

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Nov 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: K Tilly

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, P Dean, N Watson

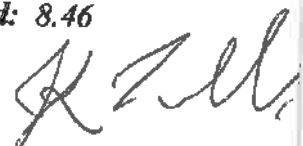
Apologies: L Lamb, B Hadfield, C Seccombe

Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, approved, and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Letter from Performing Rights in London was a mistake on their part, and we should still send all details of concerts to their office in Warrington.
- Treasurer:** Present Balance £3211.68. On the Balance Sheet Richard showed comparisons with last year, and a projection of probable balance for end of year. This year we will have spent about £700 more than we have received.
- Conductor:** Conductor not present. Alan wondered if it might help Clare if the Committee were to take responsibility of selecting soloists for future concerts. Richard wondered if Clare would also accept help from others in introducing the programme during concerts. Richard also wondered if there might not be other possible soloists among the members, as we are particularly short of soloists, although Pat Wilson and Edmund can always be soloists. It was agreed these must be discussed with Clare before the next meeting
- Concert Requests:** Phil has received invitation to sing at Peterlee Methodist Church on Sat 25 March. All agreed a very suitable date for our first concert of the year, and Phil to confirm.
- Annual 2000:** Phil had spoken with Rachel Orr, Soprano, of Washington, and she is available on 8 April, for a fee of £200, including accompanist. Treasurer felt we must accept this as the bottom end of the range, as we are not looking to make a profit, but to provide a showcase for the Choir. All agreed. Phil to write and confirm.
- Christmas Break:** Committee agreed last practice must be 17 Dec, and wished to return on 7 Jan, to be confirmed with Clare.
- AOB:**
- (i) Since we suffer from lack of Choir balance, Jack Curtis asked Alan if some singers might not move up a section, at least for some songs.
 - (ii) Choir Discipline - One member nearly tripped at last concert, and Paul felt this showed the importance of the marshals in moving the Choir on and off stage., for safety reasons as well as appearance of the Choir. Committee agreed members to be reminded marshals were appointed by the Committee, and their decisions should be followed at all times. It was also noticed that more singers were singing with music down by their side if they knew a piece. Committee agreed they were to be reminded Choir had agreed all members should hold music in front of them whenever singing.
 - (iii) Notices - Members were not listening quietly during notices, but packing music away etc. Notices were important and to their advantage, and members to be reminded of this.
 - (iv) Songs of Praise - Alan had been mentioning to local churches that we could offer an evening of hymn tunes etc, and wondered if other members were doing the same.

Next Meeting: 20/01/00

Meeting Ended: 8.46



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 14 Oct 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: K Tilly

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield, P Dean, C Seccombe

Apologies: L Lamb, N Watson

Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** (i) Paul informed Committee that the Lyons Web Page was now up and running, and Stephen McElroy had agreed for his details to be added.
(ii) The two possible pianists unfortunately felt our music too difficult for them.
- Correspondence:** (i) Performing Rights - Phil had received a letter asking for more details of concerts we are involved in, and asked to be on our mailing list, or at least to receive any advertising material produced for any concerts. Committee agreed Secretary should reply to the letter, and explain that we have always sent them details of the programme for any concerts we have organized.
(ii) Hetton 2000 - Phil informed Committee of decisions taken at the last Millennium Committee meeting, and said he could not make any of the meetings, as they are always on Wednesday, and suggested someone else ought to be our rep. Looking at what is discussed at these meetings, Richard suggested there seems to be nothing to interest us anyway, so why attend meetings? Alan wondered whether we should officially withdraw from the Committee. It was agreed to do nothing at present, as we receive details of any decisions taken.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance £3114.33, plus £60 to be added from Framwellgate Moor Methodists.
- Conductor:** Clare wished to say how grateful she was that she now had a deputy. Jim Fox now had a chance to get to know the Choir, and to get a feel for conducting again. Alan wondered if there was anything official in Choir minutes about Jim Fox becoming Deputy-Conductor. As Secretary could not find anything, he now wishes to state officially that Jim Fox has been invited to become Deputy-Conductor of the Lyons, and has accepted.
- NAC:** Phil gave details of the NAC meeting on 11 Sept. Group 7 balance £4906.44. We now have a new member of Group 7, York Philharmonic. AGM on 18 March 2000 to be at Neville's Cross as usual. Format as before. No decision about leader for Choral Afternoon, but Jill Wild has suggested one possibility. Meeting on 16 Oct to decide programme for concert in City Hall on 29 Jan 2000. Next meeting 9
- Concert Requests:** Alan suggested Belmont Ladies interested in a joint concert, and has discussed it with them. Their present conductor, Maureen Winter, knew the Lyons in Arthur's time, and is very keen for the two choirs to get together. She will contact Clare.
- Annual 2000:** Committee agreed we must have some form of Annual Concert in 2000, and that the venue should be St Michael's RC church, Houghton. Committee had previously suggested arranging a quartet of Choir-Members, instead of booking a soloist. Jack McElroy, Phil Rosser, and Bill Berry had expressed some interest, and it was thought Geoff Davidson would also be interested. Phil to contact the other three. Paul wondered if we might find some instrumentalist as a soloist. All agreed, and felt there would be a place for both. It was agreed there was no suitable date in May next year, and as Easter is very late, April would be suitable, and April 8 agreed provisionally. Phil to ask Jack McElroy to check if the church will be ^{free.}
- Songs of Praise:** Clare and Alan had discovered 14 pieces in our library suitable for such an occasion, all of which we know fairly well. Alan showed Committee a possible advertising poster which we could send to churches, offering the Choir for such an evening. He said we must have the full support of the Choir, so it must be put forward at a practice.

Next Meeting: 18/11/99

Meeting Ended: 8.25 

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

22 JUL 1999

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: K Tilly

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, P Dean, N Watson, C Seccombe

Apologies: L Lamb

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Correspondence:** Hetton 2000 - Phil informed members of decisions made by the last meeting of the Hetton Millennium Committee.
- Treasurer:** Choir Balance now £3128.52. Although this looked fairly good, Richard pointed out that there would now be little income for the rest of 1999, except concert fees.
- Conductor:** Clare felt it was good to have some concerts to look forward to when we return, it had been really helpful for Edmund to play for us again, and it was so good to have some new repertoire to learn. All agreed. Richard asked how we were doing towards being able to perform a religious concert. Clare said she felt we now had enough material already to do this.
- NAC:** Phil told members about the meeting on 19/6/99. He had already informed the Choir about the plans for a new music centre in Gateshead, and had put details on the notice board. The Choral Social Day had been arranged for Sat October 2 in Stanley Civic Hall. The full format had not yet been decided. Next meeting on 11/9/99.
- Concert Requests:** We were invited to sing for 1 hour in Elemore Independent Methodist church on Sat 24 Jun 2000. Phil had accepted, and was waiting for confirmation.
- Choir Conduct:** Norman felt that the conduct of the Choir at practices had become dreadful. All agreed. Alan suggested that the Committee was not as strong as it should be over such behaviour. Richard said that any discussions about Choir, eg at concerts, should be kept to the Committee, and if anyone had comments on the Choir he should approach a Committee Member on the subject. Any Committee decisions would be presented to the whole Choir. There should not be rambling discussions at practices. Phil felt the Choir needed reminding that the time for notices at the end of practices was only for notices, and not for discussion. All agreed.
- Car Money:** Richard said he was not getting in as much money as in the past, and also the Car Man now helps more at concerts, when we do not collect anything. All agreed that for these reasons car money should be increased to 50p from 3 Sep. We pay him £9 a night, and Richard wondered if this should be increased to £10 for Saturdays. All agreed, although Alan wondered if this should not be say £11. Richard said he would like to keep it to £10 if this is acceptable. Phil also to remind members that car money should be paid by all, whether drivers or passengers.
- Pianist:** Jim Fox had found a young man who would like to be our accompanist, and that his mother is also a good pianist. He hopes to bring them both to next practice
- AOB:**
- (i) Clare expressed how good it was to see Lindon again. All agreed.
 - (ii) Paul said Thomas Allen had agreed for his name to appear on a Choir web page.
 - (iii) Ken wondered about a social evening for Christmas this year. Committee agreed this a good idea, and discussed it for some time.

Next Meeting: 16/9/99

Meeting Ended: 8.31

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 24th June 1999 at 7.15pm

Chairman: K. Tilley

Members: Mrs.C. Seccombe, Messrs. P. Dean, A. Hood, B. Hadfield, R. Wood.

1. Apologies: L. Lamb, P. Rosser, N. Watson.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Approved and signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising: [Annual concert (1)] The idea of introducing quartets and/or smaller ensembles at the next annual concert was further discussed for Clare's comments. She cautioned that good balance between the voices was essential, but agreed the idea was worth pursuing; perhaps even introduced at some concerts before the Annual. Idea to be put to the choir to assess interest, and discussed again at the next Committee meeting.

[Annual concert (2)] Clare felt the date of the next Annual concert ought to be fixed before long, but requested that 13th May 2000 be avoided as she would not be available on that date.

4. Correspondence: [1] Copies of the *NAC News and Views* had been received and were circulated.

[2] A letter from the *Eskdale Festival of the Arts* was read out. It referred to the forthcoming *Whitby Choral Day*, a choral workshop to be held in Whitby on 16th October this year, and invited all choir members to attend what promises to be an excellent day. A brochure which accompanied the letter is to be displayed on the choir noticeboard. If sufficient members interested the committee will consider organizing transport.

5. Treasurer's report: Balance now stands at £3,132.21.

6. Conductor's report: Clare will not be available for practice on 2nd July. Deputy conductor to be asked to take the choir practice on that date.

7. NAC report: There was nothing to report.

8. Concert requests: No requests had been received.

9. Millennium: The committee had been asked to consider suitable ways in which the choir could mark the millennium. A night out following the Annual Concert was suggested; or even a ceilidh with a pie and pea supper. It was agreed that a matter such as this ought to be discussed in full choir. Brian felt the choir's last social event was somewhat marred by the excessively long 'entertainment' which restricted socializing and conversation, and asked for this to be borne in mind. Clare observed that any booking would need to be made early.

10. Edmund: A suggestion had been put forward to the committee that, as a mark of the choir's esteem, and in gratitude for the many occasions he has acted as accompanist at choir concerts, Edmund Jay be made an honorary member of the Lyons Choir. All committee members present agreed.

11. Pianist: Both Clare and Paul were following up possible leads.

12. Any other business: There was no further business.

Meeting closed: 8.00pm.

Minutes by Alan Hood

Signed..........(Chairman)

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 20 May 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: K Tilly

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield, P Dean

Apologies: N Watson, C Seccombe, L Lamb

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Alan Hood reminded members Clare had bought some new pieces which she said could be used in a concert of hymn tunes.
- Correspondence:**
- (i) Letter from Jennifer, page turner for Edmund, to thank us kindly for the beautiful bouquet. The Annual Concert had been very good, and spiritually moving.
 - (ii) Letter from Pauline Ash to say she was so sorry she could not attend the Annual Concert. She asked about any other concerts, so she could support the Choir.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance £3403.85. Richard concerned hired piano was collected from St Michael's Church before he came at agreed time to supervise its collection. If it had been lost or damaged under these circumstances, he was afraid the insurance would not have covered it. We obviously must be more careful about this in the future.
- Practice Time:** Committee felt the new arrangement without a break, and with business at the end had worked well. Richard and Phil admitted things had been difficult for them at first, getting used to contacting anyone they needed to. Clare was very happy about the new arrangement. Ken Tilly wondered why we stopped at 9 o'clock, but Alan said that most people had done enough singing by then. Nobody had received adverse comments, so Richard proposed it stay the same for now. All agreed.
- Annual Concert:** Richard said we must consider this in terms of paying for the concert, as it continued to be a financial loss. Alan asked how things looked over the last two years. Richard said this year we lost £200, and last year just £40, but this year the new venue was so much better. Although nothing like the loss in the past, it was still not good enough. He listed the expenses this year. Phil asked members if they agreed with him that an annual concert was important. They agreed, and Alan said it was needed by the Choir as something to aim for, as a showcase for the Choir, and we might use it for recruitment. Richard asked if we needed a visiting soloist, as everyone agreed how well the Choir had performed this year, and we do have soloists of our own. Brian also suggested inviting another choir to join us. Committee discussed the possibility of forming a quartet of choir members to sing at the Annual, and other concerts. This must be discussed again when Clare is present.
- Summer Break:** Clare had suggested July 23 for the last practice, to return on Sep 10. Committee felt it would be better to return on Sep 3, possibly with Jim Fox, if available.
- Pianist:** Secretary to contact man from Jesmond again, to invite him to a practice. Paul Dean emphasized the need to be still actively looking for somebody. All agreed.
- AOB:**
- (i) Publicity - Paul said he had free web space on the internet, and could use it if we produced a page about the Choir. Committee agreed we ask Clare about this.
 - (ii) Minutes - Paul asked could Phil give Committee copies of the previous month's minutes a week before the meetings, and then take them as read. All agreed.

Next Meeting: 24/6/99

Meeting Ended: 8.55



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 Apr 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: K Tilly

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield, P Dean, N Watson, C Seccombe

Apologies: L Lamb

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Correspondence: (i) Letter from Seaham Council on behalf of Mayor and Mayoress to thank Choir for an excellent concert in St Cuthbert's RC Church.

(ii) Letter from Hetton Town Council with more details of meetings about plans for the Millennium. Committee agreed the Choir must keep in touch with all that is decided.

Treasurer: Balance £3409.99. K Tilly asked about apparently large reduction in interest rates. Richard agreed they had been reduced by more than half, and pointed out that we were on the business rate.

Conductor: Clare informed members she is planning to let Jim Fox take a more active role in the choir, perhaps sometimes taking half a practice, or having particular pieces he will teach to the Choir, and then always conduct at concerts.. This could be useful as, if necessary, she could then play the piano at a concert.

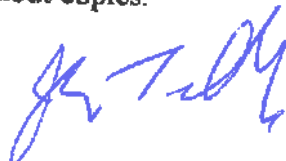
NAC: Phil reported on meeting on 20 March. Profits from spectacular now total £2301.05, giving an NAC balance of £5287.03. Next meeting will be on June 19, and will be an open meeting when someone will come to talk about the new music centre in Gateshead. Numbers attending will be asked for in advance. 2000 AGM and choral afternoon will be on March 18.

Concert Requests: Letter from Elemore Ladies' Club to ask if we could sing for a donation to Choir funds on a Tuesday evening, and suggested May 18 or June 29. Clare available for both, but Committee suggested May 18. This to be put to Choir.

Annual Concert: (i) Alan had obtained insurance cover for piano from Key Pianos. Norman had agreed to be present when piano delivered, and Richard to be present for its return.
(ii) Secretary went through his check- list to make sure all things were arranged for concert.

AOB: (i) B Hadfield pointed out that someone is needed to check pianos properly for all concerts we are invited to. Arthur or Nancy used to this. All agreed.
(ii) A Hood wondered if we were still considering concerts of popular hymn tunes.
(iii) R Wood felt we needed to have a wider choice of songs we could sing at funerals. Members agreed, and Richard suggested this was something Jim Fox might be responsible for. Phil pointed out this meant a list of pieces we could definitely sing without copies.

Next Meeting: 20/5/99



Meeting Ended: 8.35

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Mar 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Acting Vice-Chairman: N Watson

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield, P Dean, C Seccombe

Apologies: K Tilly, L Lamb

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** (i) Edmund Jay agreed to play for next two concerts, and next six practices.
(ii) Clare had not yet sorted out any new music.
- Correspondence:** Secretary received phone call from Chris Welsh of Jesmond, who has had six years experience as accompanist and deputy-conductor of a Welsh male voice choir. He was invited to come to one of our practices, but has no transport until after Easter.
- Treasurer:** Balance £3838.50. Richard said Phil should write to Hetton Council to thank them for their donation. Clare also said Gordon McKillup must be thanked for all he had done in seeking a donation from Hetton. All agreed.
- Conductor:** Clare wondered how members felt about singing straight through without a break. B Hadfield had heard good reports from people, but it will work only if the time at the end for notices does not lead to lengthy discussion. Anyone with grievances or suggestions must be told to present them to a Committee Member, for the Committee to discuss. All agreed.
- Concert Requests:** (i) Letter from Hetton Council to ask provisionally if we could sing a Charity concert for the millennium, next year, or this December. Phil asked them for dates. Brian wondered if we should look for some more Male Voice Choir arrangements of Christmas music. All agreed.
(ii) Letter also from St Nick's Hetton to ask if we might share with Hetton School Band in a charity concert in July to raise money for their heating which had failed. Phil once again asked for dates.
- Annual Concert:** (i) Soloists - A Hood agreed to give them accommodation for Saturday night, and to pick them up from Durham station ~~on Friday~~ *on Saturday*.
(ii) Piano - Richard informed members if we hired the piano from Key Pianos, we should be totally responsible for any loss or damage whilst it is in our possession. We cannot insure it ourselves, as we do not own it. Committee discussed possible ways ahead, including using the church's own insurance, and asking Edmund for advice. Alan agreed to look for more information on insurance.
(iii) Complimentary Tickets - Members agreed to give them to Clare's parents, Hetton Council, Ella Hughes and Nancy and Bob. Arthur has concert on same night.
(iv) Car Man - Committee agreed we use him to cover Annual.
(v) Final Practice - Clare wishes last practice in church, at 8 pm after Mass.
(vi) Secretary mentioned need to look for soloist for 2000. It was agreed this should wait until after the Annual, as with so much less support we need to discuss at some length whether we can afford an Annual Concert as we have known them
(vii) Presentations - It was agreed Edmund receive his usual whisky, and something given to soloists.

