

Minutes of the A.G.M. at Malbank School on Wed. Sept. 20th 1989

Present; President-Mr. H. Rowsell, Conductor-Mr. S. Buckman, Chairman-Mr. A. Percy, Treasurer-Mrs. J. Rowsell, Secretary-Mrs. S. Munks, and 63 members.

Apologies; Mrs. J. Clegg, Mr. Martin, Rev. & Mrs. Sturdy.

Minutes of 16th A.G.M. were taken as read. Rev. Atkins proposed their acceptance and Mrs Gorton seconded this. They were accepted unanimously.

Matters arising None

Chairmans report Mr. Percy explained that he intended to report mainly on the Society's activities outside the past years usual schedule of concerts, as these represented much extra work and effort. They comprised the Choir's successful trip to the Worcester Elgar festival, the Choir's first dinner, to be made an annual event, The market stall and the garden fete.

In addition, Mr. Percy said that there had been increasing success in finding sponsors, mainly thanks to Mr. Bateman, and he pointed out that the concept of sponsorship is changing, as major companies want to be associated with quality events to which they can invite their clients, or use as an additional cultural incentive for relocation of staff from London to this area.

Looking forward to the coming year, Mr. Percy outlined the Society's extra-curricular events, starting with the trip to Macon, all of which would make for a very busy year. He thanked the outgoing committee for all its hard work, and he particularly thanked the conductor and accompanist.

Treasurer's report Mrs. Rowsell thanked Mrs. Furber for typing the accounts and Mr. Bateman for auditing them at short notice.

In commenting on the figures, Mrs. Rowsell pointed out that the ticket sales had improved in spite of the rise in price, and she urged members to keep this up as it is vital. She mentioned the help from grants from North West Arts and Crewe & Nantwich Council. She then reported on the funds from sponsorship-£75 from Rolls Royce, thanks to Mr. Knight's efforts. an anonymous £50 and £200 from Snugbury's, £500 in advance for Messiah from I.C.I. and the agreed sponsorship of the Wellcome Foundation for the 1990 Spring concert and ~~Durrad Davies~~ for the Carol concert - all these were due to the efforts of Mr. Bateman, whom the Society loudly applauded to show their thanks.

Mrs. Rowsell pointed out that the cost of running the Society is very high. Fundraising had been good, and it is important in getting grants to be able to show we are helping to raise money ourselves. Mrs. Rowsell finally thanked Mr. Knight for his help in the background.

Mrs. Atkin proposed acceptance of the accounts. Mr. Knight seconded this, and it was unanimously agreed.

Conductors report. Mr. Buckman thanked the Society for a very good season. He commented on members hard work and dedication and said that the season's concerts had displayed a high standard of musical excellence and maturity.

In outlining the 1989/1990 season, he warned against complacency and urged that the low level of absenteeism should be maintained, as the schedule is very demanding-5 major concerts in Nantwich plus the visits to Macon, Stapeley and Shugborough.

Forward momentum is needed, and there are new targets; 1) 1993/4 season is the Choir's 21st and Mr. Buckman's 10th as conductor, so it will be a gala season and plans must start now. 2) Friends of the Choral Society will be launched, inspired by the President, and all members' help will be needed. Finally the Conductor thanked the committee and Mrs. Roberts as accompanist for all their hard work.

The President. Mr. Rowsell expressed his appreciation of the work of the outgoing committee, particularly the Treasurer, since there was permanent worry about finances. All members must sell tickets and help at fundraising events, as so much work is needed.

Much work is also going to be needed from members in the launch of the Friends of the Choral Society, which is nearly ready to be embarked on. Friends will be given privileges such as reserved seats, and the Society will hope to recruit adult ushers from among them, for example. More non-singing support is needed, and the whole effort will be a build-up to the Society's 21st season.

Elections

Mr. Buckman was unanimously elected Conductor for 1990/1991.
Chairman; There was a vote, and Mrs Jean Atkin was elected.
Secretary: Mrs. C. Gorton was elected unanimously.
Treasurer: Mrs. J. Rowsell was elected unanimously.
Committee members: There was a vote and J. Howard, C. Bateman, W.Kaye,
and J Weatherill were elected.

Subscriptions

Mrs. Luke proposed and Mrs. Shone seconded that subscriptions should remain at £25 (£12.50 for Senior Citizens and students). This was agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer reminded members that subscriptions were now due and should be paid.

A.O.B.

It was announced that the Second Annual Dinner would probably be in the second week in February.