

## Birmingham Ladies Barbershop Harmony Club

Minutes of Extraordinary committee meeting held via Zoom over the internet on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>	Pearl Whiten	Chair	PW
	Sue Bubb	Vice Chair/Fund Raiser	SB
	Sue Breakwell	Treasurer	SBr
	Elaine Mobsby	Membership Secretary	EM
	Sandra Moss	Secretary	SM
	Robert Barber	Music Director	RB

Since this meeting was purely for discussion only, the minutes of the previous meeting were not discussed and no officers' reports were prepared. PW asked for permission to discuss the agenda in reverse order to allow plenty of discussion about the return to in- person rehearsals. This was agreed.

### 1. **Apologies** - no apologies

2. **Update on Joint User Agreement** - This has now been signed by Chairs of SCS and Anvil. Jennie Thornton and Colin Bowen will be responsible for setting up the equipment and maintaining it and if there is a need for outside maintenance the costs will be shared between the Choruses. All committee members will receive a copy of the agreement. Elaine Mobsby will be responsible for security and TBA transport

RB commented that he would like to use the equipment soon to enable the Chorus to get used to it.

3. **Update on Town Hall Booking** - a full refund has now been received.

### 4. **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner November 2020**

a) A discussion was held about whether or not this should still go ahead.

b) SM suggested that we could limit the number to present membership only but felt it would be sad not to include past members.

c) PW commented that since the dinner was to "honour" our founder Olive Ryder and others who had helped to form SCS it would be a shame not to be able to invite past members.

d) It was therefore decided to postpone the dinner for 12 months. SBr to contact Ramada Hotel and make enquiries about this. SBr

### 5. **Virtual LABBS convention 2020**

Anna Westwood has been working hard to video record each section singing the "Bowie Medley" and has helped some groups with their audio recordings. She has also been giving help and guidance via WhatsApp to other members. She will be in contact with Hannah Briggs about the software she is using. More information about the convention will be sent by LABBS committee nearer the time.

6. **Return to in person rehearsals at Grove Vale School** - there was considerable discussion about this.

a) Darren Thorpe, Business Manager at Grove Vale School, has asked for our risk assessment by the end of August, although it was felt this might be unreasonable since Government guidelines were not yet available for community choirs to return to singing safely. PW had prepared a list of considerations for return to rehearsals but asked the committee members for any additional thoughts. No proforma is available from LABBS or Making Music as yet. PW thought we had enough information on the considerations sheets to be able to make a good start. SBr

b) SBr has emailed Darren Thorpe to ask if we cannot return to rehearsals in September will our place be kept open for us and if so what would be the position with regard to fees? A reply is awaited. If the School do ask us to pay full fees or a retainer fee we may have to ask Chorus members to restart paying their subscriptions. SBr

c) SBr to ask permission to enter school to take measurements of the Hall in regard to social distancing.

d) SBr suggested that it may be possible for smaller groups (to include all sections) to rehearse together for short periods, instead of the whole Chorus. We would need to ensure ventilation and allow 30 minutes between groups for an exchange of air in the Hall. PW said this was part of the plan. RB

would also need to be protected since he would be in front of us all and in place for all of the time. RB suggested he makes a full sized perspex shield to stand in front of him. He would be responsible for cleaning it.

- e) SBr asked if zoom rehearsals could continue alongside in person rehearsals for those members who do not feel able to return to Grove Vale yet. RB agreed but would obviously be in a different night. He suggested that we could record the in person rehearsals for use during zoom rehearsals.
- f) SM reiterated that we cannot do any of these things until scientific research is available and the Government guidance allows us. PW said that we must make a start with our plans in the meantime so that we can be ready PW
- g) PW has prepared a short questionnaire to be sent to all Chorus members asking what would make them feel happy enough to return to in person rehearsals. (see attached). This questionnaire will include a comment about how much the Chorus members are valued and why their opinions were required.
- h) PW wondered if First Aiders would require any additional training regarding COVID-19 or additional PPE.
- i) PW thought we should make a list of additional equipment that would be required before we could return to in person rehearsing. SM to begin this list and ask for additional thoughts. SM
- j) It was felt that members must take responsibility for their own safety but it should be made clear for example that they would be required to wear masks upon entering and leaving the school; that hand sanitisers would be available at various positions; that anyone using the toilets should be responsible for cleaning the facilities before and after use.

#### 7. Things To Do

- a) PW to maintain contacts with LABBS and Making Music as well as other Chairs to help with the production of a risk assessment. PW
- b) RB to maintain contacts with other MDs to help with the production of a risk assessment. RB
- c) SB to contact her NHS colleagues to help with the production of a risk assessment. SB
- d) PW and SM to work on the layout of the risk assessment. PW
- e) PW to send out her survey to all members of the Chorus PW
- f) EM to watch for information from LABBS about risk assessment but also about virtual convention. EM
- g) SM to produce list of additional equipment required. SM
- h) PW suggested that the Chorus have a break from rehearsals once the recording of the “Bowie Medley” is completed. Dates of timing of this to be confirmed.

#### 8. Any Other Business - none

12. **Date of Next Meeting** - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

PW closed the meeting at 20.15 p.m.