



THE CATHEDRAL AND
ABBAY CHURCH OF
SAINT ALBAN

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Crypt 11 am Sunday 7th September 2013

Present: Malcolm Bury (Chair), John Meager (Vice Chair and Hon Treasurer), Maureen Adams (Hon. Sec.), Tony Price (IT Manager), Pat Hurford (Life Member), Andrew Shepstone, Nicolas Gibbon, John Adams, Hilary Crook (Associate Member).

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The meeting opened with the Cathedral Old Choristers' prayer. The Chairman acknowledged that this was not the best time to hold the AGM but earlier dates had not been possible because of other ECA events, holidays and a very busy Abbey schedule. There were 16 apologies for absence.

Obituary: Harold Page, a former treble from 1928-1937. Harold had given Malcolm a sketch of the Abbey at the time when the second World War broke out, and Malcolm will be placing it in the archives.

2. Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting held on 7.7.12 and Matters Arising:

These Minutes had been posted on the website with appropriate notice and no paper copies had been requested, and no issues had arisen.

Thanks were given to Tony Price for taking over the web site and making it more attractive and user-friendly, and also, following Rhodri Pazzi-Axworthy's suggestion last year, introducing the Facebook Group which is now up and running.

Pat Hurford proposed the Minutes be adopted, seconded by John Adams, and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report (Attachment 1)

The Chairman read his report, reviewing the main events of the year - the excellent concert last September and the successful Ex-Choristers camp reunion last July - and looking forward to the FCOCA Festival we the ECA is hosting in two weeks' time, and the biennial reunion in July 2014.

Changes in Committee roles include John Meager taking over as Hon. Treasury and Tony Price as IT manager. Simon Colston had managed these two roles until now, and the Chairman would be writing to him with thanks.

Action: Malcolm Bury

It was noted that Stephen Charlesworth's name should be included in the list of ECA members singing in the concert last September. (Post Meeting Note – This has been done.)

In response to Pat Hurford's question about the absence of a concert in 2014, the Chairman explained the difficulty with available dates and also interleaving it with the Cathedral Choir's commitments including a concert in July. There will be a reunion in 2014. The Chairman recorded the good relationship he has with the Cathedral music department and Anna McCrum, the Dean's PA.

Nicolas Gibbon proposed the Report be adopted, seconded by Andrew Shepstone.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Hon Treasurer presented his report. There were no further questions and the adoption of the report was proposed by Tony Price, seconded by Malcolm Bury.

Further discussion on maintaining financial well-being occurred under Any Other Business.

5. Special Resolutions

i. Proposal to approve an amendment to Section 4.2 para 2 of the revised Constitution submitted by Stephen Guy:

"Four shall be the required quorum for the committee meeting to be held unless due to unforeseen circumstances the committee numbers fewer than four in which case business shall proceed as planned."

This was proposed by Malcolm Bury, seconded by John Adams.

To approve the revised Constitution as amended above: proposed by Malcolm Bury, seconded by Pat Hurford.

ii. Proposal to change the annual accounting date from 30th June to 31st March. The former date has not been practical because of the busy nature of the summer months, and the revised date will fall in line with HMRC's fiscal year.

Proposed by Malcolm Bury, seconded by Nicolas Gibbon.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

The Committee will be elected to serve until 31st March 2014 to fall in line with the annual reporting date.

John Tournay and Hannah Watts have stepped down from the Committee.

Libby Godlee (a founder Abbey Girl chorister) is now working locally and is willing to rejoin the Committee. In the absence of other nominations the Chairman recommended that members of the current Committee be re-elected.

Proposed by Pat Hurford, seconded by Andrew Shepstone.

7. Any Other Business

(a) Discussion took place on how to maintain support to enable the ECA to thrive. John Meager expressed concern about the future financial situation. Costs are not matched by income and that couldn't continue. Membership of the ECA is automatic at the moment, which is good, but money and support is needed to keep it going.

The Chairman said subscriptions have been under discussion. The former Association did have subscriptions but the problem had been in the huge amount of work in administration, outweighing the advantages. The concerts should sustain us for 3 years and people are generous in making contributions. With the forthcoming FCOCA festival we should be able to make a donation to the FCOCA and also to add to our own funds. He saw the problem as being how to manage a chorister's life-cycle, where they make a good start with Parish Junior Singers and on through the Cathedral and Abbey Girls Choirs and then on to University, jobs, and making their own families and then maybe a gap; how can we motivate the 'gap' group?

Pat Hurford suggested a voluntary subscription of, say, £10 a year. The Chairman said he would propose this to the Committee

Action: MGB/Committee

The Chairman said that dates in the Cathedral Diary were very difficult to book for more recitals here, but that the committee might explore another music event, possibly outside the Abbey.

Action: Committee

Nicolas Gibbon gave the example of Old Albanians working with localised networks and suggested the ECA could have regional groups and area contacts. This could be discussed in Committee.

Action: Committee

(b) Tony Price's updating of the web site was generally acknowledged as excellent. John Adams asked how regularly information was updated and Tony replied that Malcolm had access to include items up-to-the-minute. Malcolm and Tony are the only people who have access to the membership database.

(c) Malcolm will redesign the year book, to be re-published next year, to make it more attractive.

(d) Pat Hurford asked about Malcolm Bury's book: the text is nearly finished and has now to be technically edited. The later period is complete. Colin Innes-Hopkins has agreed to look at setting the photos.

(e) Malcolm Bury asked whether anyone knew about Dr Terrance Roffe who has been named as a chorister in 1940s. His name does not appear in any choir records.

(f) After the successful weekend in Luccombe a further Luccombe reunion will be under review.

Action: Committee

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for attendance, and the meeting closed at 11.50 am after a vote of thanks by John Adams to the Chairman for all his work.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: