

Richmondshire Choral Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 26th September in Richmond Methodist Church, 7.30 pm

1. Apologies: M. Ginnever, S Vaux, D. Cartwright, D. Scrutton, S. Scrutton, H. Gardener.

The meeting was called to order by the secretary, who began with the following Statement:

Uppermost in everyone's mind this evening will be the sudden death of Janet Hall.

For many years, Janet has served this choir faithfully as a committee member and as Chair.

Her hard work, deep knowledge of choral music and her qualities of leadership will be sorely missed in this choir and in the many other musical societies with which she worked.

This work was never more demanding than in the last few years. Janet guided us through the unprecedented challenges of Covid 19 and the maze of lockdowns and restrictions.

On a more personal level, I would like to say what a privilege it was to get to know Janet. I will miss her friendship, humour and encouragement throughout the time when we worked together.

I am certain that many of you will also have lovely memories of Janet and will share in our deep sadness at such a huge loss.

In view of the sudden death of Janet Hall, Item 5 on the Agenda will now become item 2 so that the new Chair will be able to take the meeting from this point.

2. Election of Officers:

- **Chair:** Judy Moorhouse. Nominated By MB, seconded by JW. Carried.
- **Treasurer:** David Barraclough. Nominated by JM, seconded by MB. Carried.
- **Secretary:** Mary Branigan. Nominated by JM, Seconded by JB. Carried
- **New Committee Member:** Kay Marriott. Nominated by JB, Seconded by MF. Carried

3. Minutes of the Last AGM. Approved.

4. Matters Arising: None

5: Reports:

- **Chair:** No formal report will be given. Hopefully, the choir may produce something to be performed in tribute to Janet.
- **Treasurer:** There is more money in our accounts than ever before, thanks to a generous legacy from the estate of J Farrell.
This year's accounts can not really be compared to the previous year because of Covid restrictions. The Messiah concert was paid for by the Swaledale Festival, so no concert made a loss.
- **Conductor:** As a result of Janet's death, circumstances are not normal.

Janet was a very able singer and leader. She was a powerhouse, working in many musical societies. The whole area will be poorer without her input.

Last November's concert was good and was well received. The Messiah concert was everything I had wished for.

6. Men's Concert Dress: In 2019, the ladies agreed to change their concert dress to a black top rather than a white one.

At last year's AGM a similar change was put forward for the men, but no time was allowed in the agenda for discussion. This caused some dissatisfaction, and a few of the men left the choir in protest. Black shirts had to be worn at the Messiah concert in order to fit in with the Swale Singers dress. The men were asked to wear black for the year, on the condition that a full discussion and vote would take place this year.

T Cook stated that he now has two black shirts and is happy to wear them. He pointed out that taking down the staging after concerts is much more comfortable in an open necked shirt rather than a dinner jacket and bow tie.

Martin Idale said that the choir had lost members over this issue. Ladies are able to dress up for concerts and the men feel more dressed up in dinner jackets.

Mark Harrison has long favoured the move to black shirts. The comfort of wearing an open necked shirt while singing is quite significant. David Barraclough agreed with this statement.

Paul Carton said that he was neutral on the issue last year, but that he was now happy with the idea of keeping the black shirt.

Merrin Froggett said that, for some men, the need to buy dinner jackets and bow ties might be a barrier to joining the choir.

7. Any Other Business:

- Tea Breaks. Volunteers to make the tea have been requested at every meeting but no one has come forward.

Members were asked to choose between having tea made for them on the understanding that they would be expected to volunteer to help or bringing their own refreshments for break time.

Votes were taken and choir voted in favour of bringing their own refreshments.

- David Barraclough asked members to take away copies of the accounts and to come to him with any questions arising.
- Judy Moorhouse showed members a card and read out a chosen poem to be included. This would be sent from the choir to Janet Hall's family. Members would, of course, be free to send their own cards in addition.

8. Meeting Ended: 8pm.