

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Queens Park Singers
held at St Anne's and St Andrew's Church Brondesbury 9th October 2005.**

Present : David Till (Chair for first part of the meeting) Monica Healy (Chair for second part of the meeting), Joanna Pike, Peter Walter, Rose Sillence, Diana Maynard, Gill Halifax, Simon Judge, Frances Freeman, Jenny Garrett, Rachel Brougham, Liz Till, Maggie Turp, Catherine Fried, Jan Prower, Ruth McCurry, Susan Kerrison, Glyn Jones, Rachel Robbins

1. Apologies were received from: Giles Andrews, Riva Joffe, Ann Tribble, Lucy le Fau, Rosie Bain, David Griffiths, Anna Mumford, Jill House, Mike Hutchinson, Kay Anderson, Martin Kauneman, Sue Clark, Janet Cowan, Stephen Cooper, Jan Law, Gabrielle Crockatt, Phil Crockatt, Richard Ray Miller, Helen Dymond
2. Minutes of the AGM of 17th October 2004 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. The note of the EGM of 3rd July 2005 were read. Rachel R will liaise with Liz to get a complete list of attendees and then the note will be upgraded and accepted as minutes of the meeting. (Action: Rachel R and Liz)
3. Matters arising.
 - **AGM.** David reported that little had happened regarding Continuing Professional Development.
 - **EGM.** Still need to clarify the names of the volunteers who agreed to co-ordinate and/or help with hospitality.
4. Elections.
 - Chair: Monica Healy. Proposed by Gill Halifax and seconded by Jenny Garrett. Monica was elected unopposed.
 - Musical Director: David Till agreed to continue. David was elected unopposed.
 - Vice Chair: Joanna Pike. Proposed by Monica Healy and seconded by Rachel Robbins. Joanna was elected unopposed and co-opted onto the QPS Committee.
 - Treasurer Simon Judge agreed to continue as Treasurer. Proposed by David Till and seconded by Catherine Fried. Simon was elected unopposed.
 - Choir Secretary: Rachel Robbins. Proposed by Catherine Fried and seconded by Monica Healy. Rachel was elected unopposed.
 - Membership Secretary: Rachel Brougham. Proposed by Liz Till and seconded by Monica Healy. Rachel was elected unopposed and co-opted onto the QPS Committee.
 - Librarian: Liz Till. Proposed by Maggie Turp and seconded by Catherine Fried. Liz was elected unopposed and will continue to be a member of the QPS Committee. Frances Freeman will assist Liz with the librarian's work, but will not sit on the committee.

It was suggested that phone numbers of committee members should be emailed to all QPS members. This was agreed.

(Action: Rachel R and Rachel B)

5. Treasurer's Report.
 - Simon presented the audited accounts which had been filed in the required form with the Charity Commissioners. The accounts cover a period of 13 months to include both concerts. QPS is just breaking even. The surplus from the last concert went to St Annes Cape Town, a charity that is also supported by St Annes' Church.
 - Simon clarified the three different subscription rates and renewed his request that subs be paid by standing order. He reminded the meeting that we can claim gift aid on

subscriptions paid by taxpayers because QPS was a registered charity.
(Class A subscriptions (£30) for a full year's subscription.
Class B subscriptions (£10) for unemployed or students for a full year's subscription.
Class C subscriptions (£15) for members who are only able to take part in one concert in the year.)

- The accounts were accepted and a vote of thanks proposed to Simon for his work.

6. Musical Director's report.

- David reviewed the concerts that had taken place over the last year, which had been successful.
- His main concern was the difficulties that we are still having getting male singers.
- Liz thanked everyone who had helped with refreshments and hospitality at the last concert.

7. Future plans.

- Member should already have received an email about the next concert which would have a wintery theme. The aim is to mix sacred and secular music, as well as classical and popular music. The concert will be held in November.
- St Annes' Church will hold its annual Carol Service on 11th December at 4pm. QPS members are invited to join the congregation to swell the singing.
- David is considering a concert to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. He suggested a possible programme might be a Missa Brevis, Ave Verum Corpus, a full symphony and item(s) from the Junior Choir. He hoped the concert would be in February or March. David's suggestions were received with enthusiasm.
- Gill had suggested a Shakespeare concert (a combination of songs and poetry readings, probably lasting about an hour). Ideally this should be held on Shakespeare's birthday, which falls on a Sunday in 2006. 23rd April is the Sunday after Easter (Low Sunday) so the church is likely to be free. There could be some problems with rehearsals around Easter. The Junior Choir could also be invited to sing. Members of the meeting were keen to hold this concert.
- David proposed a workshop could be held in the summer.

8. A.O. B.

Publicity

Glyn confirmed that he was happy to produce posters/leaflets for concerts and he agreed to manage the mailing list(s). He reported that he would put forms on all seats at the next concert, encouraging people to sign up. It was agreed that he would explore ways to promote concerts and advertise for new singers through Brent schools. The committee could consider co-options to fill vacancies.

As part of the attempts to recruit new singers (particularly men) it was suggested that fliers should be placed in libraries, local bookshops, the café in the park, etc. It was also suggested that local church choirs be approached. The committee will discuss/explore these suggestions.

(Action: QPS Committee)

Simon agreed to continue to update the website, and would continue to explore links to/from other relevant websites, eg. London Choirs website.

Recruitment of tenors and basses

The meeting discussed a range of problems and possibilities. Members were encouraged to bring male friends to rehearsals.

Suggestions included:

- Men-only note learning sessions
- General musicianship sessions run by Mary
- Advertising workshops to encourage new people to meet QPS singers

David encouraged everyone to contact men who might come and see, so that we can find out what would encourage them to come more regularly. Monica emphasized that this was a priority for the coming year. If anyone has names of new members, they should contact Rachel B.

Piano

David reported that the grand piano in the lounge is not in good shape. It is still not clear what the churches' requirements for a piano are, but an upright piano could go upstairs in the lift. QPS could raise funds to contribute to a church fund, as we have made donations to the church music fund in the past. It was suggested that one concert could be used to raise money for the piano.

Joanna has collected information about hiring/buying pianos, and has passed this on David. There are a variety of ways that a piano can be bought, but it was felt that they needed further investigation. She reported that it was possible to hire a piano for a few weeks to cover a concert.

Simon explained that any piano that was purchased would probably belong to the Joint Council of the two churches, as it would be part of the facilities in the shared building. The Joint Council may have some money that it could contribute to the purchase of a piano.

It was suggested that local piano tuners were approached to see if they were aware of second hand pianos that were available and that were good at staying in tune.

Making Music

The latest newsletter is available from Simon.

Trustees

In the annual return to the Charity Commission, Simon would need the details of the new trustees (Chair and Choir Secretary).

Monica proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring committee for its work.