Pianist:

Richard pointed out we were still short of a pianist. Committee discussed at some length the problems that had occurred over the way we approached Laura Harper about inviting Edmund to take the next two concerts. A Hood said we must make new arrangements to see that anyone, pianist, singer etc is properly introduced to the Choir, and the position discussed with them. Alan and Richard felt we should give the members a statement as to exactly what took place, and not what they thought. Alan once again impressed on the Committee the importance of informing members that anyone with grievances or suggestions should approach a Committee Member, and not express their ideas at a practice, so that the end of practices is used simply for giving information to the Choir, and not leading to discussions. The Committee will then consider anything that their members are told. All agreed.

AOB:

- (i) W Jopling had suggested to Alan why not invite Annfield Plain Gleemen to be guests at our Annual Concert, with the arrangement that we sing at their Annual. Committee thought this a good idea which must be considered.
- (ii) Richard suggested a special meeting at practice on 9 April to check on Annual Concert. All agreed.

Next Meeting: 15/4/99



Meeting Ended: 9.10

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Feb 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Acting Vice-Chairman: N Watson,

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, B Hadfield, C Seccombe

Apologies: K Tilly, A Hood, P Dean

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Singing for Elemore Handicapped - Date arranged for Tues April 27.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance, £3445.46. This includes £320.37 donated by Ladies' Committee from the closure of their account.
- Conductor:** Richard wondered if we were to buy any more music. Clare asked how many more sets at £60 each we could afford. Richard felt we should buy 3 or 4 sets at a time, and suggested that Clare present a list of pieces to Committee from time to time for their approval. All agreed.
- NAC:** Report from meeting on Jan 23. NAC balance £5287.03, although more money still owed from tapes and CDs. AGM and singing afternoon at Neville's Cross on Saturday 20 March - AGM 11 to 12. Roast beef dinner for £5 at 12-15. Singing afternoon 1-30 to 5, tea to cost £2, but NAC to charge £1 as registration fee. Jill Wild will provide all music required. Numbers in by end of February. Clare agreed we must encourage members to attend, as it is such a good afternoon.
- Concert Requests:** Letter from Burn Park Methodist Church asking for concert on Saturday 13 November. Clare available, so Secretary to write and confirm.
- Pianist:** Secretary wondered if it is time we contacted Edmund to see if he is available for Seaham concert on March 20. All agreed.
- Annual Concert:** Secretary asked if he should at least provisionally ask Edmund if he were available for 17 April. B Hadfield felt we should offer the position to him definitely now. All agreed. Sports and Leisure had asked if we would like an advertisement for our Annual Concert in the annual programme of Shiney Row for £29. Choir had agreed, so Clare had produced a suitable advertisement, and faxed it to Sports and Leisure. Ticket price - Richard suggested £4 and £3 again, all agreed.

Next Meeting: 18/3/99

N. Watson
a/c
Meeting Ended: 8.23

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 21 Jan 1999 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis (L Lamb present)

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield,

Apologies: B Martindale, C Seccombe

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Lindon felt he did not wish to arrange any more minibuses for the Choir if members put their names down, and did not turn up. A Hood agreed this totally unacceptable behaviour.
- Correspondence:** (i) Arts and Libraries and Museums Dept of Durham remind us we are still on their database. Do we wish to continue, and are there any amendments to the entry. Committee agreed just one or two additions.
(ii) Secretary now had details and programme from Annual soloist, Brian Newton Elliot. Committee agreed programme sounded very good.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance £3145.59. He wished a recommendation to AGM to increase subs by £1. Proposed J Curtis, seconded A Hood. All in favour
- Concert Requests:** Secretary approached by Elemore Handicapped Club to sing for about 1 hour. Three dates offered, but no decisions possible without Clare.
- AGM:** Secretary checked with members which positions to be put on nomination sheet.
- Pianist:** J Curtis pointed out how much we needed a new accompanist. He agreed to arrange an advertisement with Sunderland Echo. A Hood also to approach Durham Faculty of Music.
- AOB:** TAVR South Shields - We had complaints about total lack of attention from the audience. J Curtis pointed out we still received more money than our normal concert fee. A Hood felt it was not so much that the audience were rude, but that we were a particularly bad choice for the occasion. All agreed. He felt that such experiences might affect choir morale, and such bookings must be accepted with caution in the future, even with the money. Committee agreed.

Next Meeting: 18/2/99

Meeting Ended: 8.26

J. Watson
18.2.99

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 19 Nov 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: L Lamb

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, B Martindale, J Curtis, A Hood,

Apologies: K Tilley, B Hadfield

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Auditor - Letter from Pat Coade to confirm that he would not be returning to Choir. W Berry has offered to take over duties of auditor. Approved by Committee.
 - (ii) Vice-Chairman - Ken Tilley elected and approved.
 - (iii) New Music - Clare has purchased 40 copies of 3 new pieces.
 - (iv) Annual Venue - Chairman informed members that Houghton Catholic Church had offered to hold our Annual Concert free of charge, and that it appeared to him to be a suitable venue. Richard warned Committee that if this became a regular venue, any new priest could revoke any agreement. J Curtis moved we arrange with the priest to try singing there by holding a practice, to see if it is suitable to Committee. Seconded B Martindale and carried.
- Correspondence:** Letter from Mrs Gammie of Houghton 'Save The Children' to thank the Choir for an enjoyable concert, and excellent programme.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance £3290.69. Richard recommended we continue to pay annual Lotteries Re-registration fee of £17.50, as to register after a break would cost twice as much. Moved J Curtis, seconded A Hood and carried
- Concert Requests:** Letter from Bill Reeve to confirm booking of Choir for TAVR centre South Shields on Saturday 12 December. They do not have a piano, but we can use the keyboard of a cabaret group who are to follow us. Jack felt it better if we did not have to rely on other people for this, and we ask Tom Grey if he can bring his keyboard. All agreed. It was also agreed that a minibus would be a good idea for such a distance as South Shields. Lindon said he would need names of people who wished to use this as soon as possible.
- Letter-Heads:** Secretary asked Committee about all the letter-heads with Charlie's details, now we have a new Chairman. It was agreed he should use the old letter-heads by blotting out Charlie's details. Richard suggested that in future letter-heads only need include details of Secretary. All agreed.
- Rehearsal Room:** Jack informed Committee that local authority had withdrawn financial support for repairs and maintenance of community centres, and we had a greater need to look for alternative venues for practice. Lindon to make enquiries about Houghton Welfare Hall. Richard wondered if Methodist Church next door had a suitable hall. No-one knew. Committee discussed storage of music etc if we had to move, although several members felt a move should only be considered if unavoidable.
- AOB:** Next meeting - December 17 rather close to Christmas. It was agreed that a full meeting of Committee hopefully not required next month, and we can meet during practice if necessary

Next Meeting: 21/01/99

Meeting Ended: 8.30

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 Oct 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: L Lamb

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, B Martindale, J Curtis, B Hadfield, C Seccombe

Apologies: A Hood

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Low Moorsley concert - they do not have a piano, and it was decided we could not take our keyboard, so Secretary had apologized that we could not sing for them.
 - (ii) New practice venue - no progress at Clare's school. They normally charge £40 per hour for groups not connected with education. Members agreed that Hetton / Houghton area still most central for Choir members, and moving to Sunderland etc not suitable. We should continue to look for somewhere in Hetton / Houghton.
- Correspondence:** Letter from Pat Coade complaining that he had not been informed about Charlie's funeral, and such lack of communication might make him less happy about returning to the Choir.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance £3614.34, a slight improvement on last month. Pat Coade is still officially Choir auditor, and we must know as soon as possible if he will be able to check the books next year. Secretary to write to ask him to confirm whether or not he will be back with us in time for this.
- Conductor:** Clare would like to buy some new music, but wondered if we could afford this. Richard proposed we go ahead and get some new pieces, as this would be good for the morale of the members. Seconded J Curtis and all agreed
- Vice-Chairman:** As Lindon had accepted the invitation from Committee and Choir to become Chairman for the remainder of Charlie's two years, Secretary suggested should we now look for a new Vice-Chairman for the period, to become Chairman in the year 2000. Jack had been accepted by the Committee as Acting Vice-Chairman up to next AGM, but it might be better to fill the position now, rather than wait until then. Richard agreed that we should hold a Special ~~Annual~~ General Meeting at a practice to elect a new Vice-Chairman, having given the necessary two weeks' notice. All agreed, and Secretary to put notice on board asking for nominations.
- Annual Venue:** Secretary had obtained details of the theatre at Peterlee College. It is not too expensive, and is a very good place to sing in, and very comfortable for audiences. Lindon wondered if we would lose some of our usual audience if we moved so far, but suggested we might arrange transport for people from Hetton area. Members agreed to put it to Choir that we make a provisional booking for next year with their approval. Clare suggested we could then give a joint concert in Hetton School, with their band. All agreed.
- Accompanist:** Ray Shotton will be leaving us at the end of the year, so we need to look for another pianist. Sid Snowball had been asking about the honorarium for the pianist, and may have someone in mind. Paul Dean also mentioned he might know someone. Clare to speak to both members.

Next Meeting: 19/11/98

Meeting Ended: 8.53

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 17 Sep 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Acting Vice-Chairman: J Curtis

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield

Apologies: L Lamb, B Martindale

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Choir Membership - J Curtis felt we needed to raise the membership of the Choir before we could improve its profile. A Hood felt this was a 'Chicken and Egg' situation, since improving its profile is the best way of encouraging new members.
 - (ii) Annual Concert - we were unable to arrange meeting to discuss new venue with so few members present.
- Treasurer:** No change in financial situation.
- NAC:** Spectacular - Thanks offered to Ella Hughes for all the work she had done. Recording to be made by 'Location Digital', Tapes £3, CD's £6. Parking arranged in Lipman car park - map available. Male Voice Choirs required at 3.15. Need for first aid suggested. In hand.
- Concert Requests:** We had been asked before summer if we could sing at Low Moorsley on Thursday December 3, but Clare did not know if she was available until September. If she is now available, this to be put to Choir.
- Vice-Chairman:** Charlie probably not able to continue as Chairman. Richard to visit him again to see about this. He felt, however, we must appoint a deputy to Lindon to cover until the AGM. Committee discussed this and agreed to appoint an Acting Vice-Chairman, then ask for the Choir's approval. R Wood proposed Jack Curtis, all agreed.
- Practice Venue:** Jack commented it was far too cold last week with broken windows, and no heating. He had asked Clare if we might use her school. Elemore Secretary informed us all windows repaired and heating now on. Jack suggested that if this occurred again, could we not use upper room next door. Secretary to confirm this with Elemore.
- Choir Profile:** Jack invited Alan to speak on matter. He said if we demonstrate to be a good choir, we may get more members. Jack said we had tried the newspapers to advertise, with no result. Alan pointed out this takes time. We need to look for angles to advertise the Choir, such as our young lady conductor, etc. We must advertise for tenors specially, not to suggest the Choir is failing. Jack pointed out we had no publicity officer during Pat Coade's absence. R Wood felt we should appeal to the Choir for a new PRO, and it was agreed he should be a committee member.
- Deputy-Conductor** Jack wondered who we could approach. B Hadfield wondered if Clare had any ideas. Could Edmund possibly help?
- AOB:**
- (i) Kit Crawford approaching his Diamond Wedding. Committee agreed we must send card
 - (ii) Jack wondered if we could arrange large Christmas party to encourage members. Richard unhappy about cost. B Hadfield felt we must make our funds spin out as far as possible. All agreed.

Next Meeting: 15/10/98

Meeting Ended: 8.50

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 16 July 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Acting Chairman: L Lamb

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, B Martindale, J Curtis, A Hood, B Hadfield,

Apologies: C Seccombe

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Rehearsal for NAC Spectacular on July 19 cancelled.
 - (ii) Concert confirmed for 20 March 1999 in St Cuthbert's RC Church Seaham.
 - (iii) Brian Hadfield did come to last month's meeting, but could not get in.
- Correspondence:**
- (i) Letter of resignation from R Blackwell because he feels he can no longer give the Choir 100%. Secretary has replied. Bob has returned his jacket and music.
 - (ii) Letter from Pat Coade to excuse himself for up to four months for family reasons. Secretary has replied.
 - (iii) Brian Newton Elliot has confirmed his fee for 1999 Annual Concert at £200.
- Treasurer:** Balance £3609.04. A suggestion we could ask to put out a plate for Choir Funds at charity concerts. Richard no longer able to provide bouquets for concerts. Problems of Choir membership were discussed for some time. B Hadfield proposed a special meeting to discuss future of Choir, seconded R Wood. Members agreed for september, and must include Clare.
- Conductor:** Ray Shotton to return as pianist in September.
- NAC:** Conductor and Secretary present at meeting in Chester-le-Street Methodist Church on July 4. Jill Wild, daughter of James Wild, has agreed to lead choral afternoon after AGM on 20 March 1999. All preparations for Choral Spectacular going well. Advertising and publicity as before. Special guests to include Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Newcastle. Meeting agreed to audio recording, provided they can work round our timings. Probably CD and tape. Next meeting 5/9/98
- Annual Concert:** A Hood suggested we must raise the profile of the concert much earlier this time. He suggested a radio interview, and could we produce a CD or tape of the Choir to be played over local radio? A suggestion we might add variety to our concerts by putting together a Male Voice Quartet or Octet. J Curtis said the present venue is out of date, and R Wood felt now is the time to look at other venues. Suggestions put forward were East Durham Community College, Peterlee, Wearside College, Shiney Row, and Sunderland Riverside. These to be approached.
- Newcastle Transport:** Secretary asked what we were to do about transport to Spectacular. and it was agreed all people should sort themselves out on this.

AOB:

Next Meeting: 17/9/98

Meeting Ended: 9.20

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Jun 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: L Lamb

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, B Martindale, A Hood, C Seccombe

Apologies: C Buckley, J Curtis

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** (i) Low Moorsley - Secretary has replied to invitation to sing on Thur Dec 3, to say we cannot make a decision before September.
(ii) Practice Venue - Clare has asked her school. They normally charge £15 per hour, but might come to some arrangement because it is Clare.
- Correspondence:** (i) Letter of resignation from Harry Guilford, with £10 cheque for Choir funds. Letter of resignation also from Jack Simpson due to ill health, with Patron's Fees for him and his wife. Secretary has replied to both.
(ii) Letter from Rev Kit Widdows of St Thomas', The Haymarket thanking the Choir for a delightful concert, and to say they had raised £250 for the church.
- Treasurer:** Choir balance £3723.43. Two subs still owing. As Pauline Ash had changed her fee at the last minute, Richard would like agreed fee for Annual soloist to be in writing before the concert. A Hood asked for Annual Venue to be on next agenda.
- Conductor:** Male Voice rehearsal for NAC Spectacular Sun 19 July at Chester-le-Street Methodist.
- NAC:** Two new choirs have joined group 7. Balance £1546. 85. AGM/Choral Afternoon excellent, no adverse comments. AGM 1999 to be at Neville's Cross on 20 March. Leader for afternoon being sought. Massed Spectacular - tickets and posters available. Members agreed programmes done professionally. Also agreed to investigate possibility of tape, CD or video recording of concert. National Conference - agreed to wait to offer to hold this until Baltic Flour Mill ready in 2003. April 2003 pencilled in. Next meeting 4 July, then 5 Sep.
- Concert Requests:** Invitation to sing for mayor of Seaham's Charity Appeal Fund, probably in St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, in first half of 1999. Committee agreed to offer Sat March 20, May 8, May 15.
- Annual Soloist:** Brian Newton Elliot, Bass, delighted to sing on Sat Apr 17 1999 for total fee of £200, including piano solos from his accompanist, if we want them. They may require one night's accommodation. Committee in full agreement.
- AOB:** (i) Religious concert - A Hood had looked at library, and had found plenty of hymns etc to make up a suitable programme.
(ii) Membership - A Hood suggested a sheet to advertise the Choir for new members. He showed Committee a possible example, and suggested he updates it, and then asks all members to leave copies in their community. All agreed.
(iii) Clare asked about summer break. Members agreed last practice 17 July, restart 11 sep.

Next Meeting: 16/7/98

Meeting Ended: 8.58

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 7 May 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: L Lamb

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, J Curtis, A Hood, B Hadfield, C Seccombe

Apologies: C Buckley

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Concert for Save the Children in St Nicholas' Hetton confirmed for Oct 17, for a share of the takings.

(ii) Coach to Newcastle - Carman unable to cover May 30. A Hood wondered whether we had enough cars to take the whole choir, and if Choir Funds could pay for parking. J Curtis suggested we put this to the Choir. All agreed.

(iii) J Curtis felt bad feeling caused by comments made by members about pieces chosen by Clare for concerts. The Committee had agreed some time ago that members should approach the Conductor via a Committee Member. R Wood suggested this should be announced at practice. J Curtis felt no member should contact the conductor by telephone to discuss choice of music, and that any contact should be made via the Chairman or Secretary.

(iv) Echo Publicity - J Curtis had prepared a text about the Choir, and about Pauline to go with a photograph from Clare.

Treasurer: Money from subs and patrons both up on last year. Only 3 subs still outstanding. Choir balance: £3670.50.

Conductor: Clare had not contacted Sunderland University about possible concert on campus

Concert Requests: Moorsley and District Community Association had written to ask if we could perform a concert on Thursday 3 December. Clare might not be available, but it was agreed to put it to the Choir.

Annual Concert: Door - Mrs Wood unable to help this year, but Richard will help, if possible.

H Hall will arrange lighting. Bouquets etc arranged with Richard. Lindon felt it better for the Choir to sit in the front pews to listen to the soloist.

Refreshments - Secretary had found out what Pauline would like during the concert. B Blackwell to be asked if he can provide it.

Annual 1999 - Secretary had not contacted possible soloist, as he still had no firm details of the Saturdays to avoid in May. As Easter is early next year, he suggested we also consider the last Saturday in April. J Curtis felt we should try to avoid May completely in future, and suggested the last two Saturdays in April for next year. All agreed.

Practice Venue: J Curtis said we keep reading how Community Associations are finding it more difficult to remain solvent, so we must seek to have another place to practice in reserve. All agreed. B Hadfield felt we need to look for a better place to recruit members anyway.

AOB: J Curtis had heard that Wearside Harmony were closing down as a choir, and so he invited their members to consider joining the Lyons, when their present year had finished.

Next Meeting: 18/6/98

Meeting Ended: 9.00

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 19 Mar 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: L Lamb

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, A Hood, B Hadfield, C Seccombe

Apologies: C Buckley, B Martindale

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Secretary has confirmed St Nicholas' Church Hetton for the Annual Concert. B Blackwell to arrange with Hector Parr a time to view the organ to decide what solos he might perform at the concert. H Hall is happy to arrange things from the church end, provided we and the rector agree, which we do.

(ii) Clare has asked David Whittaker about a joint concert with Belmont Ladies. They are keen, but it will have to wait until autumn. Clare mentioned dates she will not be available, and members discussed the need for a deputy. B Hadfield suggested S Snowball might be keen to have a try.

(iii) L Lamb showed members the stone plaque of the Choir, and asked if he should update it, and have it displayed in the Council offices. Richard once again asked the price, and it was calculated as being about £40. All agreed to go ahead.

Treasurer: Balance in hand £3768.42. We have so far £30 more than last year in patrons' fees.

NAC: Secretary had attended AGM at Neville's Cross on 14 March. We are the healthiest NAC group in the country, having 42 member choirs at present, and the Steering Committee Meetings in Chester-le-Street Methodist Church had at least 31 choirs represented last year. Harry Dodds' widow wishes to have a male voice piece commissioned in his memory. Composers have been considered, and A Simmons a possibility. Next meeting May 16, next AGM Mar 20 1999. Clare joined Phil for the choral afternoon with A Simmons and his Mastersingers. They both felt it was a wonderful afternoon, and were only sorry that more members had not joined them. Some choirs had over 12 members present.

Concert Requests: Letter from Ken Randall of Hawthorn asking if we might give another concert in Holy Trinity Murton like last year. Having discussed this with Clare, Phil has replied with several possible dates.

Annual Concert: (i) Piano: Phil asked should we hire a piano from Washington as last year. All agreed.

(ii) Tickets: Clare felt we should still offer concessions, and Richard agreed, as it was something we offer to Patrons. Clare suggested we keep the price unchanged at £4 and £3. All agreed.

(iii) Posters: Alan showed examples of posters, both good and bad. Members discussed possible ways of producing posters, and Clare and Alan agreed to look at this further.

AOB: (i) A Hood suggested how much he would enjoy singing some of the well-known Welsh hymn tunes, and that he felt other members would also. Could we arrange a sing-along for people who would appreciate it? B Hadfield also felt we need to find some new pieces to learn which are well-arranged. All agreed.

Next Meeting: 16. 4. 99

Meeting Ended: 9.02

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 19 Feb 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: C Buckley

Members: L Lamb, R Wood, P Rosser, J Curtis, A Hood, B Hadfield, C Seccombe

Apologies: B Martindale,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Clare had not yet contacted Belmont Ladies about joint concert.
 - (ii) J Curtis suggested Chairman should remind members about their subs for the next four weeks, and to seek other Choir Patrons.
 - (iii) Concert in St Thomas' Church, The Haymarket confirmed for May 30.
 - (iv) A Hood offered to obtain a German translation of the letter to go to Germany with the tie-pins.
 - (v) Publicity - Jack suggested offer of charity concerts for the rest of our 50th year by Clare, along with a Choir photograph. All agreed.

Correspondence: Secretary had received a letter of resignation from H Hall, and had replied with thanks for all Harold had done for the Lyons over so many years.

Treasurer: Balance in hand £3809. Richard thanked the Secretary for the copies he had produced of the Annual Financial Statement.

NAC: Phil now had details of the AGM and choral afternoon on March 14. Numbers needed for lunch (£5), and afternoon (£1 to cover tea). Details to go on board.

Annual Concert: L Lamb suggested an alternative venue for the concert, possibly Vardy's hall in Houghton. Jack certainly felt a smaller hall was needed, and a change of venue imperative. Lyndon offered to sort out viewing of Vardy's hall. Chairman agreed with the need for an alternative venue, although Secretary reminded members that Pauline Ash was hoping her accompanist might play an organ solo. Chairman asked about ticket prices, and suggested a possible single price of £3, although A Hood warned that too low a price might put people off. Anyway, it was agreed a decision could not be made until we had finalised the venue. Secretary mentioned that if we were to use St Nick's, we no longer had Harold to organise everything from the church end. A Hood wondered whether we could produce higher quality posters this year, and he was asked to bring some examples. Chairman reminded members that however good the advertising, we still had to sell the tickets. J Curtis proposed Edmund should also be offered a solo spot in the concert. All agreed.

Letterheads: Secretary asked Committee if he could order new letterheads with our Vice-President's name, Clare's married name and Charlie's address. All agreed.

AOB:

- (i) The stone plaque discovered at the back of the rehearsal room was raised again, and if we should have it updated. Jack asked where it might be placed, and Lyndon had seen Hetton Town Council who would happily display it. All agreed, although Richard suggested we find out the cost first.

- (ii) Sunderland Minster is a nice place to sing in, and J Curtis wondered if we could offer them a charity concert. All agreed.

Next Meeting: 19.3.98

Meeting Ended: 9.00

L. Lamb

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 Jan 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield, B Martindale, J Curtis, C Seccombe

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Tie Pins - J Curtis suggested we now send 12 to Germany, with letter to say money they sent to be used to buy music for massed spectacular. All agreed.

(ii) Joint concert - Conductor to make first approach to Belmont Ladies.

(iii) Publicity - J Curtis suggested we need new Choir photographs. Chairman thought they might be taken at Annual Concert, although Jack felt earlier if possible. B Hadfield pointed out that they must be done professionally. P Coade suggested we could perhaps hold a special event in Church. Ideas to be looked into.

Correspondence: Letter from Edmund to say he would be delighted to play at the Annual Concert, and has put the date in his diary.

Treasurer: Richard said his monthly statement was the basis for the annual statement, and explained it to members. He said both subs and patrons' fees were seriously down on the previous years. Balance in hand £3855.26.

Conductor: Gala Concert very good and soloists excellent. R Wood said profit from concert only £160, so they could not really give the Choir a donation. Clare has arranged with Lyndon which music out of copyright is to be photocopied.

NAC: Secretary and Conductor both attended NAC meeting on Sat 10 Jan.

AGM/Choral Afternoon - To be in Neville's Cross on 14 March. AGM at 11 am followed by roast lunch for £5.75. 1.15 - 5.30 Choral Afternoon with Alan Simmons and his Mastersingers. £1 registration fee to cover afternoon tea.

Massed Choral Spectacular - In City Hall Newcastle on 26 Sep at 7pm, tickets £5. Stan Bernicle has agreed to be compere. Norman Williams to conduct final item. Invited guests to include Tony Blair.

Conference - Group 7 invited to host national NAC conference possibly in 2000. Members agreed this too soon to organise, and suggest 2003, when New Baltic Flour Mill open as music centre. It will be a weekend conference from Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime, and will include a concert on Friday, and our usual massed spectacular on Saturday evening, but it will be in April.

Felling MVC to contact Jack and Neville for advice on marshalling

Concert Requests: As we cannot sing in St Thomas' church on 9 May, they wonder if we can manage a Saturday in June. Secretary to ask Pauline Ash if she can manage any date in June. Clare can only manage June 13 or 27, so secretary also to ask again if St Thomas' could manage May 30. As we are still technically in our 50th year until November, members agreed to continue policy of offering as many charity concerts as we can.

Annual Concert: P Coade told members Pauline Ash had asked if she could sing some duets with Bob Blackwell, and as her pianist is a very good organist, if he might perform an organ solo. All agreed.

Annual Meeting: As Neville was forced to retire a year early, J Curtis had been approached to say someone was willing to take over as Chairman. P Coade thought Charlie Buckley should automatically replace Neville. Committee checked the rules, which agreed

with this. Charlie was asked what he felt, and said he was willing to take over. As B Hadfield had not served his full two years as committee member, he said he would stand again if no-one else offered.

AOB:

J Curtis asked what Committee felt about Thomas Allen as President, as he had really done nothing for the Choir for some time. Some members still felt his name was important, and Neville suggested creating a Vice-President. After some discussion Committee agreed to put forward Stephen McElroy as Vice-President. This to be discussed at the AGM, and a notice to be put on board.

Next Meeting: 19 Feb

Meeting Ended: 9.12

Cabney,

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 11 Dec 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Martindale, J Curtis, C Seccombe

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Lottery: Secretary had full details of Lottery Arts Grants. P Coade suggested a sub-committee to consider them. It was agreed this should include three members. Secretary proposed Chairman, J Curtis and P Coade, as they lived near each other, seconded B Martindale and carried.

(ii) Edmund: It was agreed Secretary write to thank him for all he had done for the Choir, and to say that we might need his help again for our 1998 Annual Concert.

(iii) Tie Pins: Neville asked if we should send some to Germany. J Curtis proposed four, to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All agreed.

Treasurer: Total balance in hand now £3847.56. 200-Club money now in Friends of Lyons Account. To give Richard time to organise the books, Jack proposed date of 1998 AGM be 6 Feb, seconded P Coade and carried.

Conductor: Last practice 19 December, return 9 January 1998. Clare suggested carols and songs for Gala Concert. Members agreed. Clare said concert at Grangetown went very well, and several people told her how much they had enjoyed it.

Concert Requests: (i) Secretary had received confirmation of request for concert at Blackhall Methodist Church on 31 October 1998, for which they agreed to pay concert fee. Secretary to write and accept booking.

(ii) Richard informed Committee A Hood had asked if we would be interested in a joint concert with Belmont Ladies' Choir. All agreed in principle.

Rule Changes: (i) Membership of Choir: Rule on attendance simply says those with less than 2/3 attendance shall not take part in competitions. Treasurer wondered whether those who hardly ever attended practices should stay as members, even if they had paid their subs. J Curtis suggested an associate membership for such people. Committee discussed this for some time, and decided at the AGM Neville should stress importance of better attendance, but nothing more should be done.

(ii) Richard informed Committee Rule 12 concerning disbursement of Choir funds, should the Choir finish was incorrect. We should delete 'other purposes approved by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise' and replace it with 'to the discretion of the Committee of the Choir', suggested J Curtis. Members agreed, and notice to be placed on board 14 days before AGM.

Gala Concert: Neville suggested Paul Dean should be accepted as full member of Choir, and given his jacket for Gala Concert on 20 Dec. All agreed.

Gifts: It was agreed a bouquet be presented to lady who did page-turning for Edmund.

AOB: (i) Delayed start of practices and long breaks were mentioned by J Curtis and others. Jack proposed any meetings of Committee at practices should be at the end.

(ii) P Coade showed Committee a 'Book of Achievements' of Lemington MVC.

Next Meeting: 15.1.98

Meeting Ended: 9.10

N Middlemas

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 20 Nov 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield, B Martindale, J Curtis, C Seccombe, L Lamb (guest)
Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record

Matters Arising:

- (i) Tie-Pins: J Curtis proposed a vote of thanks to Pat for all he had done to obtain such excellent pins. All agreed.
- (ii) Pianist: Ray Shotton had now been to two practices. Edmund would cover next concert, but will happily step down should we appoint a pianist. Clare felt Ray was able enough, but J Curtis wondered if he would accept a permanent weekly commitment to the Choir. P Coade suggested we might offer Ray the post of pianist for a trial period, say six months or a year. All agreed. W Berry had also mentioned another pianist who might be interested, and Chairman proposed we should explore this third option, seconded J Curtis and carried. Neville also reminded Committee we need someone who could also act as deputy-conductor.
- (iii) Lottery: Secretary informed members he was expecting by post the full details of applying for an arts grant.
- (iv) Ramside: J Curtis proposed Secretary write to secretary of Ladies' Committee with thanks for all they had done to organise an excellent event. All agreed, although Treasurer said there were a few complaints that the entertainment was too long, and people had too little chance to talk.

Treasurer: Choir Account £345.86, Friends' Account £1411.07. Richard pointed out how much our capital was still decreasing.

P Coade proposed Richard send 50th tie-pins to Kit, Arthur and Nancy. J Curtis also suggested Peter Crawford, and all agreed.

Conductor: Clare said how nice it was to have so many concerts to aim for. This had given a lot more momentum to the Choir. Richard also said Clare's introducing of songs at concerts was really excellent.

NAC: Secretary had received a full list of songs to be performed at the spectacular on 26/9/98. He informed members of the songs, and that Clare was to conduct 'De Gospel Train'. If we need any copies, Ella reminded us Banks will give 15% discount on any music ordered via the NAC, and asks for orders as soon as possible.

Music: Before the meeting started, Lyndon Lamb gave us a list of all music currently in our repertoire, but with less than 30 copies, also showing whether they were in or out of copyright, and which could be legally photocopied. He could get this done cheaply, and wished to do this to all copies he could, and Committee agreed 36 copies needed. Chairman also suggested we should consider buying copies, if still in copyright, if we still wished to sing the pieces. It was felt Lyndon should not immediately produce copies of all pieces not in copyright, and Clare asked for a copy of every piece so we might decide which we might sing. J Curtis proposed a vote of thanks to Lyndon for all his work, seconded Secretary, and agreed.

Annual Dinner: Richard felt that the 50th event was so subsidised, and we could not expect members to pay full price for somewhere like the Ramside. Members felt last year's Christmas dinner at Seaham was so successful. Pat Coade suggested any decision must be left to the Choir at the Annual Meeting, and all agreed.

AOB:

- (i) H Morton could produce glass goblets, engraved for the 50th. They will cost about £5.50. B Hadfield suggested the whole Choir should be made aware, and Harry should deal with the matter informally. All agreed.

- (ii) B Hadfield felt 'Deep Harmony' is only an acceptable ending to a concert if there is a Minister to give a blessing. P Coade asked it be left out at St Cecilia's, and all agreed. He also felt we should drop it altogether.

- (iii) Treasurer mentioned two things in the Choir Rules which should be amended

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 16 Oct 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield, B Martindale, J Curtis

Apologies: C Seccombe

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Tie-pins - P Coade had several types of pin to look at, costing about £3 each. It was agreed they should be sold to members at no profit. J Curtis proposed an oval badge with 50 years marked and long pin, if available, otherwise safety pin. Seconded B Martindale and carried. Pat to order 100.
 - (ii) Pianist/Deputy Conductor - J Curtis proposed we advertise in Sunderland Echo. Seconded P Coade and carried. All agreed two nights.
 - (iii) Lottery Fund - Secretary to investigate forms necessary.
 - (iv) Projecting copies onto screen not allowed.
 - (v) Ryton Festival clashes with proposed concert at Crook.

Correspondence: Chairman had letter from Sunderland City for renewal of Lotteries & Amusement Act Permit, needed for raffles etc. Cost £17.50. Committee agreed to keep permit going, and to transfer it to Secretary's name.

Treasurer: Choir Account £655.05, Friends' Account £1956.50. Income from concerts looking a little better. However, money owing for October will use most of Choir capital, so more from Friends' account will be required.

NAC: Secretary and Conductor attended meeting on 20 Sept. Alan Simmons offered to come to Choral Workshop, with some of his Mastersingers. Felling MVC had agreed to be marshals for 1998 spectacular, and 30 choirs so far participating. Massed finale to be 'One Voice' by Barry Manilow. There is to be a Millennium spectacular, venue to be considered.

Ramside: Cost of meal £18. Ladies' Committee to pay £10. Committee held short meeting on 3/10/97 to discuss subsidy from Choir funds. J Curtis proposed £4, seconded C Buckley and carried. Tickets £4 for members and partners only. Edmund to receive two complimentaries. J Curtis proposed raffle, seconded P Coade and carried. Committee members to provide prizes, and any Choir members who wished to.

Plaques:

- (i) Plaque and money received from Germania Choir for our 50th. Chairman and Secretary had discussed a letter of thanks, and felt any acknowledgement should be in German. All agreed. Committee discussed what should happen to plaque. J Curtis suggested it be presented to H Hall, our longest-serving member. Committee agreed it be on display at Ramside, and then presented to Harold.
- (ii) Large plaque found in music room with list of previous choir officers, but no title. J Curtis asked if it should be updated and a title added, and possibly offered to Hetton Council offices, or library, for display. Committee to examine.

Concert Nights: Member of Choir had asked if concerts must always be on Saturdays. Committee agreed we were in the hands of those booking the Choir.

Gala Concert: At short meeting on 10/10/97 J McElroy proposed Christmas concert in St Nick's Hetton on 20/12/97, with Stephen McElroy and pianist. All agreed. This put to Choir, and enough members available. Time agreed 7.30, tickets £4 and £3.

AOB: Several complaints to J Curtis about time wasted at practice.

