

EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT CHOIRS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

of the AGM held on Saturday 3 September 2022 at 10.00am

Trinity Church, Willingdon

Present: Jennie Macfadyen (Chair, Downland Singers), Milly Clark (Hon. Secretary & Treasurer, Hailsham Choral Society), Sue Dickinson (Concentus), Fiona Evans (Phoenix Choir), Carole Josey (Seaford Choral Society), Rosemary Rowett (Downland Singers)	
1.	Apologies - John Thornley (ESO), Liz Barker (Eastbourne Choral Society), Jenny Meteyard (Bexhill Choral Society) Chris Thompson (Heathfield Choral Society)
2.	Minutes of the last AGM 4 September 2021 - These had been circulated and were approved. They were signed by the Chair as a correct record.
3.	Matters arising - there were no matters arising.
4.	Chairman's Comments: It is with sadness that this meeting notes the death of former member Spencer Freeman in June. Spencer had a life-long keen interest in music and joined the association representing what was originally Central Methodist Church, more recently known as Emmanuel, in Eastbourne. Please join me in a moment of quiet as we pay tribute to and remember Spencer. Thankfully all our choirs have been able to continue to meet in person since the easing of Covid restrictions and, as the individual choir reports show, a number of concerts and events have been put on successfully. Any group is only as strong as its membership and it is always encouraging to see the support and interaction between our choirs. Although we only have two meetings per year, these do give the opportunity to share information and expertise which is always of interest and helpful to us all. On your behalf, I offer our sincere thanks to Milly Clark, our Secretary and Treasurer for her efficient management of the finances and administration and also to Chris Thompson for his on-going work in developing and maintaining the website.
5.	Treasurer's Report - attached. The balance in the bank on 3.9.22 was £990.04 . Subscriptions for the year 2022-23 are now due and those who had already paid were thanked.
6.	Election of Officers – Chair: Jennie Macfadyen: proposed: Milly Clark seconded: Fiona Evans Secretary and Treasurer: Milly Clark: proposed: Sue Dickinson seconded: Fiona Evans All were elected unanimously.
8.	Date of next meetings: Committee Meeting: 22 April 2023 at 10.30.a.m. AGM and Committee Meeting: 30 September 2023 at 10 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING
3 September 2022, 10.30am

1.	Minutes: the minutes of the meeting on 12 February 2022 had been circulated and were approved. They were signed by the Chair as a correct record.
2.	Choir reports: those present read out their reports. All reports would be posted on the website.
3.	<p>Discussion following choir reports: there were a few points of common interest or concern with most choirs, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recruitment: a shortage of lower voices was reported in most choirs, relative to the number of sopranos, and in particular tenor numbers were low. Not clear whether this situation has become worse since the pandemic. Various ways of attracting and retaining new members were discussed, including bursaries, special sessions for new members to learn choral singing, learning new music in separate sessions, workshops. b) Subscriptions: some choirs have had to put up subs, because of increased venue hire costs and other rising costs. A reminder to update the EADCA website to reflect that. (ACTION: all) c) Ticket price: there was some discussion about the pros and cons of raising the ticket price, with Phoenix choir planning to 'break the £20 barrier' and see what happens. People had been quite willing to pay £18 for their previous concert. It was felt that audience numbers depend on programme and venue - also having school choirs joining always attract large numbers of relatives and friends. Ticket price is not always the main consideration for attending concerts. d) Reviewers: Fiona suggested keeping a list of potential reviewers, possibly on our website, after the retirement of Robin Gregory. Names can be sent to Milly. e) Concert dates: there was a request for choirs to be mindful of each other's plans by using the EADCA website and when inevitable clashes occurred to communicate with each other. f) Publicity: some discussion took place regarding articles in the press to publicise individual choirs, and a plea was made to use inclusive language, as all choirs have similar positive points.
4.	Website updates: In Chris' absence, Milly reminded members to continue to send future dates and programme plans to Chris: chrisk61@gmail.com (or webmaster@eadca.uk) to update the website. The members area can be accessed using the following username: p36837016-1 and password: Schubert1828.
5..	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Publicity: Jennie said that an advert to publicise EADCA in What's On, the monthly publication, had not yet been arranged, but that she would be in touch with Liz Barker to discuss this. (ACTION: Jennie and Liz)</p> <p>The meeting ended at 11.50am</p>