

BISHOPWEARMOUTH CHORAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 7th September 2022, 7.30 p.m.
at Sunderland Minster.

Minutes of last year's AGM have been published on the Society website – under Members' News. Anyone without access to these can request a paper copy from the Secretary (Tel: 522 7721) as long as this is made before the meeting. Nomination Forms for the elections are also available from the same source.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Conductor's Report
7. Election of Officers
 - Chairman,
 - Vice Chairman,
 - Treasurer,
 - Secretary
8. Election of Section Representatives
 - Soprano & Tenor Reps for 2 years. (Alto & Bass Reps still have 1 year to serve)
9. Any Other Business

BISHOPWEARMOUTH CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2020/2021 SEASON

This was held at Sunderland Minster, on Wednesday the 8th September 2021. The meeting began at 7.30 p.m. with Christine Alder in the chair and 51 members of the Society present.

Apologies for Absence : LH, KP, PR, FG, NP, JB, CR, SW and CL.

Minutes of the last A.G.M. : The minutes for the last actual AGM in September 2019 had been previously circulated and were unanimously accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising : There were no matters arising.

The following reports were presented at the meeting and are reproduced below.

The Chairman's Report : This report was presented by C.A :-

Firstly, I hope that you have done your lateral flow test. Welcome to the AGM of 2020 – 2021 – an almost surreal event. Thank you so much for coming. I am aware that this is a great leap of faith for some of you, and if at any time you feel uncomfortable and wish to leave then please feel free to do so via the West Door.

The season 2020-21 has been unique – no practice, no singing, no concerts, but much thanks should go to Eileen and Peter and many of your good selves for ensuring that the Society has lived on in our lives.

Now we are striving to resume more normality, the officers and Committee have faithfully put into place all of the recommendations of Making Music, and we hope that this will enable us to continue to meet and sing. Our thanks also to Stuart Bain and the Minster for their support in this.

This meeting enables us to elect officers and Section Reps. Sadly this year we are looking for a new Treasurer, as Sheenagh and Jim are moving to Scotland, back to Sheenagh's old haunts. Good treasurers are hard to find, and we have been blessed over many years with excellent and long serving treasurers. Sheenagh has brought us into the digital age for banking, and her wise council has been a great help in steering the Society through choppy waters at times. We shall miss you greatly Sheenagh, but wish you and Jim great happiness in this new chapter of your life.

The Section Reps have agreed to roll over for this year and so no elections need take place for those positions.

If you have read your emails today you will know that Eileen Bown has decided not to restart the Young Singers. There are many good reasons for this, but all of these young lives that she has touched will be so much richer for the experience they have had. We are all deeply indebted to you Eileen for your skill, empathy and your ability to make singing fun for them, which it obviously was, whilst achieving such high standards.

So we look forward to this season. Where it will take us I am not sure, but the Committee will go fairly carefully and always with safety in mind. For the moment I hope that we can just enjoy meeting together and gradually get our voices back into trim again.

- At the end of her report, the Chairman made a presentation of a card and gift to the Treasurer to mark her service.

The Treasurer's Report : The Treasurer, SR, presented her report (details of the accounts had been previously circulated) making the following points :

- There were few transactions as the Society was unable to meet or perform this season. The website, insurance and the Making Music fee were all paid for. The income came from some donations and Gift Aid.
- The finances are in a healthy state, however with no weekly income or fundraising the funds will dwindle. The Society has been fortunate to receive two bequests from former members which have allowed the performance of some outstanding works. It should be remembered that this money is to facilitate concerts not for general administration.
- I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work on behalf of the society. I have had twenty eight very happy years as a member of BCS with the opportunity to sing a wide range of works with first class musicians and soloists. I wish Jeremy every success as Treasurer.
- The Treasurer also reported that the subscription rate would remain at £100 per annum.

The accounts were unanimously accepted.

The Conductor's Report was given by D.M :-

David Murray noted that for the first time he had not prepared a written report because nothing had happened over the year. He noted that it was a great turnout for the AGM and first rehearsal and that it was lovely to see everyone once again. He had missed the communal music making but had been fortunate to be able to continue some of his musical activity despite the unusual situation and he recognized that he had been more fortunate than many in that respect.

It was now time to look forward, to revive our voices and simply enjoy singing in the next few weeks. He also had some ideas for musical 'treats' in the weeks ahead but everyone had to understand that we were not in a position to plan for a concert in the immediate future until the nature of possible restrictions was clearer.

There were no other reports previously provided via the web-site (and not presented verbally) because of the lack of activity during the year.

Election of Officers – This were conducted as follows :

For the post of		Proposed by	Seconded by
Treasurer	J.Cripps	SR	ES
			carried by meeting

Any Other Business :-

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Eileen Watson,
Hon.Secretary.

