



EASTERN REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12th April 2008

MINUTES

The Chairman, Marian Davidson, welcomed delegates to the Annual Regional Conference.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Karen Cardy, Roger Rowe, Rod Grealish, John Brown, Don Beckett, Paul Rooke, Edward Everest, Aylsham Music Society, Malden Choral Society, Peterborough Choral Society, Peterborough Male Voice Choir, Ware Choral Society

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 21st APRIL 2007

There being no amendments or corrections, the minutes were approved. It was pointed out that the minutes are published on the Regional Website and in the interests of the environment only a very small number of copies will be provided at the next ARC.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reviewed the year and reported the following items.

I'll start by reporting on the past year and first some general statistics

As at 31st Mar we had 297 members and increase of 15 on this time last year.

During the year the full committee met four times. The major development this year has been the appointment of Joanna as the regional Development Officer and much of the committee time has been taken up with the planning associated with getting the Accord meetings up and running. We have appointed a steering group to help with this which has met once and in addition there have been two meetings with Evan Dawson from the MM office to work on the planning and budgeting.

In addition the committee has continued with the Reach Our funded project which is just going into its final phase.

Events during the year.

In May the BBC Play it Again workshops took place with two sessions in Cambridge and four in Watford, at least 200 people attended each session probably nearer 300 in the session I went to on Sunday afternoon in Watford. MM did a great deal of research work for the BBC providing membership lists, gathering names of non-member organisations and we had expected that this information would be provided to participants. It was a disappointment, therefore, that only a selection of groups were listed in the accompanying materials although the MM websites were listed. Nevertheless one society reported that they had had enquiries from some prospective new members as a result of the event.

In June A whole day meeting was held for the Music Clubs in the western part of the region. All the clubs in Herts, Beds, W Essex were invited and also a few from just over the border in London and South East. The event took place at Benslow Music Trust. Twenty representatives from twelve groups attended. One group was not a MM member, this day was organised by Chris Thomas our Vice Chairman.

Reach Out. This project was devised by the regional committee and funded by Central Office. It provided funds for a number of organisations to reach out to their local communities and take live music to groups that would not normally have the opportunity to attend live music events. Four organisations took part in the first phase and a further four in the second phase. Because there was still some money available we re-advertised it with

the result that a further 4 groups will be funded for events during this summer. We estimate that to date some 350 - 400 children and 250 adults have benefited.

In January we held the first of the Accord meetings in the Cambridge area and this was followed by a second meeting in Chelmsford in March so today's meeting is the third. In order to cover the whole region we shall hold a total of twelve meetings by the end of 2009. We invite non-members to the meeting too partly with the hope that they may decide to join but also because the Accord funded project aims to involve non-members too.

Consultation work I continue to be involved working parties meeting at MM office. I have been part of the communication working party that is looking at all aspects of how MM communicates with both members' organisations and the outside world. You will already be aware of changes such as the use of email bulletins both in the region and nationally. We now have only 25 members that have not supplied us with an email address. I have also been involved with another working party that is planning some development activities for committee members and staff across the whole country

Thanks I would like to thank all members of the committee for their work throughout the year. We have a great team but there needs to be more people in it and a number of members are coming to the end of their term. In particular we will need both a secretary and a treasurer from 2010. If you feel you could take on either of these roles or you know of someone who that we might approach please do contact me for an informal discussion. We would like to co-opt potential post holders as soon as possible.

Farewell. Two members of the committee are resigning at this AGM having served for a good number of years. Don Beckett has represented Essex for nine years and has contributed greatly to the work of the committee during that time. He now feels it is time for a rest and we thank him for all the time he has given to Making Music and wish him well for the future.

Chris Thomas has also decided it is time to give up direct work on this committee. He has been a member for a very long time, already being Chairman when I joined as Herts rep back in 1993. During that time he led the committee for nine years, the maximum allowed and then agreed to remain and took over the role of Bedfordshire rep as well as acting as Vice Chairman. Chris has a vast experience in voluntary Music Making particularly related to concert promoters and we will really miss his thoughtful advice although he has agreed that we can consult him from time to time as long as he doesn't have to come to committee meetings!

The Chairman then made a presentation to Chris Thomas.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented his report which was accompanied by copies of the accounts distributed to the meeting, as follows;

The main feature of the accounts to the end of 2007 was that the Region's reserves fell from almost £16,000 to £12,703. When the accounts were consolidated at the Centre in the charity's main accounts, significantly later than the Region's accounts were prepared, an accrual item was added to the accounts which increased the closing reserves to almost £13,250 - this was funds due in respect of the Music Clubs Event which was held during the year which the Eastern Committee expected, with confidence, to be funded as part of the Regional Development Officer's funding grant.

The decline in the reserves was broadly as planned and those who were here last year will recall that we planned to increase the funding of the "Reach Out" Project by £2,000 from reserves. Whilst the whole of the Reach Out Funds were not drawn down by the end of the financial year, it will be noted that I separated the reserves to show what remained available for funding applications. The application deadline was lengthened and since the year end we have committed the whole of the money to cover applications we received.

The events which were funded by Reach Out were all very worthwhile events and have been reported in the Newsletters and I think I speak for the whole Committee when I say that this was a very successful project which achieved its aim of getting live music to the "hard to reach" members of the population.

The structure of the Receipts and Payments account is very similar to the previous year when the Reach Out grant in 2006 and the grants made in 2006 and 2007 are removed. As the Committee is smaller, expenditure on the meetings was lower and there was one newsletter fewer during the year. The sundry expenditure of £166.90 related to the purchase of a printer for the RDO to enable her to progress her projects. The ARC cost was substantially lower as it was a low-key event compared with the previous year's Singing Day which involved venue hire and professional fees.

During 2007 we expected to receive other funding in respect of the newly appointed RDO would undertake in the Region. Unfortunately, the appointment was delayed significantly and the Region did not receive the anticipated funds, though indeed we committed to the successful Music Clubs Day which I mentioned earlier. However, the Region is very fortunate in our RDO and we now have Joanna Sleight in situ. We shall be receiving project funding of £5,500 during the year, half of which has already been received and we have committed a portion of our reserves to give some "priming" for groups which intend to work together in the Accord Project which Joanna is driving. Our Central Funding for the year - the top line of the accounts you see before you, will be £2285 for the year compared with £1975 for 2007 and we have already received half of this.

We expect that during the current year, the reserves will decline by around £2,500 as we make small grants in support of the Accord Project and the balance of the Reach Out moneys is disbursed.

6. ELECTION OF REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman explained that under the by-laws of *Making Music* the terms of office are for three years with a maximum of 9 years. The elections required this year were to elect John Brown as Suffolk Area Representative, to elect Hilary Cheek as Essex Area Representative and to elect Michael Ward as Bedfordshire Area Representative.

The elections were therefore as follows:

John Brown: proposed Marian Davidson seconded John Scott
Hilary Cheek: proposed Don Beckett seconded David Adams
Michael Ward: proposed David Laundry seconded David Phillips

These elections were agreed by general consent.

7. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Reappointment of Robert H Scott was proposed by Bob Scott seconded by Marian Davidson and agreed by general consent.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hilary Cheek commented on the success of the Reach Out project for Essex Symphony Orchestra. Chris Thomas described the poor response for organizing a repeat of the Music Clubs' Day. There being no further business the meeting closed at 13:30 .