



EASTERN REGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21st April 2007

MINUTES

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Karen Cardy, Roger Rowe, Rod Grealish.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 29th APRIL 2006

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.

As at 31st Mar we had 282 members of whom there were 166 vocal groups, 70 instrumental groups and 46 promoting societies.

During the year the full committee met four times and sub groups supporting the **Developing Young Professionals** project and writing the Regional Development Plan each met once.

At each committee meeting we review routine matters such as the newsletter as well as drawing up and maintaining a budget. In addition, this year the main tasks undertaken by the committee were: -

The management of the two funded projects; planning for this meeting; agreeing the content and targets for the Regional Development Plan; and researching the information needed for the **Play it Again** project being run by the BBC. Between meetings and particularly for the **Play it Again** research the committee makes good use of email.

Funded projects.

Developing Young Professionals, a project funded by Arts Council England came to a conclusion in August although the final events took place in June and July. This project provided funds for clusters of member organisations to work with young professional players, singers and marketers to develop an activity in their area. The activity provided both development for the organisations and training for the young professionals in working with Making Music groups. Our T&D officer Julie Cramer and a sub-committee of the Regional committee managed the project. Following completion of the project, reports about the project activities from the participants and a report from the perspective of the committee was sent to an independent evaluator. She reported to MM and the Arts Council in the autumn and overall she rated the project very favourably. A summary of her findings was provided in the most recent regional newsletter. Later in the conference we will hear from some of the participants so I won't elaborate further here.

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 resulting in five events for people in sheltered or residential accommodation, one in a primary school, one for pre-school children and their carers, and one lunch time event with a broader age range but including older people and young parents/carers. Audiences numbered 300 children and some staff for the school event, 30 children and about 25 carers for the pre-school event and about 25 for each of the others

Since we had some money left over the programme is still running with a further three-organisations having events planned in June or July. We also intend to run it again during the 07/08 season. Again we will hear from some of the participants later today.

Consultation work Personally I have been involved during the year with two working parties meeting at central office. With four other regional chairs I have sat on the funding and structure working party. This has been concerned with the process for the appointment of the Regional Development officers in England and other matters related to the way the committees function. In addition I have been part of the communication working party that is looking at all aspects of how MM communications with both member organisations and the outside world. You will have already noticed changes such as the logo and colour schemes for Highnotes. As part of the work during the winter I reviewed the newsletters and websites of all the committees and following this agreement has been reached on changes to give both these communications a more 'corporate appearance'.

One particular change that I would like to highlight is that MM expects that all member organisations will be able to supply and email contact address by September. So if you have such an address and haven't told MM please do let central office know. If you are the contact and don't use email, you do not have to give up your contact role but you are asked to find another member of your organisation, preferably a committee member, who will supply their email address for contact purposes.

Farewell. In September we said goodbye to July Cramer our long serving T&D officer. Unlike other regions we have been fortunate to have worked with the same person for all the years that the post existed. Julie worked very hard for us and for far more than the hours for which she was paid and for this we thanked her and wished her well for the future

Two other members of the committee are leaving. Jonathan Lindridge has been responsible for part of Essex but now feels that he cannot give the time that the post requires. We thank him for his support over the years. Emma Critchley who has been involved in Hertfordshire for a good number of years is moving out of the region soon as so does not wish to stand again for the committee although she will continue to be in contact until she moves. We thank Emma for all that she has done for the committee and she will be really missed in her area of the county. We wish her well and hope that she will remain in contact with MM when she lives in SE region.

Welcome

And now I hoped to be able to tell you about the new appointment of a Regional Officer. Unfortunately the person to whom we had offered the post withdrew earlier this week and so we will have to go through the appointment process again. I hope that we may be able to make another appointment by September.

Thanks I would like to thank all members of the committee for their work throughout the year. Many of the roles of committee members have changed significantly since I first joined the committee 13 years ago and electronic communication has also changed the way that we work. We have a great team but there needs to be more people in it. We'd love you to come and join us. Do consider volunteering.

