**Ipswich Hospital Community Choir**

**Committee meeting minutes**

**6th December 2022 after the Volunteers’ party in Ian’s office**

**Minutes of the last meetings (01/09/22 and 22/11/22)**

* The minutes were approved and accepted. There are no matters arising.

**Membership**

* **Attendance** This has improved this year. We currently have 37 members signed up. We still need more to ensure that we can feel confident when performing at events. Our attendance was weak at the Kesgrave Pamper Evening and there was only one tenor at the fireworks.
* **Busketeers facebook promotion** This sparked a discussion about ways to attract new members. It may be possible to organise an open evening in May/June. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting. **DI**
* **Case study for well-being contact** The member who was approached was not very keen, although they agreed to help if necessary. Instead, IF will invite members to express “what choir means to me” thoughts. These quotes can be collected and given to the well-being team. They can also be published on our website. The invite will be issued after Christmas**. IF**
* **Future term dates** Next term, we will not have a break until after the Anniversary Concert to maximise rehearsal time. We will have two blocks – one of eight and one of nine to help to spread the payments.
* **Membership form** This will be changed to become an annual form to be completed every January. The information about term dates and payments will be communicated by email. **FH**

**Finance**

* **Statement of Income and Expenditure** The current statement was presented. As expected, putting the subs up to £4 has worked and will cover last year’s loss to break even.
* The second hand uniform proceeds will go directly towards our charity contribution.

**Musical director’s report**

* NC is pleased with us and commented that, when performance ready, we sound very good for an amateur choir.
* The Anniversary Concert will dictate the schedule next term so, for some, there will not be much new learning.

**Patron**

* **Feedback on progress so far** There has been no response from Ed Sheeran or Nik Kershaw. Ruthie Henshall will be contacted. **SN**

**Section reports**

* **Soprano** Sopranos have welcomed a new member who works in the hospital, which is positive. Other members are happy.
* **Alto** No issues. The new member is keen and attended a performance. An email will be sent to members reminding them about punctuality. **FH**
* **Tenor** One member felt that the St Elizabeth Shop was not a worthwhile event as there were more choir members than audience, however the committee felt that it was a positive experience for most. IF will temporarily assume the role as rep when PR is away.
* **Bass** No issues. The member with an imminent house move will be a loss to the section.

**Website**

* **Progress with the manual for web site management.** NC has sent step by step instructions for uploading material to help with this. The completion date for this task is the end of January. **PR**
* There has been a password change problem which is being investigated**. PR**

**Past events**

* **Fireworks in Christchurch Park** A very wet evening for the front row and the MD! We attracted an audience as the firework display ended and there was some audience participation and applause. Timewarp went particularly well. The poorly placed stage lights were difficult to work with. If we repeat this event, we will ask about a fee.
* **St Elizabeth Charity shop** Note the tenor comment above. The restricted performance area, which led to very close contact, resulted in a good sound.
* **Christmas Shopping and Pamper Evening** There has been mixed feedback from the members ranging from complaints that we were not listened to, to thoroughly enjoying the evening. As the organiser is often too busy to be in the main hall, we will introduce ourselves next time rather than just starting to sing. NC feels that this event is useful to try new material out and to practise our Christmas repertoire. Members need to understand the nature of this event.
* **Volunteers’ party** There was a very good response from the guests and organisers. Our pamphlets were given out after the performance to every table. If we send some pamphlets to the hospital, they will be added to the volunteers’ welcome pack. DI

**Future Events**

* **Hospice Remembrance Service** We will arrive at the church at 1.15 – the organist will be there for a rehearsal with us at 1.30pm. The service will begin at 3pm. **VM** will send the order of service to the committee. VM Dress code: women to wear formal black with blue corsage, men to wear white shirt, black trousers but no bow ties. All to wear black footwear. A new standing plan will be issued. **NC**
* **Choir 10yr anniversary concert April 2023 – taken from the minutes dated 22/11/22**
* **Confirmation of new date-** The confirmed date is 22nd April.
* **Programme – songs, timings, joint songs** NC shared the provisional list of songs from the last meeting and it was agreed that this was the basis of a good programme. He will write a new arrangement for Rule the World. **NC** has not met with VT yet but will before publishing the Spring Term schedule. The genre of music to suggest to VT was discussed.
* **Venue – position of choir/ orchestra –** The concert will be at St Peter’s At The Waterfront. We will stand at the front with the orchestra raised behind us.
* **Ticket sales –** **FH** will contact MP to ask for further details She will copy VM in as event coordinator. **PR** will look at existing tickets for the venue to get design ideas. We want the choir logo and charity logos to feature on the tickets.
* **Other participants if any –** We have enough material between the choir and orchestra so we will not include anyone else.
* **Compere – IF** will check to see if NF has any suggestions.
* **Charity –** It was suggested that the proceeds would be split between the Hospital Children’s Charity Appeal and Jess Grant Celebration. We will need to check that JGC is an acceptable cause to support. **FH** will check with MP. **IF** will check with the hospital charity coordinator.
* Tickets to be £10 **FH to reply to MP**
* Logo from Hospital Charity and JGC to be sent to FH. **IF/DI**
* **Raffle -** We will have a raffle on the night to further benefit the charities. **SN** will coordinate this and procure worthwhile prizes from local firms/ restaurants.

**Social Events**

**10th Anniversary Party 14/01/23 – taken from minutes dated 22/11/22**

* **Confirmation of date and venue –** The event will take place on 14th January 2023. It will run from 7-11pm at the Ipswich and District Indoor Bowls Club. There is a twenty pound charge for the hall with a bar. The buffet costs £10 (later changed to £12) and it was decided that this is the figure that we will charge guests. **PR** will liaise with the venue when final numbers are known.
* **Invites –style, when to send out – IF** will send out the invitations in the near future. The £10 (£12) will be paid in to the choir account. **DI** will keep the list of RSVPs. **FH** will check payments. **PR** will send the amended contact list to DI/FH. Guests will be asked to respond by 31/12/22.
* **Introduction – NC** will compose a short introduction to the evening and send it to IF for approval.
* **Joint songs – choice and projection of words** The venue will provide the projector. **NC** will prepare the words for a sing-along to Colour My World, I’m Alive, A Kind Of Magic and Together in Electric Dreams. The singing part of the evening will start off by the existing choir singing Super Trouper to the past members.
* **Projection of photos** **PR** will ask the existing members to send him photos taken at choir events and will use these, and gallery photos, to make a rolling programme of nostalgic photos. He will need the photos by 09/12/22.
* **Quiz – questions, tie breaker, team size, marking, prizes DI –** Questions based on events during the last ten years. Guests to get in to teams of 6 max. Have a tie breaker ready in case. The committee will help to mark. Prize will be a box of Celebrations.
* **Awards –** We will not go ahead with this idea.

**Up to date progress**

* **Uptake so far** Only 15 replies so far. Members to be reminded tomorrow**. IF**
* We will meet in January to consider whether we have enough uptake to go ahead**. Zoom on 5/01 at 7.30pm.**

**AOB / Next meeting date and time** The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 7th February 2023 at Phil’s house.