Next Meeting: 20/11/97 *N Middlemas* **Meeting Ended:** 9-10

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Sep 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield, B Martindale, J Curtis

Apologies: C Buckley, R Wood

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Tie-Pins - P Coade had found a firm who could produce 50th anniversary tie-pins for about £1.50 each, if we order 100. Committee felt this acceptable, and Pat will pursue things further.
- Deputy-Conductor and Pianist - J Curtis felt we needed to advertise. Ray Shotton would not commit himself. All agreed Secretary write officially, and also to Les's sisters. Neville said to leave seeking a deputy-conductor until we found a pianist.
- Correspondence:**
- i) We had received a letter of resignation from Bill Nicholson because he could not sing properly, and would not just make up the numbers.
 - ii) We also have a letter from Muriel Snowball to thank us for the part the Choir took in Harry's funeral
 - iii) Ryton 1998 - J Curtis wondered whether we could take part in the B Section competition. Committee agreed this be put to Choir and Conductor.
- Treasurer:** Richard had left balance sheet with Secretary. Choir account £537.56, Friends of Lyons Account, £1954.07. £397.50 honoraria, and £135 insurance due in October.
- NAC:** Ella Hughes requests we submit own choice of pieces for 1998 spectacular. Committee chose group of songs. Secretary to give this to Clare for additions and changes, and he will take it to NAC meeting on Saturday.
- Concert Requests:**
- i) Letter from Wear Valley District Council requesting charity concert for Bishop Auckland Hospital Trust to be held in the Elite Hall, Crook, next March. They offered three Saturdays, and Committee agreed to accept March 28.
 - ii) Provisional letter from Peterlee Town Council to ask if we could help in their 50th anniversary celebrations in 1998. Nothing planned as yet, but maybe a concert, or just help with a service in St Cuthbert's Parish Church. Secretary had told them he was sure we would be interested. Committee agreed, and await further details.
- Copies:** J Curtis wondered whether we could project music onto a screen at practices, by overhead projector. Chairman felt we must first check legality with A Hood.
- Trousers:** Many members dislike choir trousers, and Committee agreed dark blue would be much better. B Hadfield asked whether members would agree to buying a new pair of trousers, and members wondered how much subsidy the Choir might offer members, and whether we could apply for lottery funds. This to be looked into.
- AOB:**
- i) Tom Hall - Tom had agreed to be speaker at the Ramside. Committee felt Secretary should write and confirm.
 - ii) J Curtis asked whether we might sing 'I Vow to Thee My Country' with the audience at the next concert, in memory of Princess Dianna. Committee agreed this not to be taken up.

Next Meeting: Oct 16

Meeting Ended: 9.12

N Middlemas

16/10/97

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 17 July 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Martindale, J Curtis.

Apologies: C Abrahams

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) St Mary's Church Easington Lane - Concert confirmed for Sat Nov 15 at 7.15.
 - ii) Secretary had written to member concerning his rudeness in speaking to Clare at practice. He has offered his resignation from the Choir, though not in writing.
 - iii) Wedding Present - As agreed at short meeting on 11/7/97, when they were told they should spend up to £100, Neville and Jack had sought a suitable present and had obtained a decanter and six tumblers.
 - iv) Pianist - Ray Shotton approached by B Martindale. Still no decision from him. Les Hodgson's sister also approached. She is unsure, but maybe.
 - v) Deputy-Conductor - Neville not keen on advertising at present.
- Correspondence:**
- i) We have received letter of resignation from Kit Crawford due to advancing years, and Secretary has replied offering our thanks for all he has done for the Lyons over many years. P Coade asked should we consider making members who retire Honorary Members of the Choir, as once happened.
 - ii) Neville had received letter from Gregg's Bakers to say they were unable to offer any donation or sponsorship at present.
- Treasurer:** Choir account £755, Friends of Lyons account £1954. Richard pointed out that had we not transferred funds from the Friends account, Choir balance now only £155. J Curtis asked should we restart raffle. Richard felt not while we had such a balance.
- NAC:** 1998 massed choral spectacular to be in Newcastle City Hall on 26 September. Ella Hughes once again MVC co-ordinator, and will write in autumn for list of songs we know and would like to sing. NAC will pay for any rehearsal rooms. J Curtis said it will be good for the Lyons to take full active part in the singing in 1998.
- Concert Requests:** Derwentside District Council had approached R Wood for charity concert in Nov or Jan. Committee agreed he should ask if they will consider March 1998.
- Copyright:** With reference to the decision taken to audit the choir library, by the Committee at the time on 21 Sep 1995, the present committee can now say that all the copies in the library fully comply with the present laws of copyright.
- Nov 8:** The Ladies' Committee had asked if we would pay for the entertainer from Choir Funds, as they were providing everything else. This was agreed.
- Practice Night:** It has been asked whether we might consider moving our practice night, as Edwin cannot manage Friday. It was agreed to leave this to see if another pianist is found.
- Tie-Pins:** H Morton suggested we should provide a 50th Year tie-pin for members. This was thought a very good idea, depending on cost. P Coade to investigate.

Next Meeting: 18/9/97

Meeting Ended: 9.20

N Middlemas

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 19 Jun 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Martindale, C Abrahams

Apologies: J Curtis, B Hadfield,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: i) Concert at St Mary's West Rainton confirmed for sep 27. They will pay fee of £60 and have good piano.

ii) Still no reply from Richardson Singers about joint concert next year.

Correspondence: Although we agreed to give charity concert in Murton on June 7, Mr Randall of Hawthorn Church wrote to say the event was so successful, they wished us to accept a donation of £35 to Choir funds. Secretary has replied with thanks.

Treasurer: Choir account £905, Friends' Account £1954. Richard said balance still fair, but income still declining, although the position is better than last year.

Conductor: Clare said Murton concert very enjoyable. It was a good church to sing in, and all had very much enjoyed the evening. She also said she felt the Choir had sung brilliantly.

Concert Requests: Provisional approach from St Mary's Catholic Church, Easington Lane for possible charity concert in the autumn. They do not have piano, so we would have to take keyboard. Committee agreed secretary offer Wed Nov12, or Sat Nov 15.

Choir Discipline: When a choir member had recently demanded line practice from the conductor, he was very rude, and all agreed his attitude totally unacceptable. It was also considered a personal criticism of Clare. She has been appointed by the committee, and if he is unhappy about the way she conducts the Choir, he should approach the committee on the subject. Secretary to write to the member concerned about the matter, as it was felt that Clare deserved an apology from him for speaking to her publicly in such a manner. Chairman also to remind choir members at next practice that they should, in future, approach the committee on such matters.

Pianist: Several members had expressed concern about Clare having to take many practices without another pianist. Members again discussed ways of looking for someone to help at practices. One or two possibilities to be followed up. P Coade also reminded committee we still need to look for deputy conductor.

Don Kay Concert: C Buckley had looked at possible pieces which had been Don's favourites, and had produced a list of songs for Clare to look at.

Wedding Gifts: Secretary had obtained wedding list from Clare. Chairman invited her to leave meeting so we could discuss them. It was felt we first needed to see how much money we received from members, and then to decide what to add from Choir funds. Secretary to obtain card, and Chairman to invite members at practices to sign it and leave donation if they wished.

AOB: P Coade asked whether we might consider trying to recruit a Lyons Youth Choir, rather than seeking young people to join the present group. Committee felt this worth looking into.

Next Meeting: 17/7/97

Meeting Ended: 8.55

All Middlemas

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 May 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: C Buckley

Members: R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield, J Curtis, C Abrahams

Apologies: N Middlemas, B Martindale

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: i) Pauline Ash is happy to be soloist for 1998 Annual Concert on May 16, for a fee of £75, including accompanist. Secretary confirmed date with Pauline.

ii) Secretary has written to Richardson Singers about possible joint concert in March 1998, but has so far received no reply.

iii) It was discovered stolen amplifier was for old keyboard, and present instrument can be used for concerts without extra amplifier.

Correspondence: Secretary has received letter of resignation from David Skinner for various reasons, and has written to thank him for all he had done for the Choir.

Treasurer: Choir balance £679, Friends of Lyons £1954. Richard felt we were still existing on a shoestring.

NAC: Letter from Vivien Pyke to thank members for all the enthusiasm they had shown at the choral afternoon. Members agreed 1998 AGM and choral afternoon to be as before, on March 14. NAC are considering holding 1998 massed choral event twice, once at Newcastle City Hall, and once in Teeside. September 19 and 26 suggested as possible dates for City Hall, with the Teeside event two weeks later.

Concert Requests: i) We have been invited to give a charity concert for St Michael's Church, Hawthorn, in Holy Trinity, Murton on Sat June 7. Secretary confirmed booking.

ii) We have been invited to perform concert at St Mary's, W Rainton on a Saturday in September. Secretary to offer September 27.

Annual Concert: Clare first expressed her thoughts on the concert, and said the only criticisms she received from members of the audience were that the Choir looked so miserable when singing, stage management was badly organised, and the concert possibly too long. She felt the Choir performed better first half, and some songs were not sung particularly well. Committee agreed that the Annual Concert programme could be used as a basis for future concerts this year, but discussed which songs should be left out, with a list of possible replacements for Clare to consider. J Curtis proposed that we consider starting or finishing concerts with a hymn for the audience to join in. C Buckley proposed ending Murton concert in this way. This was agreed.

AOB: i) R Wood had received a complaint that at D ^{Jones'} ~~Brown's~~ funeral members were heard talking during the service. This to be mentioned at next practice.

ii) J Curtis proposed the Committee offer official thanks to all people who were involved in any way in the successful running of the Annual Concert. Committee agreed to thank Harold and Mrs Hall for setting up the church, Margaret Curtis for collecting tickets and money at the door, Jo Curle for page-turning, J McElroy for transporting the keyboard, and any who helped moving it, and special thanks to the Ladies' Committee for providing refreshments for the Versatile Brass. Jack also suggested we thank Clare for leading the Choir in the concert. All agreed.

Next Meeting: 19.6.97

Meeting Ended: 9.12

N Middlemas
19.6.97

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 17 Apr 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield, J Curtis

Apologies: R Wood, B Martindale,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) Pauline Ash interested in singing at 1998 Annual Concert. Secretary to contact her to discuss dates and fee.
 - ii) Annual programme chosen by Committee not well received. In view of need to submit details to printers, Chairman amended programme and discussed with Secretary. J Curtis moved we accept new programme, seconded and carried.
- Correspondence:** Richardson Singers unavailable for joint concert this year, but would like to join us next spring, if possible. Secretary suggested this should be as early as possible, because of Annual Concert in May. He will contact them to discuss dates.
- Treasurer:** Richard had sent financial statement to Secretary. Choir balance £932, Friends of Lyons Account £1954.
- Concert Requests:**
- i) Invitation to sing charity concert in St Cecilia's church, Grangetown in late autumn. They offered several dates, and Committee agreed on Sat Nov 29.
 - ii) C Buckley suggested a concert in memory of Don Kay in St Giles' Durham. He will speak to Jean Kay when the time is right. Late summer earliest. All agreed.
- Annual Concert:** Chairman mentioned catering for the Versatile Brass. J Curtis suggested the Ladies' Committee, in church hall, if possible. Clare's parents may come to concert. J Curtis propose they receive complimentary tickets, seconded P Rosser and carried. J Curtis questioned where the Choir will sit. Neville suggested front two pews. Area in front of Lady Chapel also mentioned. It was agreed Clare receive bouquet and Edmund whisky as before. J Curtis proposed door be manned by Margaret and Richard as last year, all agreed. Chairman to ask vicar to give blessing.
- Copies:** Chairman felt it time we arranged to destroy all photocopies in our library. produced by earlier committees. J Curtis proposed sub-committee to spend a day on the job. Seconded P Coade and carried. Secretary to contact Elemore to find suitable dates.
- Piano:** B Hadfield suggested we need to replace amplifier for our keyboard, and we could then use it for the Annual Concert. J Curtis suggested hiring piano from Washington again. Both ideas to be looked into.
- Conductor:** We have received no replies to our advertisements, so Chairman suggested we will have to think about offering the position to Clare. J Curtis proposed we write to her now to say we wish her to accept the position of Musical Director, Seconded P Coade and carried. Honorarium of £150 in the first instance was agreed. We will ask her if she can suggest another pianist. It was also decided we should approach Gordon Trewett to see if still interested, proposed P Coade, seconded C Buckley.
- AOB:** Secretary reminded Committee about wedding present for Clare. C Buckley mentioned couples usually produce lists these days. Chairman to ask.

Next Meeting: 15.5.97

Meeting Ended: 9.23

C Buckley

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 20 Mar 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: C Buckley, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Martindale, J Curtis, C Abrahams (guest)

Apologies:

Chairman first welcomed new members to Committee.

Minutes of the last meeting were then read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: i) J Curtis moved we thank R Wood for the bouquets he obtained for the Newcastle concert. Committee agreed.

ii) Secretary informed Committee there had been as yet no response to the advertisements for a musical director. He also informed them Clare does wish to be considered for the post, but P Coade suggested she should not receive it at present.

iii) P Coade asked about possible amalgamation with another choir, but Committee felt this need not be considered just now

Correspondence: Secretary had received a letter from Norman Williams asking if he might borrow some music. Of the three pieces we do have, two are unfortunately in present use, but Committee agreed he might borrow 'By Babylon's Wave'.

Treasurer: Choir balance now £852. Friends of Lyons £1954

NAC: Secretary reported on NAC AGM on 15/3/97. Norman Taylor had completed his three years as Chairman. S Wroe of Shiny Row MVC had been proposed to replace him, but outvoted by J Kingston of Lemington MVC. All other officers to continue. Phil said the choral afternoon was brilliant, and he was only sorry that he was the only Lyons member present.

Concert Requests: Secretary confirmed we have a booking for St Matthew's church Newbottle on Sat 11 October.

Annual Concert: i) Programme: Chairman felt that the 50th Annual should represent what the Choir had done over the years. J Curtis suggested we start with early pieces, including 'The Two Roses'. Secretary informed members of the last two annual programmes, and suggested the pieces should be left out this time. Committee discussed other possible pieces, including groups representing visits to Germany and America. A programme was agreed, and J Curtis moved we accept it, seconded and carried.

ii) Conductor and Pianist: Committee agreed Clare should conduct, with Edmund Jay as accompanist.

iii) Ticket Price: J Curtis proposed £6 with £5 concessions, seconded C Buckley. P Coade proposed £6 with £4 concessions, seconded Secretary. The second proposal was carried.

Soloist 1998: Neville asked if we might approach Pauline Ash to sing next year. Secretary to ask B Blackwell if he thought she might accept the invitation.

Anniversary: Committee discussed possible ways to celebrate the 50th. Secretary to put list on board and ask for names of those interested.

Summer Break: Committee agreed last practice July 18, and return Sep 12.

Next Meeting: 17/4/99

Meeting Ended: 9.24

N Middlemas.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, P Coade

Apologies: B Hadfield

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) Owing to illness, Harry was forced to offer his resignation as musical director.
 - ii) Choir agreed to sing at St Thomas' Church, Newcastle on March 1.
 - iii) After the extraordinary Committee Meeting on Jan 24 to discuss seeking of a new conductor, and the concert at Newcastle:-
 - a) Accompanist suggested by Clare unavailable, but Neville had found Edmund Jay, who was willing to come to several practices and the concert, and might help us similarly in the future.
 - b) Members discussed seeking a new conductor for some time. Chairman asked if we should advertise. This was proposed by N Middlemas, seconded by P Coade and all in favour. Committee agreed Secretary put advertisements in Sunderland Echo, Northern Echo, Chronicle and Journal.
- Treasurer:** Balance in Choir account now £541. Friends of Lyons MVC account holds £2554.07.
- NAC:** Secretary reported on NAC meeting on Jan 11. i) AGM on March 15 to be as last year at Neville's Cross at 11 am, followed by hot lunch for £5, then Choral Afternoon led by Vivien Pyke of Sheffield, an adjudicator for Sainsbury's Choir of the Year. Secretary to put details on board.
- ii) Talk by Laurie Butcher, national treasurer, inviting choirs to become charitable organisations, and to take out insurance via the NAC. Members decided not to take up either suggestion.
 - iii) Secretary approached Treasurer about our Rule 12. He said it appeared to be made up by a committee to sound similar to the rule required if the Choir were a charity, and just guaranteed the funds would go to another musical group or charity.
- Concert Requests:** Pat Coade suggested we advertise our 50th year by offering charity concerts as a special offering for the 50th. Secretary to seek photograph of Versatile Brass, and to produce leaflets to advertise our availability for concerts. Secretary also to contact Richardson Singers, Shiney Row and the Police Choir to discuss possible joint concerts.
- Amalgamation:** Jack told Committee that Walter Robinson would not take more than one choir, so the only way of having him conduct us was to combine with the Police Choir. He suggested various problems with this, eg name and uniform. Secretary had once written to Shiney Row, but they were not interested. Committee discussed other possible choirs we might consider amalgamating with.
- Clare:** Jack suggested he or Neville approach her to inform her we intended advertising for a conductor, and to ask if she were interested in applying for the post. R Blackwell suggested both Jack and Neville should speak to her. This was a greed.
- AOB:**
- i) R Wood wondered about honoraria for Harry and Nancy for the past year. Harry had missed a lot of practices last summer. It was agreed to offer him £150. It was felt Nancy would not wish to accept her honorarium, but agreed we should ask her.
 - ii) R Blackwell asked if Clare should receive a bouquet for her first concert at Newcastle, and we would need one for Pauline Ash. All agreed.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 9 Jan 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, P Coade, B Hadfield

Apologies: H Snowball,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) Haymarket Concert: Secretary reminded committee we must decide very soon whether we can sing in St Thomas' church on 1 or 8 March. The church will offer an increased fee of £100. Chairman suggested leaving cars at Elemore with the car man, and all getting coach from there, as the coach would be a lot cheaper. All agreed this to be put to Choir at next practice.
 - ii) Chairman felt the decision to go ahead with Christmas Party had proved to be the right one, and all agreed, although there were some things which could have been done better. People with R Wood felt it had been a good social event.
- Correspondence:**
- i) Secretary had received a letter of resignation from Osborne Mennear, who after 36 years felt he had lost enthusiasm for singing with us. Secretary to write and thank him for his many years with the Lyons.
 - ii) Secretary had received form for renewal of NAC membership, £18. All agreed we should remain members of the NAC.
- Treasurer:** Richard informed meeting Choir bank balance now down to £583, and we had still received no grant from Hetton Town Council. Chairman moved that, when possible, Richard be given authority to transfer amounts from the 'Friends of Lyons' account to Choir account, to keep Choir solvent. Seconded R Blackwell, all in favour.
- AGM and Audit:** Chairman reminded meeting we need a date for the audit before AGM. Richard and Pat to arrange this. Pat now our only auditor. Jack moved we accept this situation. All agreed. P Coade suggested Feb 14 for AGM. All in favour.
- Subs:** P Coade moved we leave subs as at present, and all agreed.
- Music:** It was agreed all suggestions for Choir repertoire to be routed via Committee, Jack asked all members of Committee to have a list of six suggestions for next Committee Meeting.
- Discipline:** Choir discipline was discussed for some time, and suggestions from questionnaire considered.
- AOB:**
- i) P Coade asked whether Choir intended to use more money for advertising. Chairman said he was doing things to try to obtain free advertising for the massed concert, should it take place, and this would have special reference to the Lyons.
 - ii) R Blackwell asked if we could use a guest soloist for the Newcastle concert, and suggested a mezzo-soprano he felt would sing free of charge. All agreed.
 - iii) W Jobling questioned meaning of rule 12 in Choir Rules. Nobody knew the answer, so secretary to approach NAC for advice.

