

Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting held at Malbank School, Nantwich, on Wednesday 9th September 1981 at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr C Jones (Chairman) Mrs S C Davies (Treasurer)
 Mrs T Abel (Hon Secretary) and 45 members

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Greene, Mrs B Shone, Mrs E Jones and Mr A Bax. An apology for lateness was received from Mrs J Clegg.

2 Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting were read by the Secretary and amended as follows:

Section 8 (Election of Conductors): "the 1980/81 season" should have read "the 1981/82 season"

Section 9 (Election of Officers and Committee), lines 12-13: "if not re-elected" was deleted

Section 12 (Subscriptions): the sum of "£2.50" was altered to "£5.50"

3 Matters Arising

Mr C Jones apologised on behalf of the Committee that the NFMS grant quoted in the Treasurer's Report had been applied for too late.

4 Chairman's Report

Mr C Jones drew attention to the objects of the Society as outlined in Article 2 of the Constitution and pointed out that the enjoyment of singing and the satisfaction of putting on good performances were also important aims, and that the Society should continue to maintain high musical standards.

He went on to say that the high spot of the 1980/81 season had been the Bach B Minor Mass. The Society had been fortunate in having an excellent orchestra for the performance, and members had committed themselves exceptionally well. The programme for the last season had included a wide variety of music, and that for the coming year promised to be equally varied and exciting.

Mr Jones expressed thanks to members of the Committee who had served over the past year, and to the conductors and accompanists for their inspiration and hard work. He also extended a welcome to singers who had recently joined the Society.

5 Conductors' Report

Mr Bridger stated that a wide range of different musical styles had been maintained over the past year, and commented that it was important to keep an open mind about music, even when it is unfamiliar. He went on to say that more tenors were needed if a more balanced musical effect was to be produced.

The idea of holding a Sunday evening concert had twice proved a success, and this was to be attempted once more in March 1982. Mr Bridger suggested that an alternative venue to the Civic Hall could be the new Oakley Centre in Crewe, and invited members to consider this possibility. It was intended that the Spring Concert should consist of a programme of music by Beethoven, which should attract an eager audience.

Mr Hewison followed by pointing out that a lot of thought goes into the programme and many factors have to be taken into consideration when planning a year's concerts. Rehearsals for the Autumn Concert had already begun, and it was possible that an orchestral piece by Britten may be included with the choral music.

Mr Rowison felt that the Mahler symphony the Choir was to take part in next year would prove a successful and enjoyable venture. Finally, he expressed his thanks to the Choir for its attendance and commitment.

6 Treasurer's Report

Mrs Davies expressed her appreciation and thanks to Mr T Jones for having handed over such immaculately kept books when she took over from him as Treasurer last year. She then referred to the NFMS grant that the Society had failed to receive, and pointed out that there was a complex procedure for claiming the grant that the Committee had been unfamiliar with, and that finally the NFMS had written to say that the Society's application had been dismissed. However, a grant of £200 had been received this year from the Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council towards the Three Choirs Festival.

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Accounts were distributed, and it was noted that a loss of 20p had been made on the previous year's transactions. Mrs Davies also appealed to members to pay their subscriptions promptly, and directly to her at rehearsals.

7 Society Subscriptions

It was proposed by Mrs Davies that, for the season 1981/82, subscriptions should be £10 (£5.50 for students and OAPs). Mrs Rowsell seconded the proposal and this was carried.

8 Conductor's and Accompanist's Honoraria

It was proposed that "the Constitution, Section 7, Paragraph d) be added to as follows: 'or in the form of honoraria to the Conductor and Accompanist'". Discussion of the proposal ensued. It was felt by the Choir as a whole that the conductors and accompanists were invaluable to the Society and did an excellent job for which some token of thanks should be displayed. However, some members felt that the sums involved were so small as to be insignificant as honoraria, although in relation to the balance sheet they formed a high proportion of the cash flow of the Society. It was suggested that presentation of a gift may be a more acceptable way of showing the Choir's appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the conductors and accompanists. On the other hand it was pointed out that it was standard practice in 75% of musical societies to pay an honorarium, and that if, for any reason, any of our conductors were to leave the Society then a more formal arrangement might be necessary, involving payment of an honorarium. It was therefore felt by many members that it would be preferable at least to include the principle of an honorarium in the Constitution.

During the course of voting it was decided that new members (ie visitors to the Society who had not yet paid a subscription) should not be permitted to vote. Voting then took place, and the proposal was narrowly defeated with regard to the position of both conductor and accompanist.

9 Proposal for value of Honoraria

Since the principle of an honorarium had not been accepted this proposal was dismissed.

10 Proposal for length of service of Committee members

In order to give a variety of people the opportunity to serve on the Committee it was proposed that Section 4 of the Rules of the Society be added to as follows: "Committee members may not serve for more than three consecutive years". Any years' service on the Committee immediately prior to the 1981 AGM would be included in the total of three years. Voting took place and the proposal was passed for implementation.

11 Election of Conductors

There being only two nominees, Mr Bridger and Mr Hewison, these were duly elected for the 1982/83 season.

12 Election of Secretary, Treasurer and Committee

There was only one nomination for the office of Secretary, Mrs Abel, who was thus elected. Similarly, Mrs Davies was the only nominee for Treasurer, and she was subsequently elected for the season.

There were seven nominations for the Committee: Miss D Wheatley, Mrs C Gorton, Mr H Bax, Mr R Abel, Mr D Charlesworth, Mrs R Miller and Mr A Buckley. However, the last two nominees were disqualified under the ruling of the last proposal discussed. Voting then took place and the following were elected to the Committee: Miss Wheatley, Mrs Gorton, Mr Abel and Mr Bax.

13 Election of Chairman

The only nominee was Mr C Jones, and he was duly elected Chairman for the coming season.

14 Any Other Business

There were no other matters to be discussed, and the meeting was declared closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed

Date