

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF E.C.O.C.A.
HELD ON EASTER MONDAY, 17th APRIL 2017 IN THE PEARSON ROOM.**

The Chairman, Rev'd Charles Roberts, welcomed members to the meeting and thanked Tim Noon (Director of Music), and James Featherstone (Headmaster) for attending. Members attending included: G. Pike, J. Titchin, D. Asater, M. Beacham, E. Dare, J. Lomax, A. Millington, J. Edwards, S. Swan, J. Thomas, C. Peers, N. Pedlar, P. Hickman, G. Mitchell, C. Smith, H. Parham-Connolly, H. Deasy, R. Mitchell, M. Smith, S. Fitzpatrick, E. Jones, T. Parsons, Rev'd J. Pedlar, T. Hampshire,

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from C. Rendell, P. Newton, F. Geere, N. Helliker, N. Hatswell, S. Smith, J. Skuse, A. Nethsingha, L. Nethsingha, E. Berry, D. Rutter, S. Beattie, G. Hayter, O. Hankin, M. Lister, B. Ferguson, R. Cleverton, A. Hydon, L. Jane, E. Wilkinson, C. Williams, J. Hudson, J. Ridge, A. Gaze, R. Brown, B. Sharp, N. Read, C. Michelmore
2. The meeting stood for a minute silence to remember those members who had died since the last reunion including Naomi Sourbut, Harry Rann and Marjorie Cotton.
3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 17th April 2017** had been circulated, it was noted that P. Hickman and D. Asater needed to be added to the list of attendees.
4. **Matters arising** - None.
5. **Director of Music's Report** - Tim Noon
 - Honour and privilege to have been part of the reunion. Thrilled there was such a wonderful tradition at Exeter on Easter Monday.
 - Tim particularly enjoyed the sound made by members during Stainer's 'I saw the lord'.
 - Tim introduced the New Assistant Director of Music of ECS and Choral Scholar (S. Fitzpatrick)
 - New Cathedral Choir Robes were blessed at Christmas having been donated by a generous member of the congregation
 - Busy Christmas with 3 concerts and a successful Grandisson service.
 - Choir performed Bach's St John Passion on the Monday of Holy Week for the first time. Future performances of similar are planned for the future
 - Summer Concert including the Panufnik 'Westminster Mass' and Bernstein 'Chichester Psalms' on 1st July.
 - No foreign tour but Senior Choristers to take part on a tour of the UK
 - Sunday 10th December 2017 - Cathedral Choir to perform Handel's 'Messiah'
 - Thanked ECOCA for being so energetic and thriving, especially for the financial support of choristers.
6. **Headmaster's Report** - James Featherstone
 - Welcomed the ECOCA back and thanked them for a wonderful day, and for the continued support of ECS and its Choristers.
 - Thanked the Association for the chorister sports, Decani won both the Football with Can winning the Bowling and the Netball
 - School is performing well with 263 at the beginning of the academic year rising to 281 at the start of the trinity term.
 - School has become an accredited part of the BSA (Boarding Schools Association)
 - School performed well during the educational inspection.
 - Good School Guide came to ECS and reflected well on the school.
7. **Chairman's Report** - Charles Roberts
 - *Full Report attached*
 - Jonny Titchin has been confirmed as the New Secretary with Crispin D'Apice joining the committee.
 - The Chairman thanked both James Featherstone and Michele Kitto for their support from the school.
 - The Committee were thanked for their continued hard work, particularly Dominic Asater for his work on the bursary fund and Matthew Ryan for creating the fantastic newsletter.
 - The Director of Music, Choir and Musicians were thanked.

8. Treasurer's Report - Gordon Pike

- Audited Accounts were presented for 2013, 2014 and 2015
- Audited 2016 accounts were presented and accepted. Proposed by E. Dare and Seconded by M. Beecham
- G. Pike proposed Carole Dobson to continue as the auditor - Seconded by J. Titchin
- Main Account has a balance of £821.62 (31.12.16)
- Frank Cotton Memorial Fund has a balance of £1,145.23 (31.12.16)

9. Review of Annual fee for 2016

- J. Titchin invited discussion on whether to raise the annual fee to £20 or invite members to give more.
- A proposal was made with 10 voting to raise the fee and 14 voting to hold the fee at £15.
- The annual fee would remain at £15 for another year.