Next Meeting: 13/2/97

Meeting Ended: 9.10



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Extraordinary Committee Meeting at Elemore on Fri 24 Jan 1997 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis
Members: N Middlemas, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, P Coade, B Hadfield
Apologies: R Wood

Resignation of Harry Snowball, Conductor

Chairman reminded Committee Harry had been forced to resign due to illness, and that the meeting had been called simply to discuss the matter of seeking another conductor, and what to do about the Newcastle concert in five weeks' time. Jack suggested four possible ways forward;

- a) Advertise for a conductor
- b) Approach Gordon Trewett, who had expressed an interest before.
- c) Approaching Clare to become Conductor, and seeking another accompanist.
- d) Any other suggestions from members.

Discussion

- a) Advertise Committee all felt the likelihood of finding someone this way was not very great. Ella Hughes of the NAC once told Jack she could not think of anyone in the North-East.
- b) G Trewett R Blackwell felt Gordon may not be the man for the job, but we might consider him temporarily.
- c) Clare Abrahams N Middlemas suggested she is still very young, and may not be strong enough yet to hold the Choir. B Hadfield said we might consider her as conductor for the Newcastle concert, but would then need another pianist.
- d) Other Names W Jobling suggested Walter Robinson, as he liked the Choir, and was popular with members. Chairman said he had recently been taken into hospital, so could not be considered in the near future.

Newcastle Concert

Chairman felt we must not be too hasty at making final decisions about a permanent appointment, but we must settle the position temporarily for Newcastle on 1 March. W Jobling suggested we could drop the concert, but N Middlemas felt it important that we try to keep it in our programme, if possible. Committee in general thought the same. P Coade said we still had five weeks, so must not make a hasty decision.

Chairman wondered whether we should ask Clare if she were prepared to take the concert as Deputy Conductor, and then see if she could suggest any names as accompanists. N Middlemas suggested we could ask others to be guest conductor, and W Jobling mentioned Joe Parker, but R Blackwell felt he was not the same since he had suffered a slight stroke. Secretary suggested having a younger conductor might be what the Choir needs to attract younger members.

Chairman moved we invite Clare to take Newcastle concert as Deputy Conductor, and ask her if she could find a suitable pianist. All agreed.

Clare was invited to join the meeting, and agreed to take the concert as Deputy, and named one possible accompanist she would contact immediately. Chairman informed the Choir of the Committee decision, and the members agreed in general.

Meeting Ended: 8.15

FINANCIAL REPORT 11 DECEMBER 97

RECEIPT

EXPENDITURE

B/F 96	584.58
Subs	380.00
Patrons	141.00
Donations	79.03
Lapel Pins	108.00
Social	522.54 (Gala 263)
Concert	362.00
A Concert	1037.65
Interest	12.12
Sub Total	<u>3226.92</u>
Ladies Ctee	560.00 Gala
Friends	2554.07
Interest	23.11
200 Club	2330.52
Total Income	<u>8694.62</u>
Exp.	<u>4847.06</u>
Bal. in Hand	<u>3847.56</u>

Performing Right	17.81
Social (Gala 90)	362.04
Insurance	160.00
Lapel Pins	305.00
Adverts	159.32
Honoraria	400.00
Telephone	220.00
Travel	75.00
Admin	55.31
Concerts	228.19
A/Concerts	1196.00
Rent/Off fee	538.00
Corpn Tax	3.64
wac	18.00
Incidentals	5.75
Sub total	<u>3744.06</u>
Friends	<u>1103.00</u>
Total Exp.	<u>4847.06</u>

Balance in Hand comprises:

Lmvc c/A	325.91
BPA	39.42
Friends c/A	996.58
BPA	2468.12
Total Bank	<u>3830.03</u>
Cash	17.53
Total	<u>3847.56</u>

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 21 Nov 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, P Coade, B Hadfield

Apologies: H Snowball,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Joint Concert - Chairman had contacted S Wroe and W Robinson, and both showed interest in a joint event in Sunderland. P Coade had also spoken to conductors of Shiney Row and Wear Harmony Masonic who were both very interested.
- Treasurer:** Richard gave members a copy of the financial report for the month. He now estimated the balance at the AGM to be £415. Committee agreed Richard should continue to provide raffle prizes from Choir Funds, except when a Choir Member donated a bottle.
- Conductor:** Conductor not present.
- Concert Requests:** Secretary reminded members we had been invited to sing at the Church of St Thomas the Martyr in the Haymarket, Newcastle on 8 March 1997. W Jobling suggested we first ask how many would attend. P Coade felt this not a good idea immediately. Chairman asked Secretary to obtain estimates for a coach, and ask the church how much they were prepared to cover, above our concert fee.
- Questionnaire:** All Committee Members had been given copies of the results and comments. Chairman felt the Committee had been given a mandate to go ahead with looking at possible ways of keeping the Choir going. All agreed. Committee then considered the comments members had added. They agreed to discuss them in broad terms at first, and then, if necessary, to look at individual points in greater detail at future meetings.
- Total Choir Funds:** Choir finances were discussed, and signatories agreed for the 'Friends of the Lyons MVC' account, which now comes under the control of the three main officers of the Committee.
- Xmas Party:** Joan Cook had suggested to the Chairman that the party be dropped due to lack of support. Chairman disagreed, as over 40 names had been put down so far. All agreed the party should go ahead.
- AOB:** N Middlemas told Committee that due to poor attendances at practices, the Choir found too little money to pay the Car Park Attendant. Committee agreed Chairman to ask members at next practice if they would accept a 10p increase in car money to 40p.

Next Meeting: 5/12/96

Meeting Ended: 9.28



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 17 Oct 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, B Hadfield

Apologies: P Coade,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: Xmas Party - Chairman informed members Ladies' Committee now arranging this.

City Hall - N Middlemas said all went well and marshalling well appreciated.

Clare - Chairman felt it time to appoint Clare as Deputy Conductor. W Jobling thought this unsatisfactory, unless she were allowed to conduct more pieces, including those we normally sing. R Blackwell said he felt that if Harry were unavailable for a concert, Clare had already demonstrated that she could manage to conduct in his place. N Middlemas proposed Clare be appointed as Deputy Conductor, seconded by R Blackwell. W Jobling proposed we do not do so at present. This was not seconded, so proposition carried.

Correspondence: i) Ever Ready Band had written to ask if we would like another joint concert in Hetton. Chairman reminded Committee of the problems caused by the band last time, but Harry felt we cannot ignore any chance of paying concerts. Committee agreed to keep it in mind

ii) Jim Bennett had sent a letter of resignation as he felt he could not be fully committed to the Choir, as he thought he should be. Secretary to write

Treasurer: Situation unchanged. Richard informed Committee members had been made aware of the situation. Still no money from Hetton Town Council.

Conductor: Harry very worried by fall in attendances since holiday. Chairman had found that all other choirs similarly short of membership.

NAC: Secretary unable to attend meeting on Saturday 12 Oct. Neville and Jack agreed we should not cover marshalling at other mass events.

Concert Requests: Sid Snowball has arranged concert in Bowburn for 9 Nov.

Anniversary: Ladies' Committee hope to arrange Anniversary Dinner for Friday 7 November 1997, possibly at the Ramside, with a speaker, maybe Bob Johnson. Chairman told members more support needed for meetings of Ladies' Committee.

Joint Concert: St Benedict's Cancer Hospice have appealed for £75,000, supported by Sunderland Echo. Chairman wondered if we could arrange a joint concert with e.g. Shiny Row, the Police Choir and maybe some mixed choirs in support of this appeal, seeking sponsorship, inviting prominent local people, and giving the Lyons some much needed publicity. W Jobling questioned any suitable venue in Sunderland. Chairman put forward the Cowie Auditorium as one possibility. Committee very much in favour of the idea, and Chairman to contact Stephen Wroe and Walter Robinson.

AOB: Attendances: Committee looked at attendance register for first half of this year. It was noted that most poor attendance records were due to sickness or work.

Next Meeting: 21/11/96

Meeting Ended: 9.02

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
1) Action to reverse fall in members?	33	2	1
2) More Charity Concerts?	34	2	-
3) Amalgamation with other choirs?	24	7	5
4) Advertising with Choir funds?	30	6	-
5) Change of Venue?	21	12	3
6) Change of Choir name?	19	16	1
7) Your maximum support given to Choir?	35	1	-

COMMENTS

1. Advertising

Best by personal contact. No to TV or press involvement	-	W Jobling
Proved useless so far, and should not be tried again	-	J McElroy
Only small amount of money to be used	-	R Wood
More Choir funds to be used	-	O Mennear
A grey area, I don't know	-	N Scott

2. Choir Name

Choir is finished if name changed	-	H Ramshaw
Name change should only be if needed for amalgamation	-	R Gibson, D Skinner

3. Venue

Change in rehearsal room would help Choir	-	N Watson
---	---	----------

4. Amalgamation

Depends on travelling distances	-	A Hood, R Jenner
Depends on which choir	-	R Jenner

5. Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm has gone out of Choir, apathetic undercurrent	-	D Skinner, H Ramshaw
--	---	----------------------

6. Discipline

Lack of Choir discipline, too much talking at practices	-	G McKillup, H Ramshaw, S Snowball
---	---	-----------------------------------

7. Music

Conductor and Committee should choose music members would enjoy singing more, and audiences would appreciate	-	W Jobling, K Tilly, R Cook
--	---	----------------------------

8. Concerts

More charity concerts, eg in hospitals will gain publicity	-	K Wilkinson
Have we tried writing to churches we have sung at before?	-	J Whitfield

9. Soloists

More local soloists good enough as guests would cost less	-	K Tilly
---	---	---------

10. Subs and Fees

- No increase in Choir subs. Money must come from general public - L Lamb
- Reduce concert fees again - L Lamb, R Cook, O Mennear

General

- If some of these ideas not implemented, Choir will cease in short time - P Coade
- Keep Choir as it is for as long as possible - R Wilson, H Morton
- I will support the Committee whatever they decide to do - R Cook, H Morton
- Choral singing is losing popularity in general - B Hadfield
- I hope Choir will continue with any changes necessary - B Hadfield
- We still have the nucleus of a good Choir - H Ramshaw
- I am always looking for new recruits - N Scott
- More money-earning social events would encourage younger members to support the Choir - M Lewins
- Improvements in Choir, apart from recruitment of new members depends on experience and application of conductor - H Ramshaw

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 21 Sept at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy, R Blackwell.

Apologies: W Berry,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) Singing at Sedgefield: About 30 members originally agreed to attend. Chairman to check with Choir that this number still correct.
 - ii) Choir discipline: Chairman had spoken to members about this, and things had improved. Conductor felt much more attention now given to what he was saying.
- Correspondence:**
- i) Letter from Doris Williams to say they were really pleased we intended to go to Derwentside.
 - ii) Choir invited to attend Ryton Festival again on 9 March 1996. Committee felt we should go and defend the trophy, but no decision needed before 30 November.
- Treasurer:**
- Bill not present, but he had given his report to Secretary.
- Expenditure £557.18 including £135 for insurance of music, piano and transport. This does not seem bad since 1994 insurance was £123.19 plus £25 to cover transport.
- Grant of £250 received from City of Sunderland.
- NAC:**
- i) Secretary confirmed AGM to be on March 16, at Neville's Cross. AGM at 11am followed by lunch at £5 per head. Own food not to be consumed on premises. From 1pm a choral workshop taken by Marilyn Davies. £1 registration fee to cover cost of tea.
- Secretary also confirmed Mass Choral Spectacular on Sept 28 1996 in Newcastle City Hall. Male Voice co-ordinator to be Ella Hughes.
- Concert Requests:**
- i) We have been requested to sing at Christchurch, New Seaham on Nov 25. Committee agreed, and Secretary to write immediately.
 - ii) J McElroy asked Committee if they would accept giving a charity concert for Michael Groake, who has gone to work with people in Colombia. Chairman to put this to Members, meanwhile Jack to seek suitable venue.
- Richardsons:**
- i) Chairman announced format of joint concert agreed with Sylvia. Harry announced pieces he had chosen, and Sylvia to send her programme to Secretary, so he can produce programme sheets.
 - ii) Richardsons have requested use of Church Hall as changing room. Secretary to see Harold Hall. Drinks also to be arranged.
 - iii) Chairman proposed we pay for the coach from Darlington All agreed.
 - iv) Stewarding: All agreed at last concert door was a shambles. Forming of a new Ladies' Committee was discussed. J McElroy suggested Car Man could take tickets at door. Committee felt this a good idea. However, Chairman reminded Committee we have only 3 weeks to arrange something!

Copyright:

As the recently elected Committee, having taken notice of the advice from the NAC concerning copyright, we shall carry out an audit of all our sheet music which has been gathered over a period of 48 years, by various parties and Committees of the Choir, and eliminate any music which does not comply fully with the current laws of copyright. Owing to the financial implications the Committee will deal with this matter in as short a time-scale as is reasonably possible. In the meantime no illegal copies will be used. We have also disposed of our photocopier.

Ring-Round:

N Middlemas proposed the Secretary arrange names and phone nos into seven groups, and give a list to each of seven Committee Members. This was seconded by J McElroy and agreed by Committee. The Secretary will be responsible for starting the ring-round system by contacting these seven Committee Members.

Harry Guilford:

Secretary to write to Harry to offer him leave of absence from the Choir because of his other commitments,

Bill Berry:

Chairman informed Committee Bill is to cease as Treasurer at the end of 1995. We have until then to find a replacement.

AOB:

i) J McElroy asked about errant Choir Members. Chairman agreed he is unhappy about members who come and go, but they have paid their subs. He is to mention attendances again to the Choir, and ask Neil Scott for a report on any poor attenders.

ii) Chairman suggested we purchase a brooch in the form of a treble clef for Nancy, to show our feelings for her, and our gratitude for all she continues to give to the Choir. All agreed, and we hope to give it to Nancy at the Richardsons concert.

Next Meeting: 19.10.95

Meeting Ended: 8.56

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. McElroy', is written in the center of the page.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Special Committee Meeting at 7 Bainbridge Holme Rd on 30 Sep 1996 at 7.30 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, P Coade, B Hadfield

Apologies: R Blackwell, W Jobling,

Future of Choir: Committee had agreed this meeting to prepare a questionnaire to put to Choir Members concerning their opinions and ideas about the Choir's future. P Coade pointed out that we must see all members receive a copy, even if they do not attend practice during the period the Choir is asked to complete the questionnaire. All agreed.

Members of Committee were asked in turn to put forward their ideas of possible questions, and Committee then discussed these for some time, and also considered in detail the problems the Choir is facing at present.

Committee then decided on the actual format of the questionnaire, and agreed it should include spaces for members to put their name and section, and also a space for them to add any thoughts of their own.

It was agreed members be asked to complete and return their copy in two or three weeks, a date for returning to be placed on the copy. It was also agreed a record be kept of those who had received, and those who had returned their copy.

The secretary was then asked to produce the questionnaire in accordance with the format agreed upon.

AOB:

i) Arthur Kay had approached the Secretary to see if he might use our keyboard for an AK Chorale concert in Elemore Methodist Chapel on Saturday October 26. Phil said he would, of course, be at the concert, and would be personally responsible for seeing the keyboard was moved safely, and returned to the hall. Members agreed unanimously that Arthur be allowed to use the keyboard, especially since he had helped us out recently by playing for us.

ii) As B Hadfield had mentioned at the last Committee Meeting in Harry's absence, when the Chairman informed him we could not discuss such things without Harry being present, P Coade now asked Harry whether Clare should not have a chance to conduct the pieces we sing with him, in case she were needed to take a whole practice. Harry felt this was not a good idea, as different people will conduct things completely differently. He thought she should build up her own library of pieces to conduct, as she had started to do with the two pieces we will sing with her at our next concert.

Meeting Ended: 9.20

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 19 Sep 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, P Rosser, W Jobling, P Coade, B Hadfield

Apologies: H Snowball, R Wood, R Blackwell,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Chairman reminded members we must start taking folders of music home again each week to check copies.

(ii) Brian Hadfield suggested we should discuss Clare conducting pieces in our normal concert repertoire. Chairman said we should only do this when Harry is present. All agreed.

(iii) Arthur is no longer trying to remove Elemore piano.

Treasurer: Richard had left his balance sheet with Secretary. Income so far this year £1821.26, and expenditure £2524.96. He now predicts by AGM next year our funds will have reduced this year by over £1300, leaving less than £500. He suggests we need £1600 a year more just to break even.

P Coade suggested Choir should be acquainted with the financial situation. Chairman suggested minutes should be kept on board for whole month. P Coade suggested two copies. Members agreed.

NAC: (i) City Hall all well in hand. Mayor and Mayoress not to attend, but Sherriff and wife will be there in their place. We are asked to be security conscious.

(ii) AGM and singing day next year to be at Neville's Cross again with same format.

New Member: Chairman had already welcomed Brian to Committee for the first time at the start of the meeting. P Coade also thanked him for having filled the position so quickly.

Recruitment: Chairman said that since some of our members had also joined the Police Choir, couldn't we encourage some of their members to also sing with us? Committee agreed Chairman should have a word with Walter. Recruitment was discussed for some time. P Coade said that, as a Committee, it is our duty to do all we can to see the Choir continues. Members agreed we produce a questionnaire for all Choir members about the future of the Choir. Chairman to tell Choir at next practice, and Committee to hold an extra meeting to work out the format, at the home of the Chairman., on Monday 30 Sep.

