

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR HELD ON
MONDAY 15 MAY 1989**

PRESENT: Rita Horton (Chair) and members

APOLOGIES: John Britten

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The Chairman read the proposed amendment that the Financial Year should end on 30th April instead of 31st July and this was agreed unanimously.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 16th MAY 1988

Having been previously circulated, the Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. Proposed by Roy Price and seconded Margaret Dare and carried unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In her report the Chairman appealed for more support from choir members not only for the choral concerts but all the orchestral ones too. She pointed out how dependent the choir is on the Borough Council continuing to provide an orchestra of such high quality and it behoved every choir member to attend as many concerts as possible during the season.

The Chairman also asked for more support for the events organised by Guildford Philharmonic Society, since each choir member was also a member of the Society. Lady Groves had become its President and she was very keen that it should expand and strengthen its activities.

The Chairman went on to thank Neville Creed for his hard work and enthusiasm which resulted in some marvellous music making; also she thanked Lynette Newman for her outstanding accompaniment of some very difficult works.

Finally the Chairman warmly praised the retiring committee which she said had given unstintingly of its time for the good of the choir and had been the most marvellous support to her, and the many people who, though not on the committee, helped things to run smoothly, with an especial mention of Christine Medlow for being such an efficient librarian.

5. VOTING FOR CHAIRMAN AND SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING 1 JUNE 1989

Chairman: Rita Horton re-elected unopposed.

Committee (list of nominations attached): Geoff Forster, Max New, Jenny Hakim, Joy Hunter, Michael Jeffery, Jean Radley, Peter Wilford.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS ENDING 31 JULY 1989.

Stephen Wright presented the accounts and took questions. There was some discussion about the format of the accounts but no changes proposed. There were 150 paid up members. Stephen Wright moved the adoption of the accounts, Iris Bennett seconded and they were accepted unanimously.

7. CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PUBLICITY AND RECRUITMENT'S REPORT

In the absence of John Britten, Jenny Hakim took questions from members. Items discussed included publicity for the Choir and the size of leaflets and posters. A Choir leaflet would soon be ready and members were urged to advertise activities as much as possible. Suggestions for publicity in newspapers/church magazines/schools etc. were discussed and it was reported that the Borough Council have a fortnightly mailing list of 350 which included schools. Any other suggestions were welcomed. A4 size preferred by libraries because of lack of space. The Chairman thanked Jenny Hakim.

8. RECOMMENDATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHORUS MASTER

Neville Creed's name was put to the meeting by the Chairman. This was then proposed by Henry Carew, seconded by Michael Longford and unanimously carried. The Chairman proposed that Neville Creed be re-appointed and this was unanimously agreed.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Chairman proposed Henry Carew be asked to continue, seconded by Michael Longford and unanimously agreed. It was suggested a letter of thanks be sent to Henry Carew.

10. The Chairman invited Neville Creed to speak and he thanked the Committee and the office for their help with the increased amount of work undertaken in 1988.

He then summarised the concerts of last season and outlined the programme for 1988/89 which met with enthusiasm from the members. Neville reiterated that, as a Choir, we had relied heavily on support from the Borough Council but members must do more to sell concerts. A publicity drive for new members was a continuing necessity. He ended by thanking the Choir for their work and enthusiasm.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Geoff Forster suggested alternative social events for Monday 17 July: either a return visit to Merrist Wood (greatly enjoyed by those who went last year) or a cruise launch on the Wey but numbers would be limited to 45. Further discussion by new committee.
- (b) The question of seating in the Civic Hall if numbers increased was raised.
- (c) It was suggested that another room be found for the AGM because of the poor acoustics but the Chairman explained the difficulties.
- (d) It was suggested members could do more at the 'Come and Sing' to encourage other people to join the Choir. It was pointed out that this must be done with care since many people who came along already belonged to other choirs. Three-quarters of last year's singers were non-members of the Philharmonic. It was suggested that a small table inviting people to sign if they were interested might be a good idea.

