

# EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT CHOIRS ASSOCIATION

## AGM MINUTES

Held on Saturday 4 September, 2021 at 10am

Trinity Church, Willingdon

<b>Present: Jennie Macfadyen (Chair, Downlands Singers), Milly Clark (Hon. Secretary &amp; Treasurer, Hailsham Choral Society), Sue Dickinson (Concentus), Fiona Evans (Phoenix Choir), Alastair Macfadyen (Downland Singers), Steve Machan (Seaford Choral Society), Jenny Meteyard (Bexhill Choral Society), Chris Thompson (Heathfield Choral Society).</b>		
1.	<b>Apologies</b> - Liz Barker (Eastbourne Choral Society), Mary Mercer (Seaford Choral Society), John Thornley, (Eastbourne Symphony Chorus), Adrian White (Concentus).	
2.	<b>Minutes of the last meeting on 6 February 2021</b> - These had been circulated and were approved. They were signed by the Chair as a correct record. The minutes of the last AGM had been approved at the meeting in February.	
3.	<b>Matters arising</b> - None	
4.	<b>Chairman's Report</b> - While the wonders of technology have enabled the work of the Association to continue during lockdown, it is so good to be back together again "in-person" for our AGM this year.  Since the 2020 AGM much work has been undertaken. Milly has settled into the dual roles of Secretary and Treasurer brilliantly and Chris has set up a new website. Neither have let lockdown get in the way of progressing our work and for this we owe them sincere and grateful thanks.  Representatives of the local choirs have kept in contact via bulletins and emails and we have all been kept up to date with their new ventures and shared in their frustrations as circumstances prevented plans coming to fruition.  With the easing of lockdown, hopefully we can all get back to what we all enjoy doing the most – making music and singing with our choirs!	
5.	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> - attached. The balance in the bank on 3.9.21 was £1021.04. Subscriptions are now due for the year 2021-22. Steve Machan asked why EADCA pays for insurance through Making Music. Jennie said that among other benefits the church requires the group to have their own insurance for meetings. Membership for Making Music is beneficial to all members, especially those choirs who are not members themselves. It allows participation in webinars and other events of interest to all choirs. Milly agreed to find out the benefits of membership and if a cheaper insurance option is available. <b>(ACTION: Milly)</b>	
6.	<b>Election of Officers –</b> Chair: Jennie Macfadyen:      proposed Milly Clark                      seconded Fiona Evans Secretary: Milly Clark:      proposed Jenny Meteyard              seconded Chris Thompson Treasurer: Milly Clark:      proposed Chris Thompson              seconded Sue Dickinson Webmaster: Chris Thompson      proposed Milly Clark                      seconded Jenny Meteyard All were elected unanimously	
8.	<b>Date of next meetings:</b> Committee Meeting: 12 February 2022 at 10.30.a.m. AGM and Committee Meeting: 3 September 2022 at 10 a.m.	

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**4 September 2021, 10.30am**

1.	<b>Choir reports:</b> those present read out their reports. All reports would be posted on the website.
2.	<b>Return to singing:</b> all choirs were experiencing similar issues: whether to sing in masks or not; whether to ask members about their vaccination status or ask to have a lateral flow test; whether to have a tea break; response from choir and committee members, having opinions at opposite ends of the argument. It was generally agreed that choirs could not demand members were vaccinated or have tests, or even wear masks, we could only 'recommend' or 'advise'. As committees we have a legal responsibility to our MDs and accompanists (as paid employees) to provide a safe environment and a moral responsibility to our choirs to make rehearsals as safe as possible. It was also agreed that ventilation is of prime importance to keep venues Covid secure, hand sanitising being recommended too and choirs had various ways of managing social distancing and safe singing, depending on their venues. Some choirs had found their venues were no longer suitable, or had unexpected price increases, all adding to the workload of committees to find new venues. Members were especially grateful to Bexhill and Seaford CS for their comprehensive Risk Assessments and Covid mitigation papers, which were very helpful. All agreed that performances would be a whole new experience and rehearsals were only the first step.
3.	<b>Website updates:</b> Chris had no news to report and members were asked to inform him of any changes in dates or venues of concerts as soon as possible.
4.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b> Jennie informed the meeting that Alastair would be retiring from EADCA as representative of the Downlands Singers and Rosemary Rowett would take over. Alastair was thanked for his hard work over the years and support for EADCA. Jennie asked members to help with setting up before meetings and clear up afterwards.</p> <p>Jennie noted that Noteworthy Choir had not attended any meetings since joining EADCA and a general discussion ensued about inviting other choirs to join. Michael Staff had written to some choirs a few years ago without much success. Milly said she would be willing to write to choirs, if others would let her know of names of choirs who might be invited.  <b>(ACTION: Milly)</b></p> <p>Chris Thompson said that Heathfield CS were hoping to perform 'Gerontius' in 2023/24 and were asking if other choirs were interested in cooperating with this project.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 11.25 am</p>