City Hall: N Middlemas had reported to NAC meeting about arrangements for stewarding.

Xmas Party: Choir very much in favour. Chairman to make arrangements for a Friday evening.

AOB: Joint concert with Richardson Singers. - Chairman to suggest we go to Darlington, pay half the cost, and take half the income. Members agreed.

Next Meeting: 17 Oct

Meeting Ended: 9.27



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 Aug 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell

Apologies: H Snowball, W Jobling, P Coad

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** (i) Still no reply from agents of Judith Howarth.
(ii) Members agreed letter to be sent to H Hall to thank him for his thoughts on the Choir, which were discussed thoroughly by Committee. Similar letter to A Hood for his leaflets.
- Treasurer:** Total income so far £1801.99. Expenditure £2524.96. Balance in hand £1021.68
- Conductor:** Jack had visited Harry who gave us his best wishes. He seemed cheerful, but still rather frail, and his wife still very concerned. Clare to be encouraged to take first few rehearsals, but Bowburn concert still to depend on Harry's recovery.
- City Hall:** Jack and Neville had visited hall with Ella Hughes to check seating etc. Any Choir Member still wishing to sing in spectacular must be encouraged to do so.
- Payment of Subs:** The Treasurer had been approached by a member of the Choir with the suggestion of paying subs weekly. Committee agreed members would only pay for weeks they attended, and there then could be no weekly raffle. N Middlemas put forward monthly subs rather than weekly, as this would be much easier to collect, and £2 a month was suggested. Committee questioned such a sudden change in subs, but Richard pointed out that unless other income is found, eg from more concerts etc, members would have to pay more one way or another to keep the Choir going. Committee discussed various ways of paying subs, and Chairman said we would have to discuss the matter further at other Committee Meetings, and then put alternatives to the Choir at the next AGM. All agreed.
- Ladies Committee:** Joan Cook hopes to reconstitute the committee for first week in October, and leaflets to be produced for members' wives. She also suggested a trip away, eg to London, for 50th anniversary, supported by Choir funds. At least we must arrange some social function. Chairman put forward a Christmas get-together, and Committee discussed possible alternatives, probably on a Friday evening.
- Signatories:** N Middlemas had been to building society about 'Rheinhausen' account, as J Huggins had been a signatory. It should be possible to close the account with the other two signatures, Neville and R Pattison. Neville suggested opening a nominal account with himself the Treasurer and Secretary as signatories, and then transferring the money to it, calling it eg 'Friends of Lyons'. Chairman also asked about 200 club account. This had N Middlemas, J Huggins and W berry as signatories. Neville proposed we do the same. Chairman suggested we sort out the Rheinhausen account first, and then maybe combine the money from both accounts in one. To be investigated further.
- New Member:** Choir Rules have no provision for loss of Committee Members. Committee agreed to invite nominations for a member to replace J Huggins, to stand until the AGM 1998.
- AOB:** (i) N Middlemas had spoken to someone from a company who give financial advice, and who showed interest in sponsoring clubs with older members. He

moved we invite him to come and speak to the Committee, if the company were interested in sponsoring a male voice choir. All in favour.

(ii) R Blackwell reminded Committee we must make more progress on checking library for photocopies. We also note that the photocopier has been disposed of.

(iii) Rita Grey had told the Treasurer that Arthur Kay wished to remove the hall piano. Committee agreed he could not do so if the piano belonged to the choir, and also to tell Rita we still need the piano if it belongs to the Community Association, in case our keyboard breaks down, so she should not let it go in either case.

Next Meeting: 19/9/96

Meeting Ended: 9.10

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Blackwell', is written in a cursive style.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 July 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling.

Apologies: H Snowball, P Coade

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Secretary had written to agents of Judith Howarth to cancel booking for 1997 and had so far heard nothing.
 - (ii) Clare Abrahams had now been appointed as Deputy Pianist.
 - (iii) Secretary had received reply from Hetton Town Council to say they would give us £100 extra grant for the 50th year, giving a total grant of £250 for 1997.
 - (iv) Chairman proposed we do not obtain our own alarm system for the piano for various reasons. Members agreed.
- Correspondence:** Chairman had received letter for the Committee from Belle Higgins to thank us for singing at Jack's funeral, and to say Jack would have been proud of the Choir.
- Treasurer:** This year's income so far £1789.83, and expenditure £2464.96. Richard now predicted balance in hand by February '97 would be £494.22, if raffle continued as at present. He suggested possibility of members paying subs weekly instead of an annual amount. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Conductor:** Chairman informed members Harry had had his operation, and all appeared well so far.
- Concert Requests:** Secretary and Chairman had both been approached by Sid Snowball about possible concert in Bowburn on Saturday 21 September. This would give us three practices, but would also depend on Harry's being available by then. Chairman moved we should accept the booking provided Harry has recovered in time. All agreed.
- Harold Hall:** Chairman had received letter from Harold with his thoughts on the state of the Choir. Harold had obviously given the matter some thought, and Chairman agreed with him that we must accept we are not the competitive choir we used to be, at least at present, but we can still be a good choir if we all put in the effort needed. Members discussed the letter for some time.
- Alan Hood:** Alan had shown the Chairman a leaflet he had produced about the Choir, and Secretary also reminded members of the new Choir leaflets he had obtained. Chairman moved we send copies to English Heritage and the National Trust. All agreed.
- New Signatories:** Committee discussed possibility of a special reserve fund for any future use, eg the 50th anniversary. Chairman suggested all signatories for such accounts should be Committee Members, and should change when necessary. This was proposed by R Blackwell, seconded by P Rosser and carried unanimously.
- AOB:**
- (i) Treasurer spoke of pens to be sold for Choir funds. People were still keen to sell them, but Richard suggested we should only obtain 100 at a time. All agreed.
 - (ii) Neville informed members he had heard that there was some interest in music amongst students at Durham University, and suggested we contact the Students' Union about possible recruitment of students to join us. All agreed, and Secretary to write.

Next Meeting: 15/8/96

Meeting Ended: 9.00

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 13 June 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, R Wood, P Rosser, W Jobling, J Huggins, P Coade.

Apologies: N Middlemas, R Blackwell.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Meeting rearranged for 13 June as too many members couldn't make 20th.
 - (ii) P Coade asked whether, having been asked by Houghton to sing with Shiney Row, we could not arrange a joint concert with them. J Huggins had been in contact, and there was no available date for some time ahead.
 - (iii) Clare Abrahams seemed very keen to be deputy, and all agreed she seemed fine as accompanist. We are still unsure whether she can also be assistant conductor, and she must be allowed to conduct something as soon as possible. Chairman suggested that once she had played successfully for a full practice, we should appoint her as Deputy Pianist first. All agreed.
 - (iv) J Huggins suggested we set up our own alarm system just for piano cupboard. It was agreed this must be looked into.
- Treasurer:** We are spending more than we are receiving at present, and Richard predicted we shall be £1356.48 short for this year, leaving a balance of only £388.22. We have received no money from Sunderland City Council this year. Chairman suggested Secretary to write to Hetton Town Council to ask for a special donation for our 50th Anniversary next year. All agreed. Chairman to tell Choir we need more concert bookings.
- Conductor:** Harry had sent away for inspection copies of several pieces of music.
- 50th Anniversary:** P Coade suggested we cannot afford the bookings we have arranged. Chairman suggested we must cancel Judith Howarth, and Secretary to write to her agents. Chairman suggested some other form of celebration rather than a concert, and Ladies' Committee could be reconstituted to help arrange a social event. In 1997 we are due to visit the Richardson Singers, and P Coade and Chairman suggested we make the joint concert in Darlington a 50th anniversary occasion. All agreed, with this, and also that then the Annual Concert with the Versatile Brass must become our 50th anniversary concert in this area, and we must contact all local brass bands.
- Pens:** H Guilford had obtained some information about possible pens etc to sell for Choir funds. Committee agreed possible profits from these ones not worth it.
- AOB:**
- (i) P Coade felt we still need a Social Secretary. No-one willing to do this for some time. It was suggested Ladies' Committee might help in this way. Chairman to talk to Joan Cook.
 - (ii) Summer Break: Last Practice 12 July. Restart 6 Sept.

Next Meeting: 29/8/96

Meeting Ended: 9.15

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 16 May 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, J Huggins, P Coade.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:** Arthur informed Secretary church piano not suitable for concerts even if in tune. Committee agreed to hire piano. Secretary had found one in Washington for £105, Nancy went to look at it and said very good. Piano to be delivered to church on Friday May 17, and collected on Monday 20.
- Treasurer:** Balance £1654.52. 49 subs now in, leaving two outstanding. 31 patrons now paid. Donations of £263, including £250 from Northern Electric.
- Conductor:** Because Harold Hall unwell, we shall be particularly short of tenors for Annual Concert. Chairman asked to appeal especially to tenors to turn up. Secretary to ask Banks for brochures of male voice songs. J Huggins also advised him to contact Alan Simmons Music.
- Concert Requests:** (i) Choir invited to join Shiney Row for concert at Houghton Feast on Oct 12. Unfortunately we are already singing at St Clare's Newton Aycliffe on that date.
(ii) Choir also invited by 'phone to sing at Framwellgate Moor Methodist. They could only offer Sep 28 which is the date of NAC Choral Spectacular.
- Annual Concert:** (i) Margaret Curtis & Richard Wood to look after door, Lyndon to see to lighting and PA, and Secretary to borrow church keys from Oliver Kennedy.
(ii) R Blackwell reminded Choir should be told to watch Conductor.
(iii) Peter Morrison to arrive at about 5pm. J McElroy to meet him.
(iv) Committee discussed with N Middlemas movement of Choir during concert.
- Break-in:** Elemore Community Association broken into twice, and we had lost photocopier and electric lead to keyboard. Jack McElroy to look after keyboard at his home in immediate future, as Elemore had asked us to move it. Chairman suggested keyboard a liability, and could we not sell it and buy a smaller one. J Huggins reminded Committee we used to have a smaller keyboard which was not suitable. Conductor said more portable keyboards now much better, but we must ask Nancy first. J Huggins suggested keyboard would not be worth too much as there are so many on the market, and suggested we put it back in hall, and discuss with Elemore the possibility of buying some alarm system. Chairman wondered whether we could afford an alarm. Anyway, he suggested we thought about the matter, and had a further meeting. Secretary and Treasurer to investigate with Elemore any insurance for photocopier.
- Deputy:** No advertisement so far put in Echo as Clare Abrahams had been to two practices and looked promising as assistant pianist and conductor. Committee agreed she should be asked to choose two pieces from our library to become hers to conduct.
- 50th Anniversary:** Chairman reminded members we had spent a year looking for a suitable venue for Nov 1997, and had so far found nothing. We must look at as many places as possible, and asked all members to come up with ideas. W Jobling wondered whether we could really afford Judith Howarth. R Blackwell said only with much more effort from all choir members to sell tickets and advertise the concert.

City Hall:

Chairman asked Committee whether, with Conductor unavailable for some time this year, we should still try to go to NAC Choral Spectacular. Conductor suggested all the pieces were well-known, and only needed brushing up. Pat Coade suggested we must ask the Choir whether they really wanted to go. Chairman agreed to do this at next practice.

Next Meeting: 20/6/96

Meeting Ended: 8.37

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hawley', written in a cursive style.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Apr 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, J Huggins, P Coade.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Correspondence: (i) Letter from Hetton Town Council to inform they would be sending grant of £150 for 1996.

(ii) Letter from St Nicholas' Church Hetton to confirm church available for Annual Concert and Friday practice. Nancy has suggested church piano not good enough for Peter Morrison's accompanist. Committee agreed to approach Arthur to tune and give his opinion on piano, then to ask Nancy to look at it again.

Treasurer: Income £2276.18, including Current Acc £555.59 and B Prem Acc £1170.90. Expenditure £879.96, giving balance of £1396.22. 45 subscriptions now paid, leaving 6 outstanding. 22 patrons so far plus £13 donation. Sunderland City Council to pay no grants to voluntary organisations for 1996. Looking at trends over past years, treasurer warned things did not look so good for 1996.

Conductor: Harry reminded Committee of our need for an assistant conductor, and members discussed this for some time. They agreed Secretary to put advertisement in Sunderland Echo, also for deputy pianist. Harry gave Secretary list of four pieces of music and asked him to order one copy of each.

NAC: Each choir given posters for City Hall, and 20 tickets to sell; more available. Secretary informed we do have copies of massed item.

50th Venue: Chairman visited Hetton Leisure Centre but found it totally unsuitable. He also looked at Seaham Leisure Centre, which looked more hopeful. J Huggins questioned the accoustics, since we found it such a large building last time we sang there. Chairman invited other members to visit, and group to organise this.

Annual Program: Committee finalised programme for Annual Concert with Conductor.

Deputy Pianist: N Middlemas told Committee Edmund Jay is a music teacher in Sunderland, and he cannot become our full deputy, being unavailable for all practices, but would note dates of concerts, and help where he could.

AOB: (i) Secretary had received cheque for £250 from Northern Electric in support of our 50th year, in reply to letter from Chairman.

(ii) As requested by Chairman, Secretary had borrowed Attendance Register from N Scott. Committee looked at attendances this year so far. Chairman to appeal to members of choir for good attendance leading to Annual Concert, and to discuss the matter with anyone whose attendance had been particularly poor.

(iii) Chairman asked if we should appeal to Hetton Town Council for special grant for 50th anniversary. Committee agreed this should not be done immediately, but certainly should be considered later in year.

(iv) J Huggins suggested Secretary speak to Rita Grey again about hall heating coming on too late. Secretary agreed to do this.

Next Meeting: 16/5/96

Meeting Ended: 9.18

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 28 March 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: N Middlemas

Members: P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, J Huggins, P Coade.

Apologies: J Curtis, H Snowball, R Wood,

The date of the meeting was changed from March 21 because the Secretary was unavailable.

Committee first met with Walter Robinson to select a programme for the Annual Concert. Walter then departed. Secretary to produce printed copies for members to be given out at next practice

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: i) P Coade suggested Secretary might ask at NAC meetings for names of any people who might become Deputy-Conductor. N Middlemas informed him he had asked Ella Hughes, and she could not suggest anyone, and she knew two choirs at the time who did not even have a pianist.

ii) Secretary has now received a written invitation for the Choir to sing at St Andrew's Church, Blackhall on Nov 30, and has accepted the invitation.

Treasurer: Treasurer not present, but had given a written copy of his report to N Middlemas. Expenditure this year so far £660.50. Income £2178.15, including C Account £524.59, and B Prem Acc £970.90, giving balance of £1577.65.

Only 36 subs so far paid in. 19 Patrons so far given fee, as last year. Treasurer to write to previous Patrons to seek their support. Corporation Tax statement dealt with.

NAC: Secretary attended AGM at Neville's Cross on March 23. Nothing new to report. All going well for Choral Spectacular at Newcastle City Hall on 28 Sep. Secretary also stayed for Singing Day. He said it was very good, and he felt the rest of the Choir had missed a treat.

Annual Tickets: Pat Coade proposed £4 and £3 concessions, seconded by Secretary. J Huggins proposed £4 and £3.50 concessions, not seconded. Committee agreed £4 and £3.

Deputy Pianist: N Middlemas had spoken to Edmund Jay on the telephone. He had no experience of Male Voice Choirs, but said he would hate to see us with a problem with him around. He could not guarantee every practice, but asked to see some of our music. Committee agreed he sounded promising. Neville to give him some music to look at. R Blackwell reminded Committee they must still try to contact the young man Nancy had so far failed to get in touch with. All agreed we must consider all possibilities.

Next Meeting: April 18

Meeting Ended: 9.38

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 Feb 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, R Wood, P Rosser, R Blackwell, W Jobling, J Huggins, P Coade.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- (i) Secretary had obtained information about Judith Howarth and Versatile Brass and would put it on notice board.
 - (ii) Deputy Pianist: Ill health had prevented Les Henson from coming. N Middlemas is looking at other possibilities. Nancy may also have someone in mind, so Chairman to ask her before we contact anyone else.
 - (iii) Versatile Brass are prepared to perform at St Nicholas' Church.
 - (iv) Chairman had spoken to S Wroe of Shiney Row about possible joint concert, and W Jobling to Police Choir, and both showed interest.
 - (v) Assistant Conductor: P Coade reminded members we still need somebody. Possible people to approach were discussed, and Secretary will write to them in turn.
- Treasurer:** Richard had obtained all material from Bill Berry. Choir expenditure since Dec 1995 had been £591.90. Choir funds stood at about £2,000.
- Conductor:** Harry had produced list of new music he would like the Choir to purchase, but he did not have it with him.
- NAC:**
- (i) Choral Spectacular: Newcastle Arena will cost £7,500 plus VAT. Although it will seat 5,000, and be good to sing in, NAC reps decided this was too expensive, so Spectacular will be in City Hall. Choirs will wear own uniforms. Stan Burnicle has agreed to being compere. NAC will pay 50% of cost of choirs' coaches. Hartlepool Youth Choir may join the NAC, and they will then be invited to sing three songs on their own in first half.
 - (ii) A letter from NAC National Executive will be sent to choirs, copies to be given to all members, to tell them something about NAC.
- Concert Requests:**
- (i) We were invited verbally to sing at Humbledon Methodist Church on May 11, but this is the week before Annual Concert, so we cannot accept date.
 - (ii) Bryan Martindale has asked Secretary for dates to sing at St Andrew's Church, Blackhall. Secretary suggested Nov 30 which is St Andrew's Day, and hopes to receive written invitation soon.
- Ring-Round:** Secretary explained new ring-round system based on Committee to new members, and gave out new lists of numbers to all Committee, including full lists to Chairman and Treasurer.
- Derwentside:** Secretary now has details of Festival, and we do have test piece. However, when Choir agreed to go, majority in favour was very small, and attendance low, so Committee agreed to put to Choir again.
- Annual Date 1997:** Versatile Brass had offered three Saturdays in May. Committee agreed Annual Concert will be on May 17.
- 50th Venue:** No suitable venue had so far been found for Judith Howarth Concert. Chairman suggested Christchurch, Sunderland, but parking difficult. J Huggins put forward

Hetton Leisure Centre. P Coade suggested Monkwearmouth College, Shiney Row.
All venues to be considered and investigated.

