



ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL EX-CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held in the Deanery
11.15 am Sunday 27th April 2014**

Present: Malcolm Bury (Chair), John Meager (Vice Chair and Hon Treasurer), Maureen Adams (Hon. Sec.), Tony Price, John Adams, Richard Lilley, David Ireson, Laura Hicks, David Ireson, Peter Jeffs, Moira Dean.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Meeting opened with the Cathedral Old Choristers' prayer. There were 17 apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th September 2013 and Matters Arising:

These Minutes had been posted on the website with appropriate notice.

Consideration of the proposal made at the last AGM for **voluntary subscriptions** would be postponed in view of the current healthy surplus of funds.

The suggestion for **ECA regional groups** had not been considered viable as the database shows that the majority of members are in the South.

A **Luccombe Reunion** in 2014 will not be possible because of lack of availability of key personnel, but would still be considered for future years.

John Meager proposed the Minutes be adopted, seconded by Tony Price, and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report (Attachment 1)

The Chairman read his report, which included reference to the past FCOCA Festival; the future musical activities including Barry Rose 80th birthday, and Music in Bloom (Flower Festival) in September; and the continuous drive to improve communications. The ECA had been able to make significant welcome donations to the FCOCA and the Cathedral Choir. He thanked the Committee members for their work, including John and Maureen Adams who are not seeking re-election.

David Ireson proposed the Report be adopted, seconded by Peter Jeffs.

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report (Attachment 2)

The Hon Treasurer presented his report, copies of which are available to full members on request. The current surplus was partly due to a higher than expected level of attendance at the FCOCA Festival, but he drew attention to the administration deficit which would be likely to continue in the absence of funds from other directions.

In answer to Peter Jeffs' question as to whether this shorter accounting period was typical, in proportion, of a normal year, the Treasurer replied that the year book costs occur bi-annually but were generally sponsored. For the four issues of Alban Notes each year, focus on email will mean that postal and paper costs of Alban Notes will go down. Costs are incurred by the Luccombe reunion but are usually sponsored.

Tony Price asked that in view of the financial situation a contribution could be made to the costs of web-site hosting. This was accepted.

Action: John Meager/Malcolm Bury

Malcolm Bury thanked John Meager and proposed the adoption of the report, seconded by Peter Jeffs.

5. Election of Officers and Committee

John Adams and Maureen Adams are standing down from the Committee. There have been no nominations for the position of Honorary Secretary.

It was proposed by Peter Jeffs, seconded by David Ireson, that those of the Committee who are prepared to continue should be re-elected en bloc: Malcolm Bury (Chairman), John Meager (Vice Chairman & Honorary Treasurer), Tony Price (IT Manager), Laure Hicks, Libby Godlee, Nicolas Gibbon and Trevor Jarvis.

Malcolm Bury nominated Peter Jeffs for the position of Cathedral Choir Representative, seconded by David Ireson.

Malcolm Bury would email the membership regarding the position of Honorary Secretary. Peter Jeffs suggested a job description be included. **Action: Malcolm Bury**

6. Amendment to the ECA Constitution regarding Membership

Concerns had been raised in Committee regarding the nature of Associate Membership of the ECA and had led to extensive discussions. The category had originally been devised in order to maintain contact with those who had given support to the ECA, or those with whom we wished to keep in touch. The membership does receive benefit both in kind and goodwill from many people who have not been directly involved as musicians. However, it was felt that the notion of 'Membership' should be exclusive to those who had themselves served in the Cathedral Choirs and Music Departments, and that 'Associate Membership' should be replaced by 'Friends of the ECA'. They would not be members, as such, but would continue to receive communications and be invited to events, but would not be entitled to vote at any meeting. Others not eligible for inclusion could ask to be on a mailing list giving information about public events.

Proposal to replace the current Constitution clauses on Membership with the following:

Membership of the St Albans Ex-Choristers Association is the exclusive right of those who have been privileged to take part as musicians in the service of the Cathedral. This includes ex boy/girl choristers, lay clerks, MOMs and AMOMs, organists/scholars and Precentors.

Friends of the ECA: People having a direct relation with the Cathedral Choirs may be placed on this list by invitation and with the approval of the ECA Committee and will receive all ECA communications and be invited to ECA events. They will not have voting rights.

Ordinary Mailings: People whom we wish to attend our public concerts or events, or who ask for such information.

The acceptance of this amendment was proposed by Moira Dean, seconded by Tony Price.

Action: Malcolm Bury/Hon Sec.

7. Any Other Business

John Adams raised the issue of our **relationship with the FCOCA** and Peter Jeffs asked about the advantages or otherwise of membership. Some discussion took place and it was agreed to take this to a future Committee meeting. **Action: Malcolm Bury**

David Ireson asked about the next FCOCA festival, which would be in Rochester in September.

Moira asked about practicalities for the **Barry Rose celebration** in June for which the ECA is hosting the social aspect. The nature of the event is an ordinary Evensong with reception (drinks and snacks) in the North Transept afterwards. Malcolm Bury had sent 140 invitations to people on the ECA database, but it was not yet known how many from Guildford, St Paul's, or other organisations connected with Barry would be coming nor how big would be the massed choir.

John Meager (with irony) thought members should know that our **bank** account was with the Co-op which pays a small amount of interest on our credit.

John Meager thanked John Adams for his work on the Committee.

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm.