

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
BECKENHAM CHORALE HELD ON TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2022 AT ST
GEORGE'S CHURCH, BECKENHAM AT 7.15 PM**

Present: Rosaleen Bishop (*President, in the Chair*), Elaine Ullmann (*Treasurer*), Jaki Moody (*Secretary*) and approximately 40 members

In attendance: Mark Griffiths (*Musical Director*)

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members. It was a joy to be back face to face again after holding the AGM for the past two years via Zoom. She was pleased to also welcome our new rehearsal accompanist, Aeron Preston, who has taken over from Nicholas Mannoukas.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Henrike Hawkins, Nana Mthembu, Ruth Stephens, Margaret Sutherland
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 20th October 2021 via Zoom**
These had been circulated in advance and were unanimously accepted.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4. **Annual Accounts:** The accounts had been sent to members prior to the AGM for perusal. Members were asked to submit any questions they had to Elaine Ullmann, Honorary Treasurer, before the meeting so that considered responses could be given. No questions had been submitted in advance and no questions were asked at the AGM.
5. **Adoption of the Accounts:** Tricia Collins proposed and Jenny Carrington seconded the motion to adopt the accounts, which was carried unanimously.
6. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The President thanked the Chorale Committee for their hard work and dedication over the last two years and wished this to be formally minuted. She said that Nigel Britten, Chair, and Sally Moran, Membership Secretary, had led the Chorale brilliantly during this challenging time. Under the terms of the Chorale's Constitution, Nigel and Sally have now exceeded their terms of office on the Committee but have offered to serve for one more year. Nigel will step down as Chair at the 2023 AGM. Sally would like to step down at the same time and is actively seeking a successor to take on the Membership Secretary role.

Carolyn Knight has stepped down from her role as Box Office Manager and overseeing the Friends of the Chorale. The President thanked her for her contribution. Tricia Collins suggested that new appointees to the Committee should shadow the present post-holder to ensure a smooth transition.

The President asked for the Committee to be voted in en bloc. This was proposed by Gillian Scales, seconded by Graham Clayden and passed by members unanimously.

The Officers and Committee are:

Officers

Chair Nigel Britten
Hon Treasurer Elaine Ullmann
Hon Secretary Jaki Moody

Committee

Sally Moran
Jane Dubeck
Carolyn Eddowes
Jo Groves
Tim Burrell

The President also asked members to consider practical ways in which they could contribute to the running of the Chorale; for example, putting out chairs before rehearsals, helping at social events, setting up the stage platforms, stewarding and serving drinks on concert days.

7. **Chair's update:** Nigel Britten said that we had come through the difficulties of Covid and had not only survived but thrived. There are several new members, including some younger singers who are very much needed for the future of the Chorale. Following Carolyn Knight's resignation from the committee, Jo Groves has kindly agreed to manage the Box Office and the Friends in the short term. The sale of tickets for concerts is now well-established on Ticket Source. Carol Bromley has stepped down from her role helping to publicise the Chorale. Nigel said that help was needed with publicity and using social media to give information to potential new members and concert-goers.
8. **Musical Director's Remarks:** Mark Griffiths mentioned the huge disruption that Covid had brought to the Chorale during 2020 and 2021. However, despite anxieties about the return to singing together, both Mark and Chorale members were delighted to return to live singing. The joy we experienced when we returned has continued and Mark feels that the choir is singing well, indeed as well as it ever has. He said it has been noticeable that members are applying themselves well and this has been especially evident since we have been rehearsing Mendelssohn's *Elijah* for the concert in November. The President thanked Mark for his continuing committed and inspiring leadership.
9. **John Gould Trophy:** This trophy was donated by the late John Gould, a fine tenor, who had served on the Committee for many years and had been Chairman and President of the Chorale. The plate was to be presented to the choir member who sold the most concert tickets in a season. However, a few years ago the Committee decided to expand its remit to include those who had contributed in a significant way to the Chorale and its membership. This year the Committee unanimously agreed that the trophy should be awarded jointly to Mary Horgan and Margaret Sutherland. Mary was Stage Manager for many years, on concert day organising



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and overseeing the moving and siting of platforms and the seating of choir and orchestra. Margaret had been a highly efficient Box Office Manager and served on the Committee for seven years, as well as helping to set out the seats for rehearsals. Both have now stepped down from their roles and are worthy winners of the trophy.

10. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** David Foster has agreed to continue to examine the Chorale's accounts. This appointment was approved unanimously by members.
11. **Any Other Business:** Gillian Scales said that friends of hers felt that the forthcoming concert in November was not a 'Beckenham Chorale' concert due to the collaboration with Mark Griffiths's other choir, Coro. The Committee Chair pointed out that the publicity leaflets made it clear that this concert was arranged by the Beckenham Chorale.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 7.40 pm.