

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Queens Park Singers
held at the Church of St Anne and St Andrew, Brondesbury, on 11th October 2009**

Present : Monica Healy (Chair), Peter Burt-Jones (Musical Director Designate) David Till (retiring Musical Director) Simon Judge (Treasurer) Maggie Turp (Membership Secretary), Liz Till (Librarian), Glyn Jones (Publicity Officer) Marion Paul (Secretary), Helen Dymond, Frances Freeman, Catherine Fried, Hinda Golding, Mark Hine, Julie Krausz, Katherine Lawson, Christine MacLeod, Ruth McCurry, Mary Phillips, Patricia Towey, Peter Walter

Apologies: Juliet Allen, Roger Bloomfield, Susan Clark, Lucy le Fanu, Janice Waight

1. Monica welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting, held on 12th October, 2008, in the church of St Anne and St Andrew, at 5.30 p.m.

The Minutes were read, accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

The dates for street carol-singing needed to be arranged. This item was added to the agenda under Any Other Business.

4. Treasurer's Report and accounts for 2008/09.

- Simon presented the accounts, which had been independently examined and filed in the required form with the Charity Commissioners
- Mary Phillips raised a question: Had the fact that the choir gave two performances of the Schutz Christmas Story made a difference to numbers of audience?
- Reply: There were approximately 70 members of the audience at each performance, whereas one performance of a concert usually attracted an audience of around 110. There had been no significant additional costs.
- Glyn Jones asked about a figure of £240, which had been claimed. The treasurer replied that the sum referred to was money reclaimed from the Inland Revenue for Gift Aid.
- Thanks were expressed to Simon for his report, and the accounts were accepted by the meeting.

5. Musical Director's report

It had been a good year for the Queen's Park Singers. A workshop focusing on polyphony had been held on the same Sunday as in the previous year.

The Christmas performance of Schutz' Christmas story had been well-directed by Peter Burt-Jones. There had been excellent singing from the Juniors and the two performances had been very satisfying.

The Poetry and Polyphony Concert in February had been well-received and Catherine had been very helpful in training readers.

The mid-Summer concert celebrated four musical anniversaries. The Mendelssohn Midsummer night's Dream had been the highlight of the concert. Again the Junior Singers performed very well, and many appreciative comments had been received from both audience and singers. Appreciation was expressed to the people who had contributed to costumes, etc. Members, generally, had "pitched in" with practical help and organizing and clearing up.

The Choir at the Tate event had raised £300 towards the following year's funds.

Thanks were expressed to Mary Phillips for her work with the Queens Park Junior Singers and also to Katherine Lawson for her co-ordination of the Juniors. Thanks were also due to Ruth Kitching for her work as "fixer" of the orchestra.

David, at this point, was retiring from his position as Musical Director, which he had much enjoyed over the years, and reassured the members that he would be continuing as a member of the choir.

Monica formally expressed the choir's debt of gratitude to David for all he had contributed to the choir. His enthusiasm and knowledge had encouraged nervous singers and, through his hard work and dedication, had brought the choir to a high standard. A heart-felt round of applause was raised for David.

6. New Musical Director

Monica spoke on behalf of the committee to recommend the appointment of Peter Burt-Jones to the position of Musical Director, subject to approval from the members. Peter had worked with David over many years. Peter Burt-Jones was accepted by the meeting to take up the post of Musical Director immediately.

7. Amendments to the QPS constitution.

Clause 4.

The committee made a proposal to increase the number of officers from three to five. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

Clause 6 (4)

The Committee proposed that an amendment should be made to include voice coaches and conductors and additional professional musicians. The amendment would enable the Choir to pay additional musicians who are not choir members. Such persons could be paid a fee for the occasion but would not be permanent members of the society.

Clause 6 (7)

Co-options: It was proposed that additional members could be co-opted to the Committee during the year, in the event of there being fewer than nine members at any time. Members co-opted in that way should not continue as members of the Committee for more than one year.

It was proposed that the quorum for committee meetings should be increased to four.

Acceptance of the amendments was proposed by Simon, seconded by Monica and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

8. Elections to the Committee

The members of the Committee were introduced. Thanks were expressed to Maggie Turp, for her work as Membership Secretary over several years; Maggie was standing down from her post. A brief outline of the role of Membership Secretary was given.

The following members were re-elected:

Chair person: Monica Healy – proposer: Liz Till ; seconder: Mary Phillips

Librarian: Liz Till - proposer: Monica Healy ; seconder: Marion Paul

Publicity Officer: Glyn Jones – proposer: Simon Judge ; seconder: Christine MacLeod

Treasurer: Simon Judge – proposer: Monica Healy ; seconder: Maggie Turp

Secretary: Marion Paul – proposer: Liz Till ; seconder: David Till

David Till - proposer: Maggie Turp ; seconder: Peter Burt-Jones

New elections

Peter Burt-Jones: Musical Director.

Mark Hine: Membership Secretary – proposer: Peter Burt-Jones ; seconder: Monica Healy Jay Bannmuller was co-opted in his absence, subject to his formal agreement.

There were no other nominations.

9. Subscriptions

Simon explained that subscriptions had not changed in the 7 years since QPS was formally set up. The accounts were healthy but some additional costs had arisen. An increase in church rent; more fees for vocalists and instrumentalists; an accompanist required for rehearsals; possibly other coaching for the choir.

It was proposed to raise the annual subscription to £50 for three concerts plus an annual workshop. David added that the nature of the choir had changed and the repertoire required more instrumentalists. Mary Phillips added that the music had often been found by David from cost-free sources but that would not continue. The concessionary subscription would be half of the full rate. This applied mainly to students but individuals could talk to Simon privately, if they felt they needed a concession.

The Junior Singers' subscription rate amounted to more than the adult rate. That was to be discussed at another time.

10. Music planned for the next season

Peter was seeing the year as being split into three terms. Bach's Christmas Oratorio Parts 1 and 3 were to be performed on Sunday, 6th December 2009. The possibility of two performances on the same evening would be considered.

The programme for the following two terms had not been settled but a concert version of Dido and Aeneas, to be performed by QPS and QPJS, was being considered. Later there could possibly be a semi-staged performance.

Haydn's Creation was a possibility for Term three. It would be quite a challenge for the Choir but one to which the Musical Director believed the Choir could rise.

11. Any Other business

Thanks were expressed to Simon for his excellent management of the website.

The dates for street carol-singing were to be Sunday 20th December and Tuesday 22nd or Wednesday, 23rd December, 2009. Those dates were to be confirmed at a later stage.

The Annual general Meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.