

Scottish Chamber Choir
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
7 October 2024 at the Dean, Edinburgh

Present: Members of the Committee, Musical Director and 18 other choir members.

1. Apologies

Brian Kerr (chairing) recorded apologies Kirstin Gillon, Jeremy Nicholl and Ailbhe Rees.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2 October 2023 were unanimously approved as an accurate account.

3. Matters arising: None.

4. Proposal to amend the Constitution

Alan Miller introduced the draft amended SCC constitution and accompanying paper, both circulated to members in advance. The draft, based closely on the SCVO model for Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations, brings the constitution into line with the choir's recent and current practice, addresses one or two anomalies in the current constitution, for example in relation to the Trustees, and lists provisions explicitly and in a modern style. Specifically, all members of the committee will be trustees; clearer provision is made for co-opting to the committee; provision is made for non-singing members and for honorary membership; the relationship of the Musical Director to the committee is clarified; and provision is made for online meetings and decision-making.

The amended constitution was approved and adopted with immediate effect. Brian thanked Alan and Walter Thomson (who had also prepared the previous version of the constitution) for all their work on this.

5. Treasurer's Report

Marjory Lobban introduced her report and accompanying Balance Sheet and analyses of Receipts and Payments and of Administration and Concert Funds (all circulated in advance). The SCC accounts for the year 2023-24 had recently been approved by the Independent Examiner. She set out the rationale for the Committee's proposal to raise the monthly membership subscription from £14 to £20, commencing from the January 2025 payment; for 2024-25 this would mean an annual total of £222. Following a brief discussion of the financial position set out in the summary report and accompanying documents, and acknowledging the continued importance of a strategic approach to selling concert tickets, which the Committee had discussed in detail at its August meeting, it was agreed that the Treasurer's report should be noted, and that subscriptions should be increased as proposed. The meeting also approved the Committee's recommendation on the level of fee to be paid to the Musical Director for the 2024-25 season.

6. Musical Director's report

Iain McLarty introduced his report (circulated in advance). Reviewing the concerts for the 2023-24 season, he noted the high standard achieved and recorded his thanks to the choir for their flexibility and adaptability in terms both of repertoire and venues, and to the Committee for their work. There were no further comments.

7. Chairs' report

Introducing the report, Julie Morrice recorded her thanks to the Musical Director and to the choir for their work in delivering a strong musical programme in 2023-24; to Catrina Clyne for all her work on the choir's social media presence and to Ailbhe Rees for taking on this role; to Jim Murdoch for maintaining the choir website; and to Martin Tarr for editing and arranging printing of concert programmes. Julie noted a need for continued work from the choir to build audiences and for consistency and imagination in publicity development.

8. Election of Committee for Season 2024-25

Members listed in the agenda were duly elected to the new Committee. The Chair recorded his thanks to Alison Fraser, who was stepping down from her role as Membership Secretary, and to Alison Campbell who had offered to take on this role. As both he and Julie Morrice would be stepping down as co-Chairs with immediate effect, it would fall to the Committee to decide how the Chair role should be fulfilled in the absence of any nominations received in advance of or at the AGM. Under the provisions of the newly adopted constitution, the Committee would also allocate specific roles to those just elected.

The meeting warmly thanked Julie and Brian for the dedication that they had shown on behalf of the SCC and its members over a number of years.

9. Any other Competent Business

No further business was raised.

Alastair Wilson
16 October 2024