



Committee Meeting by video conference 6th October 2021

Present: Philip Gaskell (Chair), Bill Noblett, Mark Evans, Amy Anderson, Sheena McLean, Annette Rogers, John MacDonald, Carol Omand, Julia Cross

1. Welcome and apologies: Phil welcomed everybody.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 12 July 21 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters arising

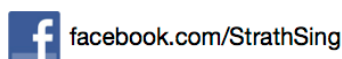
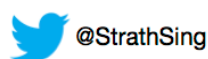
- a) New members: Mark commented that the new members sing well.
- b) There was a brief review of absent members and numbers and it was suggested that perhaps we could use Facetime Live to make members not currently attending feel more involved. It was decided that this might present challenges around connectivity/technology so not to be progressed.
- c) New accompanist, Viktoria Sakardi, is a very good musician, Mark commented. She has worked with NYCOS and Mark thinks she will be a very positive addition.

4. Current Monday arrangements

- a) Covid precautions/seating: Phil recognises we should probably be a bit more cautious and remind people to maintain distance. John told the meeting what precautions are in place for his and Carol's Italian choir, namely 1m distance maintained, everyone assigned a seat, masks worn for practice.. Performances are unmasked but only when choir stands to sing. Phil commented that the church he attends, the congregation is masked to sing. In a recent RSNO performance, everyone was masked up until performing.
- b) Tea/Coffee restrictions: Amy ran through the restrictions needed if serving tea and coffee at rehearsals. (Folk have to be seated, 1m apart, nothing eg milk, sugar to be touched by multiple hands, everything to be disinfected afterwards) It was agreed not to do tea or coffee at the moment in breaks.

5. Financial report

The financial report as of 5th October showed that we made a surplus last year, and there is money in reserve but we will be £1500 or so down this year because of fewer subscriptions. Phil commented that it was good that we had a bit of a buffer in the account.



6. Christmas

- a) Programme advertising: Given that Colin has left, Bill suggested dividing up the Christmas advertising among willing volunteers.
- b) Online programme: This was discussed and rejected as not practical for our audience.
- c) Staging: Amy mentioned the limit of 110 (to include choir numbers) in the church and spacing within the choir. Mark thought that the choir would fit and if necessary, could spill out onto the front.
- d) Catering: Some discussion on possible catering followed namely that people could be offered a drink or mince pie in their seat. No decision was made at this point.
- e) Hamper: It was agreed to go ahead with the hamper raffle as before
- f) Publicity: Given unknowns around restrictions, it was agreed that we should slow down publicity as far as possible until more things become certain.
- g) COVID restrictions: Given the restrictions, particularly on numbers, the possibility of 2 short 1 hour concerts, both on the Sunday was mooted. No definite decision was made.

JC

7. Christmas carol singing at Smiddy

It was agreed that the choir would not sing this year at the Smiddy and would possibly consider next year.

8. Other diary matters - 2022

- a) Coffee morning. It was agreed given winter and likelihood of covid situation worsening, to try and hold the coffee morning later into spring. Amy agreed to look at dates after the Easter holidays.
- b) Spring concert: A suggested date of 20 March 2022 was agreed to be checked with Killearn Kirk. The committee discussed the possibility of singing the Northern Lights programme prepared for in 2020 and it was agreed that we would work on this. Phil suggested that we use some of the "buffer money" in the account to maintain orchestra numbers despite probable reduced audience and income for the spring concert.

9. Communication

Phil will be doing a monthly email to the choir to keep in touch.

PG

10. Ties

Phil has more than 50 Strathendrick Singer ties discovered in Bill Page's loft by his daughter. The committee couldn't see a use for them. Phil agreed to hold on to them.

11. AOB

Mark asked if it was OK to book the Douglas Academy musicians for Christmas and this was agreed. Amy asked if it was OK to send the AGM minutes out and Phil confirmed that it was.

AA

Date of next meeting tbc.

5. AOB

CC

6. Date of next meeting tbc