

North Kingston Choir
AGM Minutes
Monday 25 JANUARY 2016

Present

Hannah Deveson, Jessica Bate, Darlene Ahmed, Tristan Bate, Ellie Giffard, Jem Goddard, Vanessa Hartley, Maike Rentel, Daisy Morris, Ellie Bate, Emily Scotcher, Emma Richards, Fiona Williams, Georgi Vaughn, Helen Trott, Kyla Furness, Lucy Aurelius, Monica Chapman, Paulene McCaul, Penny Hamilton, Rachel Mahoney, Sonja Steed, Sue Manson, Alex Deveson, Andrew Steed, Diccon Bate, John Bulpitt, Mark Singleton, Nik Dasgupta, Rob Hicks

Apologies

Ellie Giffard, Simon Thomas, Alan Waterman

1. Chair's report – Hannah Deveson

- HD welcomed everybody and gave an overview of the agenda.
- Background to the Committee, giving overview of its activities, frequency of meetings and noting that its members are volunteers.
- 2015 Committee members (Darlene Ahmed, Jessica Bate, Tristan Bate, Ellie Giffard, Jem Goddard, Vanessa Hartley, Maike Rentel) were thanked for their efforts, with key aspects of their role explained.
- HD also highlighted the efforts of a number of others who have helped in the running of the choir and thanked them for their efforts: sectional rehearsal leads – Corinne, Maike, Ellie Bate, Rob, Tristan, Diccon; warm ups from Linton and Corinne; concert MCs Phil, Sonja and Rob; beautiful photos from Asa; Emily's Summer concert programme and choir blog; and Emma, Penny for their rehearsal notes and putting out chairs (along with others).
- HD noted that these contributions make the workload sustainable for the Committee and something that will be a big focus for 2016.
- HD also thanked the band (Tristan, Jem, Steve and Eric) and Georgi for her arrangements, as well as Steve and Tristan for their work on the Fix You video.
- A number of highlights for 2015 were mentioned:
 - Achieving full membership of 46 (and noting that average weekly attendance went from 25 to 33 meaning great attendance at social events and performances);
 - The range of performances and how far NKC has come in 2 years. In particular, it was noted that we were able to raise our presence locally and support causes such as Love Kingston, as well as raising money for the Alzheimer's Society at our Summer concert.
 - An impressive list of social events which are always well attended and great fun.
 - Noting NKC's wider recognition, which included our selection to perform at Hampton Court; appearing in the Kingston Guardian following Love

Kingston Day and receiving an award from the Mayor for raising the most public awareness; and receiving a £750 grant from Kingston Council for the purchase of key equipment, including a street amplifier and microphones.

- Looking forward to 2016, HD reflected that the bar will be raised yet again picking out some highlights, including the Canbury bandstand and Cornerhouse performances in the Summer – as well as the social planned for 4 March.
- In terms of what this means for the running of the choir, HD set out the background to proposing to raise termly fees from £30 to £32, effective from April 2016. In particular, that as the choir has grown so too does its expenditure and the need for contingency.
- In addition, members were asked to consider how they can contribute to the general running for the choir to keep the choir running and sustainable in the long-term.
- HD thanked those who had responded to the feedback survey so far and identified ways in which they can help, as well as providing other feedback. Others who had not yet had the chance were encouraged to complete it.

2. Treasurer's report – Vanessa Hartley

- VH summarised the main points from the 2015 financial summary, included in the officer reports.

3. Nominations for 2016 officer positions

- Noted that majority vote required.
- All re-elections were unanimous, with the 2016 Committee confirmed as follows:
 - Chair- Jem Goddard
 - Musical Director – Jessica Bate
 - Treasurer – Vanessa Hartley
 - Secretary – Simon Thomas
 - Events Officer – Daisy Morris
 - Membership Officer – Alan Waterman
 - Communications Officer – Tristan Bate
 - Social Secretary –Emma Richards
- Handover will be done between outgoing and new committee members (key holder arrangements, passing over of documents/ equipment/folders etc.).
- The Metro bank account signatories will change from Hannah Deveson and Darlene Ahmed to Jem Goddard (Chair) and Alan Waterman (Membership Officer).

4. Motions

- Motion passed to increase fees from £30 to £32 per term, effective from April 2016 (all agree).
- Motion passed to make proposed changes to the constitution (all agree).

5. Any Other Business

- Jessica Bate thanked Hannah Deveson for all of her behind the scenes work and strong leadership as committee Chair. Gifts were thoughtfully given to outgoing committee members and those who have been on the committee for 2 years.