

MINUTES

of the 2010-11 Annual General Meeting of the Whitehall Choir

held at St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row, on Tuesday 12th July 2011, at 6.30pm

In the Chair: *Graham Hand, Esq.*

1. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting were accepted as a true record (proposed by *Rachel Nixon*, seconded by *Ruth Eastman*).

2. Secretary's report

Ben Nicholls, Secretary, made his report on the year's activities (Annex A). Mr Nicholls was thanked for his work as Secretary.

3. Treasurer's report

Ken Holmes, Treasurer, made his report on the year's financial circumstances (Annex B).

Mr Holmes recommended that the Meeting voted to forgo the automatic CPI-related increase in subscriptions for the coming season, arguing that the Committee was reluctant to put full subscriptions beyond £210 in the present financial climate. *Kevin McManus* proposed the vote, seconded by *Ian Williamson*, and the motion was carried. (Subscriptions for the 2011-12 season therefore remain at the levels for 2010-11.)

Mr Holmes, who had served as Treasurer for many years, was thanked for his hard and long work on the Committee.

4. Conductor's report

Paul Spicer, Conductor, made his report on the year's activities (Annex C). Mr Spicer was thanked for his hard and ongoing work with the choir.

Following presentation of the three reports, the floor was opened to discussion.

- a) The Conductor was asked, following his comments on the last concert, where the Parry had changed key, and replied that it was early on.
- b) A member asked whether the church doorbell, which so often interrupted rehearsals when rung by late-comers, could be replaced, or if the choir could purchase its own silent doorbell, which the Chair agreed should be discussed by the new Committee.
- c) The issue of re-auditions in January was raised, and the process explained: all members would be required to re-auditions, as was the custom every few years, and the audition would closely resemble that for new choir members.
- d) A member suggested that another workshop might be held, perhaps with a visiting leader, and some interest was evident, although concerns were expressed about transport. It was agreed that the new Committee might look into the possibilities.

- e) Further interest was apparent in the potential for a choir tour in the future, although concerns were raised about length and cost. The new Committee could consider this.
- f) A choir member asked if the Whitacre might be reprogrammed at a later date, which the Conductor agreed to consider, as well as a repeat of the entire programme from the last concert, perhaps outside London.
- g) Another member asked why the choir was not planning to perform a Passion in the next season, as other choirs do, and it was agreed that this possibility be added to future Committee discussions.
- h) The issue of locking up the church after rehearsals was raised, and the Meeting informed that there is a rota for this. Volunteers are always welcome to join that.
- i) Finally, the Meeting was encouraged to advertise the forthcoming Come and Sing over the summer, as these are good fun as well as excellent for recruitment.

5. Motions

With the exception of that on subscription levels, no motions were brought forward.

6. Committee elections for the 2011-12 season

Philip Pratley was confirmed as the Returning Officer for the elections.

Single nominations were received for the three Officer positions on the Committee, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously to serve for the 2011-12 season:

Chairman: *JONATHAN WILLIAMS* (proposer *Jean Orr*, seconder *Tony Piper*)

Secretary: *LIZ WALTON* (proposer *Katherine Howes*, seconder *Miranda Douce*)

Treasurer: *PATRICK HAIGHTON* (proposer *Ben Nicholls*, seconder *Graham Hand*)

No other Committee positions were contested, although joint nominations were received in some cases. The following members were therefore elected unanimously to serve for the 2011-12 season:

Business Managers: *KATHARINE HERZBERG* and *PENNY PRIOR* (proposer *Helen Audaer*, seconder *Jacky Erwteman*)

Librarians: *ROSE CHANDLER* and *LAURIE GRACE* (proposer *Mark Graver*, seconder *Malcolm Todd*)

Publicity Officers: *MARTIN HUMPHREYS*, *RUTH EASTMAN* and *RACHEL NIXON* (proposer *Imogen Davies*, seconder *Hilary Davies*)

Webmaster: *RICHARD GRAFEN* (proposer *William Longland*, seconder *Laurie Grace*)

Soprano representative: *KATE GOULDEN* (proposer *Jo Mullen*, seconder *Rachel Nixon*)

Alto representative: *ALISON WILLIAMS* (proposer *Penny Prior*, seconder *Lis Warren*)

Tenor representative: *BEN NICHOLLS* (proposer *Ken Holmes*, seconder *David Rawlins*)

Bass representative: *MALCOLM TODD* (proposer *Laurie Grace*, seconder *Ian Williamson*)

As no nominations had been received for the post of BIS representative, it was agreed that a member be co-opted by the new Committee.

The outgoing Chairman, Mr Hands, and his Committee, were thanked for their hard work during the 2010-11 season.

7. Any other business

There being no other business, the newly elected Chairman closed the meeting.

Ben Nicholls, Esq.
Secretary