

**Whitehall Choir Committee**  
**MINUTES of the**  
**Meeting held on 22 September 2014 at St Stephen's**  
**6.30pm**

**Present:** Jonathan Williams (Chair), Patrick Houghton (Treasurer), Ruth Eastman (Publicity), Mark Graver (Librarian), Martin Humphreys (Publicity), Richard Grafen (Webmaster), Kate Goulden (Soprano Rep), Alison Williams (Alto Rep), Daniel Lambauer (Bass Rep)

**Apologies:** Joanna Tomlinson (Secretary), Paul Spicer, Alastair Tolley (Tenor Rep)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action
Minutes 12/5/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CD – action on applying for copyright licence was still pending. CDs were expected in the next few weeks. In the end it <u>had</u> proved possible to include text in the booklet. All but two of the CD related donations had been received. PH would chase these if necessary when the CDs arrived.</li> <li>• Summer 2015 – a date (9 July) was now in the diary and had been circulated in the WHC summer newsletter.</li> </ul>	MH + M.Todd  PH
Finances (PH)	<p>PH presented the draft 2013-14 annual report, and reported that underlying finances were fairly healthy despite a reduction of £2K in concert income compared to 2013. The operating surplus had been enhanced by including the Carol Concert income with Gift Aid (a rule change which took effect in the last year), to something well over £2,000. However, when the expected cost of the CD project, being about £10K (13K less the 3k of contributions from the participants) was overlaid, last year's financial statements showed an overall deficit of nearly £7,000.</p> <p>Going forward the increase in subs (although not allocated to meet any particular costs) was helpful but the key emphasis needed to be on increasing ticket sales. He invited the committee to consider ways to recover more of the total costs of obtaining music (expenses over and above hiring). It was still planned to pay back the Jubilee Fund CD loan (of £6000) over three years. The £2K currently untouched in the deposit account could already be transferred.</p> <p>PH asked the Committee to agree that the financial statements be forwarded to the Independent Assessor for review.</p>	PH
Come & Sing/Workshop	<p>The C&amp;S/Workshop had been a great success at the cost of £750 with 33 guests and 23 choir members attending. Ben Goodson was excellent. JW should book him as first choice/reserve after Paul for next time. The format - with no final run-through - was good, allowing an early finish and avoiding overexertion. An open rehearsal early in the term was good although week three might be considered in future. We should think about C&amp;S separately if costs allowed. There had been a large contingent from another choir also preparing the J.S. Bach. We might not always benefit from that kind of coincidence.</p>	JW
Subscriptions 2014-15 including policy on timely payment	<p>PH reminded the committee that there was flexibility on when/how subs should be paid but not the amount. The choir had one perennial defaulter (for the last couple of years). This year PH had made continued membership conditional on a £10 payment before each rehearsal: it was working so far. The committee endorsed this position. Part Reps were asked, in future, to make clear to prospective members that flexibility related to when/how subs were paid and that payment was expected for the full season (after joining date): we did not allow 'repertoire holidays' with a break in payment.</p>	Part Reps
Membership & auditions	<p>With additional potential recruits from the workshop there were 6/7 auditions for Paul to hear (1/2 sops, 3 altos, 1 tenor, 1 bass). We</p>	

	would maintain the policy of attendance at 2/3 rehearsals before referral to Paul. Attendance at the workshop would compensate for absence at one rehearsal. JW would respond to one new soprano who wanted to join only for this concert and could not make the 2/3 rehearsals. He would also talk to Paul re one member who had yet to make a rehearsal. PH also presented (and agreed to circulate) existing choir profile data collected as a result of an enquiry from St John's Smith Square.	JW
Review: Holy Trinity Sloane Square 4 July 2014	This had proved a surprisingly difficult concert. The choir was tired/unconfident after the previous concert. The lay out at Holy Trinity was particularly difficult for tenors and basses. The committee noted the importance of considering numbers of rehearsals when planning programmes. It may have been a mistake not to advertise in the national papers. National press would be used for 24 November concert.	MH
St John's Smith Square, 24 November 2014	Tickets would be on sale from 30 September. The concert would be advertised in the national press and we hoped to be in St John's mailing, but choir members needed to sell as many tickets as possible. Paul wanted to add an extra work – Bach Cantata 50 – to the programme. The committee was cautious about this as it was for double choir and various other options were discussed. JW would talk to Paul.	JW
Maundy Thursday 2 April 2015	Following the committee's decision to stick with the MacMillan/Dyson programme Paul had thought better of it. JW had researched various other works including Haydn <i>St Cecilia Mass</i> (discounted), Schubert <i>Stabat Mater</i> (in keeping with time of year) and Mozart <i>C Minor Mass</i> (which the choir last performed in July 2007). A Schubert/Mozart programme would require a small orchestra and cost an extra £2K but be easy to sell especially if popular with the choir. The committee did not discount performing the MacMillan in the future in a smaller venue (eg. St Albans the Martyr) where the financial risk was also smaller.	
Summer 2015	Easter was early in 2015 so there would be sufficient rehearsals in the summer term for a programme of part songs as planned. MG would need details in good time to be able to order music.	PS/JW
Friends scheme paper	Given shortage of time JW asked committee members to forward consider and forward comments to him separately.	All
Choir tour 2016: update	Daniel gave an update. It was time to put the proposal to the choir to see whether there was sufficient interest to take arrangements forward. DL to provide JW with a summary of proposal (costs, dates, co-operation with Austrian choir, etc). JW to request commitment by end Oct and confirm that Paul OK with dates and shared responsibilities with Austrian conductor.	DL/JW
AOB	Whitehall Orchestra had invited WHC to sing Mahler 2 with them at St John's Smith Square on 25 April 2015. This was a large work (2 choral movements) which would require greater numbers than WHC could field. Extra rehearsal would be needed. It was difficult to see how it could work for us. JW to obtain more details from David Rawlins.	JW

The meeting ended at 2050

**Date of next meetings: Monday 10th November 2014**  
**Monday 19th January 2015**