AOB:

P Coade mentioned the importance of publicity, and Committee discussed possible ways of advertising Choir and concerts. To be considered further.

Next Meeting: 21.3.96

Meeting Ended: 9.05

*W. K. Middlemas
28.3.96*

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of special Committee Meeting held in Elemore Community Hall on 1 March 1996 at 7.30.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: P Rosser, N Middlemas, R Wood, R Blackwell, J Huggins, P Coade, W Jobling.

Conductor: Chairman first informed members that Harry would be unable to take the Choir until at least September due to his health. Walter Robinson was prepared to take over the Choir on a temporary basis until Harry was able to return. Chairman suggested we should accept his kind offer, and it was proposed by J Huggins, seconded by P Coade and carried unanimously. Committee will meet any expenses Walter might accrue in coming to conduct Choir.

Practice Night: Walter was unable to come to Friday night practices until after Easter. Chairman pointed out we had a concert on 23 March for which we needed to practice, and in any case we had to do all we could to keep the Choir together. Secretary had found out that the upper room next door was available on Monday nights only. Chairman proposed we change practice night to Monday until Walter was free on Friday. This was seconded by J Huggins and carried. Chairman to ask the Choir for their agreement.

Concert Program: Committee agreed they should choose program for Seaham concert on 23 March, and present it to Walter. This was done, and Secretary to have copies ready for members at next practice.

Versatile Brass: Secretary had heard from the Director that he had made a mistake when he had accepted our invitation for 17 May 1997, and they had already booked that night to perform elsewhere. He offered 10, 24 May instead and promised to keep these dates free until he heard from us. Committee agreed to accept 10 May.

Meeting Ended: 8.20

Choir Agreement: Chairman informed the Choir of the wishes of the Committee to change the Practice night to Monday for the next few weeks. Choir agreed, and a large number of members were able to attend.

*N Middlemas
28-3-96*

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 Jan 1996 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, W Berry, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy, R Blackwell, W Jobling.

Apologies: N Middlemas,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) Seaham Concert: No further decisions.
 - ii) Versatile Brass: C Buckley discovered theatre at New College, Durham holds up to 400 and will cost £11 per hour. J McElroy found Hetton School nice hall but only holds 200. Chairman to look further into Houghton Leisure.
 - iii) Secretary unable to obtain test piece for Ryton Festival as it is out of print. Committee agreed he should write to say we would not be taking part, and he has received cheque for £7.50 for return of entrance fee.
- Treasurer:** Balance Sheet drawn up. Income: Subs down slightly, Patrons' Fees down - Chairman to mention need for patronage to members, Grants also down, Concert Fees £458, well up on 1993 - 1994 much higher due to German visit.
- Expenses: Insurance up, now including transport of piano, Concert expenses well down on last year, new expense of Corporation Tax, £18.
- Current Account £555.59. B Premium Account £1170.90
- Conductor:** Ryton trophy returned. Numbers at practices a bit low since holiday. New music badly needed for 50th year. Chairman asked Harry to come to next Committee Meeting with suggested pieces.
- Concert Requests:** Letter from St Clare's church, Newton Aycliffe inviting Choir to sing on Saturday 12 October. Committee agreed Secretary write and accept invitation.
- Library Wallets:** R Jenner informed Secretary we badly need new music wallets, as some are in poor condition. He can get them at £7.46 per box of 50, or 200 at £6.47 per box. After discussing whether we really need to keep all our music, Committee agreed to buy as many wallets as the Librarians thought necessary.
- Letter Heads:** Secretary informed Committee we shall need new ones after the AGM. He can obtain fully printed copies by the 100 as required, or 500 blank copies, not including names and addresses of Officers, and type these in. Committee agreed extra cost of full letter heads worth it.
- Assistant Pianist:** W Berry invited to approach Les Henson as possible assistant pianist, and maybe conductor, and to sing in Choir. Les has agreed to come to several practices to see how he feels about the position.
- AOB:**
- i) R Blackwell suggested we must try to obtain publicity leaflets for Judith Howarth and the Versatile Brass. Secretary to deal with this.
 - ii) W Jobling asked whether Choir intends to sing at Derwentside Festival this year. Most thought not, but agreed Chairman put this to Members.
 - iii) Possible interest in joint concerts from Police Choir and Shiney Row. Chairman suggested the three choirs might put on a Wearside Spectacular. W Jobling to discuss with Police, and Secretary with Shiney.

iv) W Berry suggested a letter to churches we have performed in to inform them we have reduced our fee to £60. Committee agreed and Secretary to take in hand.

v) Chairman thanked retiring Committee Members, J McElroy and C Buckley for the time they had given to Committee.

Next Meeting: 15/2/96

Meeting Ended: 9.08

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hendry", is centered on the page.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 14 Dec 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy, W Jobling, Joan Cook (invited guest)

Apologies: H Snowball, W Berry, R Blackwell.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- i) Concert for Seaham Rotary confirmed in St Cuthbert's RC Church, New Seaham on 23 March at 7.30 pm. However, church has no piano, and Committee discussed taking keyboard, but suggested Secretary ask Bruce Burn to see if the Rotary Club could provide a piano or keyboard, as transporting our keyboard will be difficult.
- ii) Ryton 96: Choir has agreed to defend trophy, and Harry agrees to own choice being 'The Listeners'.
- iii) Choir leaflet: Secretary now has necessary information from Harry to produce new leaflet.
- iv) Chairman informed Committee cheque for £100 from Sunderland was from Hetton Town Council.

NAC:

- i) Secretary confirmed AGM to be at Neville's Cross on March 16 at 11 am, followed by hot lunch for £5. Then Choral Workshop led by Marilyn Davies 1-2.45. £1 registration fee to cover tea. Numbers requiring lunch to Secretary by 26 Jan.
- ii) Secretary also confirmed Choral Spectacular to be on 28 Sep in Newcastle, probably in the City Hall. Massed item to be 'Battle Hymn of the Republic'. Stan Bernicle to be invited to comper.

Joan Cook: Chairman reminded Committee Joan had been invited to discuss possible reforming of Ladies' Committee for 50th Anniversary, hopefully under Joan's leadership. N Middlemas informed Joan we were to have an Annual Concert in May, an Anniversary Concert in November, a possible joint concert with the Richardson Singers, and maybe some social events. Joan suggested she would produce a printed letter for members to give to their wives, inviting them to join in forming the Committee, to see what interest there was before looking further into possible activities. Committee thought this a good idea, and Joan will then hold the first ladies' meeting at a practice in the new year, possibly 16 Feb.

Annual 1997: James Shepherd Versatile Brass contacted by Secretary, and they have offered to appear on 3, 10, or 17 May for £800 plus £180 travelling expenses. Chairman suggested the other requirements in their letter means St Nick's Hetton will be unsuitable for concert. Secretary agreed, and he will not confirm booking until alternative venues had been investigated, and results reported back to next Committee Meeting.

AGM: Committee agreed Annual General Meeting of Choir to be on 9 Feb 1996.

AOB: N Middlemas informed Committee Bryan Martindale had asked if we had considered approaching Lottery for funds for music/uniforms. Secretary to investigate.

Next Meeting: 18.1.96

Meeting Ended: 8.52

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 25 Nov 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, W Berry, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy, R Blackwell, W Jobling.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) 50th Anniversary; Judith Howarth has agreed to sing on Friday 7 Nov 1997, the actual date the Choir was formed, for £2,000 plus VAT. Secretary to write and confirm booking.
 - ii) Charity Concert for Michael Groake on 17 February 1996.
 - iii) Joan Cook invited to attend, but was unable to do so due to illness, and is happy to come to next meeting.
- Treasurer:** No word from Richardson Singers about cost of bus. Still no contact from Hetton Town Council concerning grant for 1995. £100 received from Sunderland City Council; Chairman suggested we accept another concert if requested- all agreed.
- Current Acc: £502.30 B Premium Acc: £1,154.30
- Concert Requests:** Possible Concert for Seaham Rotary Club on 23 March 1996. No venue so far decided. Secretary waiting for details from Bruce Burn.
- L Lamb - Agent:** Agent who arranges bookings for entertainments has offered Lyndon to put the Choir on his list if he can have Choir particulars. Committee agreed. Secretary still requires information from Harry to produce new Advertising Leaflet. Committee gave him permission to write officially to Harry to request the information.
- Ryton 96:** If we are to defend trophy, Secretary must apply now. W Jobling suggested Choir not good enough to sing at festivals. R Blackwell moved we give Ryton a miss, seconded W Jobling. C Buckley moved we go and defend trophy, seconded N Middlemas. Chairman must put this to the Choir. Committee suggested that if we go, our own choice should again be 'The Listeners'.
- Annual 1997:** Secretary so far unable to locate the 'Versatile Brass'. but will try further. Chairman suggested we might invite the Richardson Singers to join us again, as in 1997 it would be our turn to go to Darlington.
- Copyright:** Session to look through music fell through. C Buckley suggested each Committee Member take home a few files. All agreed.
- AOB:**
- i) Ring-Round: Chairman to ask how it worked last Friday. Secretary away, and the one non-Committee Member on his list was not contacted. N Middlemas suggested Chairman and one other member should have a full list of numbers, as well as the Secretary.
 - ii) Assistant Pianist/Conductor: W Berry to see a Mr Les Henson who is a good pianist, singer and conductor. Secretary to write official letter if he shows an interest in the Choir.

Next Meeting: 14.12.95

Meeting Ended: 9.22

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 19 Oct 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: N Middlemas, W Berry, P Rosser, J McElroy, R Blackwell, W Jobling

Apologies: H Snowball, C Buckley

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters Arising:**
- i) Chairman informed Committee how much the audience at the last concert had enjoyed joining in the last number, and suggested we might consider repeating this at other concerts. Committee agreed in general, and decided to leave it to the next meeting for further discussion.
 - ii) Chairman thanked Secretary on behalf of the Choir for producing a programme sheet for the concert at such short notice.
 - iii) The brooch for Nancy was not available for the concert, but Chairman has now received it, and will present it to her before the Christmas break.
- Correspondence:**
- i) Hetton Town Council to present Choir with a donation of £100 for the Annual Concert which took place during their centenary celebrations.
 - ii) British Nuclear Fuels Ltd to possibly sponsor a new National MVC Championship starting in 1997. BNFL sent Choir a questionnaire which has been completed by the whole Committee on behalf of the Choir.
- Treasurer:** Current Account: £683.30 B Prem Account: £1154.30
- Bill to pay £139 for hall and lounge rental. He has no record of a grant from Hetton Town Council for 1995. He expressed concern for lack of income due to so few concerts.
- Concert Requests:**
- i) Christchurch, New Seaham have confirmed the invitation to the Choir to sing on Saturday Nov 25, and will happily meet our £60 fee.
 - ii) J McElroy informed Committee Rev Dick happy for us to use St Nick's for a charity concert for Michael Groake. Committee offered 17 or 24 Feb 1996.
- 50th Anniversary:** We must find soloists before too long. R Blackwell gave Secretary two more names to contact. Chairman suggested we invite a Ladies' Choir, especially the Richardsons, to join us for the 50th, as well as finding a soloist. Committee felt this a good idea, and agreed to keep it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Ladies' Committee** Joan Cook would be pleased to resurrect the Committee, and has all the Minutes Books etc from Lorna. Committee to invite Joan to next meeting to discuss the matter. Ladies' Committee needed especially for 50th Anniversary.
- Copyright:** Chairman and N Middlemas spent some time at last practice counting original copies in the first 20 folders. The whole library will take no little time, and all Committee Members invited to help in any way possible.
- Ex-Members:** W Jobling suggested we need a big push for membership before the 50th Anniversary, and thought it worthwhile writing to some ex-members again to invite them to rejoin Choir. Committee agreed, and Wilf gave Secretary addresses of four ex-members to start things off.

Next Meeting: 23.11.95

Meeting Ended: 9.37



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 June 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, P Rosser, C Buckley, R Blackwell. A Hood, invited guest

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: 1) Telephone Communications: Secretary informed Committee most members had put their name and telephone number on sheet placed on notice board.

ii) Tapes: Nearly all the tapes of the Annual Concert ordered from Arthur had been bought, and the secretary had paid Arthur all the money owing.

Treasurer not present.

NAC:

Secretary attended his first NAC meeting as choir rep.

1) Secretary: No-one could be found to replace Ella Hughes who had now done the job for five years. Assistant Secretary, John Kingston to become Minutes Secretary, and Ella prepared to stay on as Executive Secretary for another year.

ii) It is hoped to hold another choral workshop with the AGM in Neville's Cross, probably on March 16.

iii) Another massed choral event is planned for 1996, hopefully in Newcastle City Hall, possibly on September 28.

iv) We are approaching the 75th anniversary of the NAC, and choirs are invited to arrange any joint events to celebrate this in their own area.

Concert Requests: Sedgefield District Council have once again asked if we could sing for 30 - 45 minutes to entertain visitors from Rheinhausen in Spennymoor Town Hall on Wednesday October 18. We would be singing with the Town Band, and although they could not pay the choir, we would all get a free supper. Committee agreed this must be put to the members.

Choir Discipline: Several members had approached the Chairman to say that practices had been spoiled for them by lack of discipline. Committee discussed this for some time. R Blackwell proposed Chairman appeal to members about this problem. This was seconded by C Buckley, and all agreed.

Photocopier: Chairman proposed we dispose of the copier since it is not worth the cost of repair, and suggested we do not replace it. Committee 4 to 1 in agreement.

Choir Holiday: Committee agreed choir to finish on June 23, and restart on Sept 1.

AOB: R Blackwell suggested that having practised at Elemore, with a low ceiling, when we move to St Nicholas Church for a concert we feel out of place, and wondered whether we need more than one practice in the church. This led to a general discussion about the suitability of the church for concerts, but this led to no conclusions.

Next Meeting: 21 September.

Meeting Ended: 9.25

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 18 May 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, P Rosser, J McElroy, C Buckley, R Blackwell,
W Jopling, W Berry.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: i) Derwent Festival - Choir agreed to take part, and Secretary will apply before July 31, as required, when 'own choice' decided.
ii) Annual, 1996 - Secretary pleased to inform Committee Peter Morrison happy to appear at 1996 Annual Concert on May 18.
iii) 50th Anniversary - N Middlemas suggested we fix date as Nov 8, since Choir was founded on the 7th. Committee thought this a good idea, but Secretary pointed out that it may depend on availability of suitable soloist.
iv) Seaham - Chairman had been presented with £90 for VE Day concert which was rained off. Cllr Lockyer informed Secretary that as far as he is concerned we had appeared, and were welcome to keep the money. At Chairman's suggestion Secretary had offered a free concert at their convenience, and they will keep this in mind.

Treasurer: Expenditure for Annual Concert about £782. Income so far £480, plus £90 from Seaham.
R Blackwell informed Committee all tickets were not checked at door. This must be corrected next year. He also suggested we increase tickets to £5 and £4 concessions. Committee agreed to leave this for now.
Committee agreed to give church £60 as before.

Conductor: Harry far from happy with our performance at Annual Concert, and disappointed with Choir's efforts. A few members had let the Choir down by not concentrating on the Conductor enough. All members of Committee were equally disappointed. Harry said if this is as high a standard as some members expected, it was not good enough for him. However, he is now even more determined to improve the standard of our singing, as we have shown him we have the ability. This was his first Annual, and we must all learn from it.

Telephone

Communication: Chairman informed Committee that four people were not contacted when VE day concert was cancelled. This shows we need to update our ring-round system. Chairman first suggests Secretary put notice on board for all members to add their names and phone numbers, to check we have them all correct. All in agreement.

Tapes: Arthur informed Secretary his recording of the Annual Concert was of very good quality, and he had made a 90 minute tape containing most of the concert. He can produce copies for anyone who would like them. Committee agreed to offer copies to members at £3.

Annual: Chairman informed Committee the things he had bought to say 'thank you' to Stephen and the Accompanist had cost £28. Committee agreed this was a very nice gesture, and they would cover the cost. They also agreed to reimburse Nancy for the bouquet she had provided. R Blackwell asked the number of members at the Annual Concert. The Chairman believed there were 44 present.

AOB Secretary approached by several members to suggest that our fees were too high. C Buckley felt that £90 was not dear. J McElroy suggested concerts for half the takings. N Middlemas proposed reduction of fees to £60, since we now have less than 50 singers. This was seconded by R Blackwell, and carried.

Next Meeting: June 15

Meeting Ended: 9.14

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 20 Apr 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, W Berry, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy,
W Jopling, R Blackwell.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: 1. Ryhope - No keyboard provided, so Choir unable to take part.
2. Photocopier - J McElroy informed Committee that hospitals do not own their machines, so not in a position to sell them. Chairman proposed we sit on the matter for a while. Members agreed.
3. Derwent Festival - W Jopling informed Committee two or three second tenors not available. Chairman to ask Choir whether they still wish to take part.
4. NAC - Secretary happy to take over as REP.
5. Copyright - A Hood informed Chairman he is not yet well-enough prepared to guide the Committee on the matter. He will inform the Chairman when he is ready to attend meeting.

Correspondence: Secretary has received final programme for Seaham Peace Festival. We are to sing at 7.30 pm for 30 minutes, and are asked to join in a general finale of wartime songs at 8.15 pm.

Treasurer: He has received bills from D Smith's Coaches, £150, and Christer's printers, £23.80.
Month's income purely from subs. Five still unpaid. Committee discussed how to approach each member concerned.
He has received receipt for NAC membership.
Current Account: £787.63 Business Premium Account: £1137.28.

