Minutes of the AGM of Collegium Singers held on 12 October 2015 at bishops Hull parish church

**Those present**

Kate Lewis

Gill Reed

Catherine Bass

Clara Stentiford

Fiona Chadwick

Kathryn Fear

Jenny Phillips

Suzie Leech

Chris Engert

Tim Brown

Peter Leech musical director

Simon Davies

Glyn Jones

Paul Brierley

John Edwards

Claudia Edwards

**Apologies**

Kathryn Price

Bob Shapland

Phillip Bevan

Heather Davis

Fiona Hobday

**The Chairman’s review** began with the South American concert in Wellington followed by the concert” the Christmas truce” at St John’s Wellington which was the biggest audience that the chairman had experienced with Collegium Singers.

The concert at Taunton Museum in May 2015 had been a great success with an excellent acoustic a new audience for Collegium Singers and an invitation to return, whilst the Evensong at Wells had rounded off the year

In the coming year there was the Choral Evensong the following week and this was anticipated to have a congregation of between 250 and 300 people which would raise the organisation’s profile in Taunton. Christmas saw us back in Wellington with continuation of the world tour of Christmas music focusing this time on Italy.

Collegium Singers now had a healthy credit balance of £8000 and with the consent of the trustees and having had the accounts circulated a quintet would be engaged together the chamber organ for a Good Friday concert at St John’s Taunton whilst in May 2016 there would be a concert at All Saints Weston-super-Mare which had a fantastic acoustic an active concert committee and a very hospitable atmosphere with the possibility of a meal afterwards.

In October 2016 we had been invited to sing again at Taunton Museum and the year would finish with Christmas music from Russia in Wellington. There might well be a 5th event an Evensong not at Wells but at another local cathedral.

This year we had said goodbye Trevor Mansfield our treasurer who would be replaced by Glyn Jones and we were happy to welcome Kara Stentiford, a new Soprano, who was joining us together with possibly Suzy Duggan, a new alto.

Finally she wished to thank the committee for its support.

**The Musical Director** then spoke. First he wished to thank the committee for all its support and hard work and then to extend those thanks to the choir.

He reflected that at the last AGM it had been discussed whether to build up a repertory of pieces for the choir starting with the Morales Requiem and he now wished to add to that pieces for Easter including Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater .This would also mean splitting rehearsals and some men only pieces would also be introduced with solos from within the choir. He added that his work in Flanders Fields had attracted a very lovely review from Harold Mead and he had been so proud with the way that the choir had sung his piece. He felt that the Evensong would be a great success and was a brave new world for the choir to enter. Looking to next year he was looking to repeat in Weston-super-Mare pieces that the choir had already done and was thinking of a “ mixed bag” of programmes for Weston and also for the Museum and he felt this had addressed the issues raised at the last AGM.

 In Christmas 2016 19th century Russian works would be introduced to both the choir and the audience. He concluded by saying how proud he was of the work that had been done.

Catherine Bass moved that the chairman’s report be adopted and approved and was seconded by Suzie Leech and passed unanimously.

That the musical director’s report be adopted was proposed by Simon Davies and seconded by Kathryn Fear and adopted unanimously.

The AGM went on to consider the treasurer’s report. Trevor was unable to be with us but had circulated his report and had been happy to answer the questions which might have been tabled before the meeting but there had been not any and the accounts were proposed by Tim Brown and seconded by Catherine Bass and approved.

The meeting was told that their committee was prepared to stand for re-election once again and proposal was made by Chris Markwick and seconded by Tim Brown, and passed unanimously. The same vote appointed Glyn jones the new Treasurer

The appointment of the musical director had by terms of the constitution to be confirmed at each meeting and was proposed by Paul Brierley and seconded by Jenny Phillips and adopted unanimously.

The meeting then turned to any other business .Catherine Bass raised the 3 week rule having experienced it herself the previous term before Evensong. She wondered if it needed to be revisited and thought possibly that one should be able to sing for up to 2 weeks before the performance

John Edwards felt one should duck out of view after 2 or 3 weeks missing performances and Simon felt it was hard on those who wanted to sing but had not been to all the rehearsals but were affected by the current rule.

The chairman reminded the meeting that the rules stated that 3 absences were sufficient to justify exclusion and the way the rule was currently interpreted was that a maximum of 2 was okay but any more absences meant that the MD had to make the decision.

Peter Leech explained that the 2+1 rule was fine for the Easter and summer terms but less appropriate for the autumn/winter term where there were only likely to be a maximum of 7+7 rehearsals and that was the most stressful time for conducting. There were other factors such as whether the absent member had a big voice and he felt that is implicit that you must attend the last 3 rehearsals

It was agreed that the 2+1 rule would remain in force provided that the member could attend the last 3 rehearsals and members were still to be encouraged to attend apart from the last 2 in view of the need to build up a repertoire whilst attendances were to be notified in accordance with the attendance sheet introduced by the chairman for the autumn term 2015

The other item of any other business was whether it will be possible to display our material for the Christmas concert at the Evensong and it was agreed that this would be done.

There being no other business the chairman declared the AGM concluded