- (e) The question of fund raising to offset the costs of 'Come and Sing' was discussed.
- (f) A question was asked about other venues for concerts, but Neville answered that the Civic Hall amenities were the best available.
- (g) A suggestion was made that the Choir and Orchestra have more mixed social events but it was pointed out that members of the orchestra often travelled long distances and had other engagements.
- (h) In answer to a question, the Choir was originally formed in 1946 but had undergone changes in name since.

Max New proposed a vote of thanks to Rita Horton.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Rita Horton
30.5.90

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For the last two years as part of my report to you I have highlighted a particular item concerned with music in Guildford where I have thought the choir could help improve matters, but this year as this is my 'swan song' I've decided to confine my remarks to what I feel have been really noticeable differences.

Firstly there is the size of the choir - this year it is as large as it has ever been and that means our performances are attracting people to come and join us which is marvellous. The standard at which we are now singing I feel is consistently high - I'm sure Neville would say there is still much room for improvement but I feel there has been a noticeable shift in our attitude and now we are not only singing but performing. I know from all the many people who have spoken to me how much you have enjoyed all our concerts this last season and that must bode well for the coming season.

Secondly I am sure I see many more of you at the season's concerts, some of you intermittently but one of two with subscription series tickets. That pleases me very much for it shows real support for the orchestra - encouragement for Guildford Borough Council. Thanks to Michael Jeffery and his team we have sold more seats for our own concerts.

Thirdly more of you are coming to the Philharmonic Society evenings. I told you last year changes were afoot and there are yet more to come but its very encouraging to know that you like what has been done so far and are willing to support the Society.

Fourthly, I am delighted too by the closer relationship we are now enjoying with Sir Charles and Lady Groves. It would be very easy for Sir Charles to treat his Guildford connection as something of a sinecure - the fact that he doesn't is a measure of the man. He takes a keen interest in the choir and it is thanks to him that we have such a splendid 'bumper bundle' of choral works for next year.

These things I have mentioned all show a change of attitude. We don't just come on a Monday evening, sing and go home again. We are getting to know each other better - the coffee session once a month and the Freiburg visit - all help in the process. It would be very flattering if I thought this had anything to do with me, but I think it has much more to do with Neville. He always works very hard on the choir's behalf and has all its best interests at heart - we owe him the most enormous thank you for this. He is sorry not to be here, as is Lynette. The Creeds are a talented family and we are extremely fortunate to have two of them in our camp. Lynette's accompaniment this season has been quite outstanding - compliments from our eminent guest conductors were not just formalities - they were very much meant and well deserved.

Your committee this last year have worked very hard on your behalf. Max New as Vice Chair took on the responsibility of our Freiburg guests and did a marvellous job - and now has the headache of our visit there; in addition he spent much time organising the auditions, often coming straight from the office minus food and drink. We have found a treasure of a treasurer in John Yeomans who has worked unstintingly trying to keep us solvent. Jean Radley deserves a very special vote of thanks. She's had quite a task with the registers

Cont: overleaf/

Cont:

and helping Max with the auditions and John with the banking and all this at a time of great crisis. Thanks a million, Jean. Michael Jeffery has exhorted us to buy tickets for the concerts and has made money for the choir in the process; and has ensured that we have all somewhere to sit for the concerts. Jenny Hakim has worked very hard and been the most marvellous PRO, Joy Hunter has done the committee minutes as well as being Alto representative, Geoff Forster has kept us entertained and Peter Wilford has help with the publicity group and as Tenor representative. All of these people deserve our thanks.

In addition there are all those not on committee who have helped - those who see a job wants doing and do it. May I commend to you Michael Dawe, Helen Archibald, Rosalind Plowright, Henry Carew our auditor, John Britten and Christine Medlow.

Finally, can I say a heartfelt 'thank you' to you all. I have enjoyed my term as chairman - yes there is a lot to do and a certain amount of hassle, but there are many privileges and these far outweigh the drawbacks. You have always given me the most marvellous support and I know you will do just that for whoever takes over tonight. My best wishes and thanks to you all.