

**Present:** Executive Officers - Chris Walker (Chairman), Kitty Ross (Treasurer) Liz Buxton (Secretary), Anne Adams (Social Secretary), Liz Arnesen (Membership Secretary) and Vicky Hight (Publicity Manager). Also in attendance were Simon Lindley (Conductor), J Brice (Independent Examiner) and approximately 25 society members.

1. **Welcome** – the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, which would focus on those items required of the society in its AGM, referring members to the summer newsletter for additional reports and information.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from C Arrowsmith, P Downing, C Corns, M Tipler, R Wilkinson, I Owers, J Gaunt, S Davies, J Hollingsworth, J Nortcliffe, S Wright, George Nicholson (President), Michael Buxton (Box Office Manager) and Alan Brown (Vice-President who sent his good wishes to the choir)

3. **Minutes of the previous AGM** held on Monday 5th November 2018, previously circulated with the agenda, were approved unanimously (proposed P Digby, seconded B Hawley) and signed by the Chairman as a true record following correction of some typographical errors.

4. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. **Secretary's report for 2018-19**

Liz formally reported that the 'Object' of the Society as stated in the constitution, continued to be met and was the focus of the committee which had met 4 times since the last AGM. The focus of meetings was primarily concert/event planning, financial matters, recruitment and publicity. Informal discussions fed into the meetings as did much discussion conducted by email. Planning for the 2020-21 programme was well underway. The secretary reminded members of the need to continue to use the 'suggestions' book to share thoughts and ideas, reporting that programmes over the last few years had included works suggested by members. Liz reminded everyone that email would continue to be the primary means of communicating with members and asked for any changes to be communicated to her. Liz thanked everyone who has contributed to the success of the choir apologizing if the smooth running of the society organisation and admin systems sometime required a bit of 'nagging'!

The secretary was thanked for her report.

6. **Treasurer's report for 2018-2019**

Kitty talked about the annual accounts a copy of which was provided for all members prior to the meeting, highlighting a number of observations. She focussed in particular on the support we have received from generous sponsorship. The last season ended in deficit and as ever the only concert that is in surplus is the Cathedral performance of Messiah. We have been able at the moment to sustain our commitment to engaging professional players and good quality soloists. As members were aware, the Society now had a new bank account with Cooperative Bank. This had been a major task but Kitty thanked members for bearing with us during the transition period. Kitty thanked everyone for their help in updating BACs and Standing Order payments to the society. Most members had already paid their subscription and she would shortly need to write to those members who hadn't. Following suggestions made at the last AGM Kitty indicated that it was her intention to move some of our reserves to a Charity Account, although this had been delayed by the transition to the Coop bank. Kitty then answered questions from members. One member queried some dates in the treasurer's report which had been overlooked but would now be altered. Another question focused on whether the Cathedral hire costs were anticipated to rise? Kitty reported that the costs had remained stable and hoped this would remain so. Lastly a member queried the music hire costs for the 2018-19 season, wondering if members were contributing enough to offset expenses of hiring music? It was explained the rise resulted in the main from the orchestral parts for the French Connection concert where parts are notoriously expensive.

The treasurer was thanked for her report.

7. **Independent Examiner's report for 2018-2019**

The Chairman welcomed Jon Brice (Independent Examiner) to the meeting. Mr Brice reported that as the appointed Independent Examiner he had scrutinised the accounts presented for the 2018-19 season and was entirely satisfied that these were fully in order and had been presented in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Charity Commission.

Jon was thanked by the Chairman on behalf of the membership for his work on behalf of the Society.

**8. Election of officers**

The chairman reported that nominations for all Officer vacancies as indicated in the invitation to the AGM, proposed and seconded by members of the society, had been received and the following were consequently elected unopposed to serve for a further two years - Chairman: Chris Walker; Secretary: Liz Buxton; Social Secretary: Anne Adams; Joint Librarian: Sarah Hogan. The Committee nomination of George Nicholson to continue for a further term as Society President was accepted unopposed.

**9. Election of two ordinary members of the Committee**

Nominations had been received from Alan Heath and Neil Dummigan, proposed and seconded by members of the society. Both were elected unopposed to the two vacant positions on the Committee. Liz Paice whose term of office has now come to an end was thanked by the Chairman on behalf of members for her valued contribution to the work of the Committee.

**10. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner**

Jonathan Brice was unanimously re-elected to the position of Independent Examiner. The Chairman indicated that he would write to Jonathan to thank him for his work on behalf of the Society.

**11. Honorary Conductor's report for 2018-19**

Dr Lindley talked about the coming season looking forward in particular to the performance of Honeger's King David where our performance would be supported by the generous legacy of Donald Hunt's score and parts. Although the work may, at first glance, appear less challenging, this he felt was not the case and urged some private practice in advance of the Autumn when parts would be available. He emphasised that we would be performing the Chamber version of orchestration. Tom Hunt who had attended our June concert given as a tribute to his late father, remarked how lovely it was that the choir were able to sing George Nicholson's innovative settings of American standards which so admirably complemented our performance of Donald Hunt's American Serenade. Simon was much looking forward to working with the choristers from St John's Ranmoor who under the direction of Edward Barbieri had sustained their singing despite being unable to use the church building for many months. Simon thanked everyone for their hard work but urged the society to explore ways to engage with a younger age group in the fear that without new members we could be much diminished in size in 10 years time. We were one of 11 major choral groups in Sheffield and even in Doncaster where there is just one group, they experienced similar difficulties in attracting new members. The conductor was keen to explore regular informal performances of Bach Cantatas and echoed others thanks to those who had supported the society financially in the last and forthcoming seasons.

The chairman thanked Dr Lindley for his contribution to the meeting and to the society as a whole.

**12. Chairman's report for 2018-19**

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their work on behalf of the Society over the last year. He also thanked the Honorary Conductor for his efforts on our behalf. Chris also asked members to join him in thanking our Society President George Nicholson, who he was sure members would agree was a very 'active' president. The revival of the President's reception had been most welcome and it was very generous of George to conduct our Come Sing Messiah. Building on the Summer newsletter, the Chairman felt the last season had been very successful. He too was most grateful to those people who had supported the work of the Society through sponsoring our concerts. This would continue to be an important influence on the season planning as we must be mindful that 90% of our tickets sales are at the concessionary price, and a concert costs at least £5,000 to stage. Social media publicity is now a focus of our efforts in addition to the help we need from everyone to distribute our printed publicity. One person attending the previous Saturday's concert had heard us rehearsing during the afternoon which was very encouraging. Chris reported that we now have 140 people responding to our Facebook posts and Anne Adams' efforts to 'tweet' as well as write excellent articles for the Telegraph was much appreciated. Anne reported that we now have 1300 followers on Twitter. Everyone's help is needed to sell tickets and take steps to recruit new members.

**13. Any other business**

The chairman opened the meeting to questions/comments. On behalf of the membership of the society, Liz Paice thanked the committee for their work over the last season. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed: ..... (Chairman - Mr C Walker) Date: .....