. We have a great choir supported by a great committee and our approach must be confident and sensible with no hint of nescience.

Andrew's full report available to view on RCS website.

7. NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

All current committee members have agreed to remain in post for the next twelve months.

8. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Not required, all members having agreed to remain in post. Therefore committee re-elected en bloc.

Accepted: proposed Cynthia Prince, seconded Chris Lee.

The role of secretary has been vacant for some years and the duties undertaken between the chair and treasurer. Sue Pegram currently alto section rep, volunteered to undertake the role of secretary, while retaining section rep role for the time being.

9. Future Plans and Activities

Choir will be restarted when safe to hold rehearsals and depending on prevailing restrictions. It was suggested that after such a long break from singing, the new programme should not be too challenging.

Andrew suggested providing a music video with an easy carol to learn and possibly to record for Christmas.

Action
HJ/AOB

10. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed at 2025.