The future

The appointment of the RDO and the completion of the Development Plan mean that we are moving forward in new ways. The conference items today, while partly looking back at aspects of the past year, really seeks to set out new prospects for the future of MM organisations in the region and particularly seeks your views on directions that we should take within the framework set out in the RDP.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Assets Could I first of all draw your attention to the bottom section of the accounts ended 31 December 2006 from which you will note that we ended the year with assets, principally held in COIF - Charities Official Investment Fund - of £15,900.48.

- On the face of it, this represents an increase of over £2,500 over the closing position at the end of 2005. But,
- the figure is distorted by the fact that during the year the Regional Committee was successful in obtaining funding of £5,000 for the "Reach Out" project, of which more in a little while.
- Of the £5,000 additional funding, £3,262.42 had not been disbursed at the end of the financial year as applications had not been discussed and this is the figure shown at the penultimate line.
- The Region's own retained funds/assets actually reduced by £650, principally because the funding from Making Music Central Office was reduced and we were encouraged to consider ways to reduce our reserves for the benefit of Eastern Region members - again, more of this later.

Turning to the top section;

Receipts and Payments

Again this is distorted by the Reach Out moneys and these should be disregarded now.

- In the first line, I have already said that the Central Office Funding was reduced as part of the Reach Out project, Eastern region has taken a fee of £300 to cover administration and travel costs in respect of the project.
- Last year's ARC was a very successful singing day held in the beautiful surroundings of Bury St Edmunds Cathedral. This was well supported but not as well as we had hoped as it was expected we would break even, We received income of £883 but the costs of £1503 - mainly professional fees and venue - left us with a loss of £620. This year's ARC is much cheaper but will not break even, which is disappointing. We do hope that you will encourage others to come to next year's ARC which will again be a singing day, this time in Hertfordshire as we follow our policy of taking the ARC around the region.
- Our other main costs, committee meetings, administration and newsletter, increase broadly with inflation year on year.
- During the year we upgraded the region's website with professional help and a figure will appear in future in our accounts as the consultancy costs continue.
- Excluding the effect of the Reach Out funding and grant making, there was a deficit of £650 which left us in a continuing strong position.

2007 Budget

- The Region's budget for 2007 anticipated total general expenditure of £3200 compared with almost £4,000 in 2006. The reduced cost of the ARC is the main reason for this reduction.
- Central Funding has been increased to £1,975 and our total income including this figure is expected to be in the region of £3,225 leading to a broadly break even situation.
- During the year, however, we shall see a reduction in our reserves from the current £15,900 to around £10,000 because;
 - The remainder of the Reach Out funding will be disbursed.
 - We have agreed to pay out a further £2,000 from reserves for an extension of Reach Out.
- It is planned that over the next 5 years, the reserves will be managed down as we develop projects which will benefit all member societies in the Region. So, there will be limited funding available if you can meet the project criteria and I would encourage all member societies to make applications. You will hear later from some who applied for grants from Reach Out and the main thing is to be imaginative!

The adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Liz Noble and seconded by Janette Sibley. It was adopted on a show of hands.

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 Scott as Secretary, to elect Robert Scott as Treasurer, to elect Don Beckett as Essex Area Representative and to elect Liz Noble as Cambridge Area Representative.

The elections were therefore as follows:

John Scott: proposed Liz Noble seconded Robert Scott
 Robert Scott: proposed Marriell Pender seconded Angela Watkins
 Don Beckett: proposed Hilary Cheek seconded Haydn Oakey
 Liz Noble: proposed Norma Greener seconded Kate Dean

These elections were agreed by general consent.

7. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Reappointment of Robert H Scott was proposed by Bob Scott seconded by Chris Thomas and agreed by general consent.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next year's ARC will be a singing day at Kingshott School.

Don Beckett appealed for a volunteer to act as his future replacement.

Bob Scott asked for ideas for using the regions fund, perhaps a major joint venture concert in a large venue. This might involve say 6 societies carrying out various jobs and a large charity perhaps providing a financial guarantee in return for financial benefit from the concert, perhaps in the Royal Albert Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:55 .