10. Bursary Fund Treasurer's Report - Dominic Asater

- Wesley Fund has now been incorporated into the Bursary fund.
- D. Asater proposed that John Clifford would audit the accounts. G. Pike seconded.
- As income was over £20,000 the report will go to the Charity Commission.
- Total Expenditure on Bursaries in 2016 £16,300 supporting 10 choristers.
- At 15th April 2017 Bursary Fund commits to 10 choristers and is expected to pay £27,000 in 2017. (this is slightly higher than projected annual income however it should be remembered that the fund has underspent investment income over the past few years.) From September 2017 the ongoing annual commitment will be £17,000.
- DA proposed a fundraising drive mail-shot in the future to further strengthen the bursary fund.

11. Appointment of Examiners Association – Carol Dobson, (GP, JT) Bursary - John Clifford (DA, GP)

12. Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman - Charles Roberts (proposed M. Beecham, seconded E. Dare),
Treasurer - Gordon Pike (proposed N. Pedlar, seconded P. Hickman),
Secretary - Jonny Titchin (proposed D. Asater, seconded C. Peers),
Bursary Fund Treasurer - Dominic Asater (proposed E. Dare, seconded G. Mitchell).

Further existing committee members of Geoffrey Mitchell, Cressida Peers, Tim Hampshire, Matthew Ryan, Simon Swan, Charles Rendell, Crispin D'Apice, John Thomas and the School Headmaster were re-elected en bloc (proposed N. Pedlar, seconded P. Hickman and agreed by the meeting).

13. AOB

Exeter Cathedral Old Choristers Association.

Chairman's Report – 2017

They say, "Time flies when you are enjoying yourself", so that must mean that while I am getting older, I must also be having an absolute ball! Another year has passed and it is once again my privilege to welcome you all back for the Old Choristers' Reunion here in our favourite cathedral city. It is now 22 years since I heard that strangely familiar Devonian shout across the Cathedral Close – "Charrllie" – as Gordon managed to recognise me from some distance after a break of 28 years. Clearly neither of us had changed a bit in those intervening years, despite long trousers and facial hair (his, not mine), and I find myself looking forward to the experience of singing once again with the excellent choir and reliving memoirs of a bygone era. I hope the same applies to you.

The committee has met regularly as always, and it has been good to welcome new members on to the committee further driving our average age down to more respectable levels. Crispin d'Apice joined us on the committee, and Jonny Titchin took up the mantle of Secretary in the place of Charles Rendell, and he has taken to that work like a proverbial duck to water. It has also been very good to welcome to our meetings James Featherstone and Michele Kitto who keep us abreast of the activities in the school, and we are grateful for the time and energy they devote to the association. I have to say our meetings are conducted in a spirit of real friendship and good humour, and I am very grateful to the whole committee for all they do and all they offer us corporately. The old hands continue, Geoffrey, Gordon and myself particularly, and I have heard a rumour that accounts may well be up to date this year, but don't quote me! I am sure our Treasurer has a few surprises up his sleeve even now.

Two areas of our work deserve particular mention I think. Firstly our Bursary Fund. Dominic works tirelessly on this for us. I looked back earlier last year and we were supporting some 10 choristers – that's quite an achievement in itself. More recently we have had further applications, and while we can't divulge details, you do need to know that this fund is doing a tremendous job of support and help in a variety of challenging circumstances. I want to pay tribute to Dominic for what he does in managing our investments and administering the funds. I recall when we first amassed that fantastic legacy we did wonder how on earth we'd cope. Well it is due almost entirely to our Treasurer that we have such capacity and efficiency in the system.

The second element is the Newsletter. Matthew Ryan does a brilliant job putting this together and I think you will agree that the last edition was truly excellent. Ultimately it depends on yourselves as to the quality of input, but it is also quite a task putting it

altogether and making it look good and read well. So well done Matthew and those who help with this piece of communication on behalf of the association.

We offer our thanks to the Director of Music and his team, the choir, boys, girls and men, for their ongoing ministry in the Cathedral. It is our privilege to hear them whenever we visit this place, and while this fine tradition is under threat in certain quarters, I do believe that part of our task is to help and support cathedral music wherever we are, and in any way we can. We thank the cathedral for their hospitality to this annual event, and the school for their generosity in welcoming us here each year.

I am looking forward to our dinner and hearing our Guest Speaker. I worked with Peter King when I was at Bath Abbey in the 1990s and I am sure he will have some stories to tell after his long service there. On a personal note the Champagne Reception is provided by John Thomas and myself – my motivation is that I celebrate my Silver Jubilee as a priest this year. In other words – Any excuse for a party. Do enjoy it.

So my thanks to you all for being here, to our committee and all who work for the good of cathedral music. Long may it, and we, continue.

Charles Roberts – 1961-1967
Chairman ECOCA.