Conductor: Harry presented his proposed programme for the Annual Concert. Committee agreed it was to be left to the Conductor's choice. Only four pieces we really need to study, but we only have four practices left, so we need good attendances. Chairman also suggested we must rehearse movement of Choir on and off stage. All agreed.

Annual Concert: Secretary informed Committee tickets and posters ready, and programmes ordered, and to be delivered on May 9.
J McElroy requested that, because he was providing his piano, he might borrow the Choir keyboard. Committee agreed. He also asked whether the keyboard was insured for being moved, otherwise could we take out the necessary insurance, W Berry to investigate.
J McElroy also asked whether payment to the soloists could also cover cost of travel from London. Proposed W Jopling, seconded Secretary, and carried.
Committee discussed whether there should be any charge for programmes. Since they cost the Choir nothing, Chairman proposed they should be provided free of charge. Committee agreed.

50th Anniversary: R Blackwell asked the Committee whether we might consider two main concerts in 1997. An Annual Concert in May or early June, and an Anniversary Concert in November, the time when the Choir was actually founded. All in favour of this suggestion, and Committee asked the Secretary to contact possible soloists. Committee also agreed Secretary should approach Peter Morrison to be soloist for 1996 Annual Concert.

AOB: W Jopling asked about possible Assistant Pianists. Chairman informed him that no approaches had been made on this matter.

Next Meeting: May 18

Meeting ended: 9.20

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 16 March 1995 at 7.15 pm

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, N Middlemas, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy, W Jopling,
R Blackwell, W Berry.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) T Allen not available for Annual Concert in 1997.
(ii) Secretary had produced and distributed choir recruitment poster.
(iii) Sylvia Pursey thanked choir for offer of rostra, but will probably not now need them.
(iv) W Jopling still felt we may need electronic piano for some concerts. Chairman acknowledged his opinion.

Correspondence: Sylvia Pursey accepts our offer of a joint concert with the Richardson singers in St Nick's, Hutton on Saturday October 7.

Treasurer: This year so far, Income £505, Expenditure £606.
Current Account £792, Business Premium Account £1137.
Subs - Still 10 outstanding. NAC membership & Hall Rental etc paid.
~~Tomorrow last practice~~ for three weeks owing to concerts in Lyons Church and Sunderland Museum. Chairman suggested Members be asked for £1 to cover parking for the three weeks. Committee agreed.

Conductor: Conductor pleased with Choir's performance at Ryton in winning one trophy, and sure we should have won both.

NAC J Huggins hoping to stand down as Choir rep around Easter. Committee asked whether Secretary would consider the position. Phil to think it over.

Concert Requests: Secretary contacted concerning possible outdoor musical event at Ryhope Pumping Station on Saturday June 24 for charity, asking if Choir could offer about 1hr 20min. Secretary asked to obtain more information, eg time expected etc.

Soloists: Secretary informed Committee Peter Morrison prepared to sing in 1996 or 1997, fee £900. J McElroy felt we should still look for a big name for 50th. Suggestion Peter Morrison be booked for 1996, proposed: R Blackwell, Seconded: Secretary. W Jopling suggested secretary write to various performers, not only singers, asking for fee and availability for 1997, keeping Peter Morrison as a possibility for either date. Committee agreed.

Photocopier: J McElroy to come back later with information about hospital machines. Chairman informed Committee he and Neville had found new table-top machines to cost £400 - £700 approx. RaySettrey does most copying, so Chairman suggested he should be consulted. All in favour. In meantime D Kay offers St Gile's copier at 5p copy, 8p both sides.

Copyright: Having read booklet from NAC, Committee agreed to invite A Hood to next meeting to discuss.

Choir Leaflet: Now Harry is definitely Conductor, Committee agreed Secretary should arrange a new leaflet advertizing Choir, and have 100 copies printed to begin with.

AOB: (i) Conductor suggested Choir enter Derwentside Choral Festival in November. Committee agreed.
(ii) Secretary asked if tickets for Annual Concert should stay at £4, Concessions £3. Committee agreed.

Next Meeting: 20.4.95

Meeting Ended: 9.10

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on February 16 1995 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: J Curtis

Members: H Snowball, P Rosser, N Middlemas, J McElroy, W Jopling, R Blackwell

Apologies: C Buckley, W Berry

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: i) Secretary confirmed concert for Elemore Community Association in Lyons Church on Friday March 24. Also informed meeting that concert for Sunderland Council on Friday March 31 now in Museum.
(ii) Electric piano - Meeting agreed that it should not be necessary to transport to concerts, except perhaps on very special occasions which would be very infrequent.

Correspondence: Sylvia Pursey had asked Secretary about possibility of borrowing our staging for concert in May. Meeting agreed they could borrow it without charge, provided they accepted all responsibility for transporting it, and for any accidents through its use.
(ii) English Partnerships, formerly English Estates, not now able to support our Annual Concert financially.

Treasurer: Bill not present, but had informed Secretary - Income £241, from Subs and Patron's Fees, Expenditure £490.25, mainly honotaria.

NAC: Chairman informed meeting J Huggins to stand down as NAC rep, so need to replace soon.

Ryton Festival: Secretary informed meeting rehearsal room booked in Church for 7.45. Chairman said Choir must be there by 7.30.
List to go on board to ask how many members would use coach.

Photocopier: Chairman suggested new table-top machine possibly best answer, and he and Neville to look into prices. J McElroy said he could investigate possibility of secondhand hospital machine, possibly at no cost. W Jopling said this worth looking into. Meeting agreed all possible alternatives to be investigated, cost, insurance etc, for next meeting.

50th Anniversary: Secretary informed meeting he had written again to T Allen for update on situation, as he had so far made no definite offer. Meeting agreed T Allen, as our President, should be first choice as soloist, but that we must get things moving to get someone worthwhile. Secretary to write again to T Allen asking if he can offer any date from April to September.
Chairman said we owe it to ourselves to make the 50th really special. R Blackwell said we also owe it to our patrons. Therefore other possible soloists were discussed. The meeting also suggested various venues, and N Middlemas suggested making it a joint concert with eg Gibside or Richardson's Singers. J McElroy reminded meeting that soloist must be settled first, before any other decisions are made. Chairman suggested forming a sub-committee, but meeting agreed to leave things to the whole Committee at present. To be discussed further at next Committee Meeting

AOB: (i) Chairman suggested Choir needs re-seating, and this should be sooner than later. Conductor agreed, especially the Second Tenors. Choir needs to be more compact.
(ii) W Jopling suggested our biggest problem is still recruitment. Secretary and P Coade to produce posters for libraries etc. Secretary to write to some ex-members,

Next Meeting: 16.3.95

Meeting ended: 9.10

Jopling

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 26 January 1995 at 7.15

Chairman: D Kay

Members: H Snowball, P Rosser, W Berry, J Curtis (invited to attend)

Apologies: R Wood, J McElroy, C Buckley

With the agreement of those present, the Chairman had invited J Curtis to join the meeting to discuss matters, any decisions to be left to the first meeting of the new Committee.

The meeting first held a minute's silence in memory of M Huitson, who should have taken over as Chairman.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (i) Secretary had arranged with Sunderland Council to perform a concert in the Central Library on Friday March 31, but had so far received no reply from Elemore Community Association concerning similar concert in Lyons Church.
(ii) Secretary had received another letter from Cllr A Lockyer to say all was going well for Seaham Peace Festival on May 8.
(iii) J McElroy may be prepared to transport electric piano to and from concerts, but will require help in moving it. This must be discussed by new Committee, including lack of insurance cover.

Correspondence: Secretary had spoken with Sylvia Pursey about joint concert with Richardson Singers, and he is to write suggesting October 14, or October 7.

Treasurer: Bill presented financial statement to Committee. Patrons down by 53. He suggested this may have been due to increase in fee from £3 to £5, and advised no further increase this year. He suggested AGM should consider offering reduction in Annual Concert tickets to last year's patrons. Subs also somewhat down, due to loss of membership. Bill once again suggested no increase this year. Grants same as last year. Large increase in concert fees, but balanced by large out-payments for charities etc. He suggested the need for fund-raising, eg pens etc. Chairman thanked Bill on behalf of Committee for all his work.

Conductor: Harry expressed satisfaction with the way things were progressing at present.

Copier: Repairs to photocopier to cost £600. Having been asked by Chairman, R Settrely had investigated alternatives, and found a desk-top copier which would cost £450. Treasurer informed meeting present copier had already cost Choir about £500. To be discussed by new Committee.

Next Meeting: 16.3.95

Meeting ended: 8.59



LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 17 November 1994 at 7.15 pm

Chairman: D Kay

Members: H Snowball, P Rosser, W Berry, H Wood, C Buckley

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

- Matters arising:
- i) Chairman mentioned success of Pie & Pea Supper held for Arthur, and Committee expressed their thanks to Harold Hall for all the arrangements.
 - ii) Secretary to contact Sunderland Council to arrange a Friday evening in March 1995 for concert in City Library. Then to offer alternative Fridays in March or early April to Elemore Community association for concert offered by Choir, to be held in Lyons Church.
 - iii) C Buckley questioned amount paid for insurance for piano and sheet music. Treasurer had investigated, and had been informed that this was very reasonable for commercial premises.
- Correspondence: Choir had agreed to singing on Monday March 8 next year on Seaham Green. Secretary had contacted Councillor Lockyer and had received letter confirming.
- Treasurer: W Berry informed Committee rental charges for Elemore Hall had nearly doubled since last year. Committee agreed this and other matters concerning Choir finances to be discussed at AGM. Current account: £1030 Business Premium Account: £1127
- Conductor: Harry informed Committee he had contacted T Gibson of Houghton band, and had arranged two joint items for concert on 19 Nov.
- Attendance: Chairman informed Committee of members whose attendance this year had been well below the 60% expected. Secretary to write to three members.
- Pianos: Owing to the poor condition of pianos provided recently for for concerts, members had asked Chairman for Committee to discuss. Chairman asked:
- i) Whose responsibility ought it to be to check pianos before concerts? Committee agreed Nancy best, if possible.
 - ii) Is there anyone in the Choir who has a suitable vehicle, and who is prepared to transport electronic piano to concerts, and return it to Elemore afterwards? Committee agreed this must be looked into.
- Harry suggested that when we sing at churches especially we should accept what we find, so long as it is in tune. He also warned Committee that we cannot really afford to refuse bookings if they do not have what we might consider suitable, and cannot afford to provide it. However, Committee agreed that, in future, when we first accept bookings, Secretary should then point out our need for a decent piano. However, it would appear that we do need to find a means of transporting the electronic keyboard.
- AGM: Committee agreed AGM to be held on Friday 27 January 1995 at 7.15. Chairman also suggested moving Committee Meeting to 26 January to give Bill more time to arrange finances. Committee agreed.
- Next meeting: 26.1.95 ~~AGM~~ Meeting ended: 9.28

Don. Kay.
Hon. Chairman.
26/1/95.

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 20 October 1994 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: D Kay

Members: M Huitson, P Rosser, C Buckley, R Wood, J McElroy, W Berry (arrived late)

Apologies: H Snowball

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: Pie and pea supper for Arthur to be held on Saturday October 22.
About 100 people expected.

Correspondence: Letter from Elemore Community Association to thank Choir for offering a concert in aid of Association funds. They suggest a Friday evening, ask for dates and say they will book Lyons Church. Chairman thought Friday a good idea, and suggested March 1995. Date to be decided later.

Treasurer: Total collected for Arthur now £142. Insurance through, total £123.19. Current Account £1006. Business Premium Account £1127. 1 Sub still outstanding.

Conductor not present.

NAC report: Report from meeting held 17 September:
Annual Meeting 1995 to be held on March 18. Speaker J Pumphrey. Also performance by Hartlepool Youth Choir. Ideas requested for combined concert in 1996.

Concert requests: W Berry approached by Sunderland Council concerning concert we owe them and suggest March 1995. Committee agreed Bill to ask whether a Friday evening possible. Concert to be held in Sunderland Library.

Singing in clubs: After the poor conditions in S Hetton Club on 6 October, R Gibson suggested Committee should discuss whether such invitations are suitable for Choir, and R Settreay reminded Choir that in the past Committee had agreed not to accept such bookings. However, Committee now agreed we should, in principle, accept any invitation to sing, but must, in future, check the circumstances more carefully. Chairman to put this to Choir.

AOB: (i) J Huggins approached by Sylvia Pursey of Richardson Singers about possible joint concert in Hetton in 1995. Committee agreed contact with Richardson Singers to be encouraged. Secretary to give Sylvia Harry's phone number.
(ii) Choir from Windhoven intend to visit Britain in 1996 for their 125th anniversary, and wonder whether we could give them accommodation. Secretary to write to say we are too small a choir to accommodate such a large number, but if they can arrange a visit we would be interested in trying to organise some joint concert.

Next meeting: 17.11.94

Meeting ended: 8.30

D. Kay
Hon. Chairman
17/11/94

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 15 September 1994 at 7.15.

Chairman: D Kay

Members: M Huitson, H Snowball, W Berry, P Rosser, C Buckley, J McElroy

Apologies: R Wood

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (i) 1995 National Male Voice Championship at Huddersfield cancelled due to lack of support from choirs.
(ii) Concert with Houghton Brass in Kepier School on 19 November now confirmed. Fee £90.
(iii) Singing for one hour in S Hetton Club on Thursday 6 October now also confirmed. Fee £60.

Correspondence: Letter from Dick Barrass to tender his resignation from Choir. Secretary has already replied. Dick and his wife wish to remain as Choir Patrons.

Treasurer: Current Account £1214, including £137 collected for Arthur. Business Premium Account £1129. Two subs still outstanding. One promised on Friday.

Conductor: Harry unavailable for practice on 30.9.94. Kit to be asked if prepared to take practice. Harry asked what dress expected of Conductor at concerts. Chairman suggested evening suit for now; Choir would eventually purchase suitable jacket for Harry as contrast to Choir Uniform. Committee agreed. Harry reminded Committee of our need to find more Tenors. Letter sent by Secretary to ex-members has so far had no replies. J McElroy suggested the need for a big Recruitment Drive. Piece about Choir has been appearing in local press, but Harry emphasised the real need for personal contact.

Concert requests: Major celebration being organised to take place in Seaham on Monday 8 May next year for 50th anniversary of VE Day, including open-air musical event. Lyons have been invited to appear as the highlight of the day. Secretary to contact Cllr Alan Lockyer to ask if we can appear at 7.30 pm. Then to be put to Choir

Annual 1995: Stephen McElroy has written to confirm that he is available to appear as soloist for Annual Concert on 13.5.95. He also refers to a soprano, Amanda Boyd, who would be delighted to appear as well, but cannot confirm at present. Stephen to write to confirm on her behalf.

Arthur's gift: Arthur has requested a printer for his computer. Chairman suggested we present him with a cheque. Committee agreed. Committee also agreed to give £20 for a bouquet for Lorna. Arthur does not want a public presentation, but has suggested a Pie & Pea Supper. Committee agreed on a Saturday evening sometime soon.

Next Meeting: 20.10.94

Meeting ended: 9.01

D. Kay,
Hon. Chairman.
20/10/94

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 21 July 1994 at 7.15 pm

Chairman: D Kay
Members: H Snowball, M Huitson, P Rosser, R Wood, C Buckley, J McIlroy
Apologies: W Berry

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Rita Grey contacted by Secretary. She informed him that the payment to Performing Rights Society does not apply to the Lyons since we do not perform in the hall, but only practice.
(ii) With regard to the donation we normally send to Elemore Community Association along with our Affiliation Fee, the Chairman suggested we offer to perform a free concert as a fund-raising activity instead. This was moved by M Huitson, seconded and agreed by Committee. Secretary to write.

Correspondence: (i) Letter from Huddersfield to inform Choir that National Championships will take place again on May 6 1995, and asking us whether we wished to be considered for an invitation to take part. Conductor expressed an interest, if the choir would give full support. C Buckley moved that this be put to Choir, and expressed his belief that competitions were important, to encourage a choir to give of its best. Committee agreed.
(ii) Letter from John Price asking for information about Lyons in connection with article about Houghton Feast. Secretary to pass this on to Publicity Officer.

Treasurer: Treasurer not present, but had given details to Chairman.
Cash in Hand: £35.51, Current Account: £1556.38,
Business Account: £1106.01. Choir funds owed 200 Club about £670. Therefore total assets about £2000.

Collection for Arthur: Total so far collected £122. Committee agreed final total to be increased to £150 from Choir Funds.

Conductor: Harry expressed need for more regularly attending members. Secretary already sending letters to members who have left the Choir, and who might consider returning. Committee agreed with Conductor that present members are showing a resurgence of enthusiasm.

Concert Requests: (i) Letter from Sunderland Osteoporosis Group inviting Choir to give Charity Concert on Saturday December 3 at Cherry Knowle Hospital. Committee agreed, but Harry not sure if available. J Mollroy suggested we take up Arthur's offer of conducting the Lyons again, if necessary.
(ii) S Hetton Labour Party had phoned Secretary to ask if we could sing for about an hour on Thursday October 6 to entertain German visitors. Committee agreed to put this to Choir.

Deputy Pianist: David Skinner has agreed to help out at practices only, and will be helped by S Snowball. Conductor agreed.

Leaflets: Committee agreed we shall need new advertising leaflets for Choir, and they should be professionally produced, but that now is not a suitable time to produce them.

AOB: Members had suggested the need for Line Marshals at concerts. Chairman had obtained two volunteers for each section of Choir. M Huitson suggested such over-regimentation not really necessary. However Chairman suggested that we line the Choir up at a practice and see how marshals would work. R Wood agreed this worth a try.

Next Meeting: 15.9.94

Don Kay
Hon. Chairman Meeting ended: 8.28
15/9/94

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 16 June 1994 at 7.15 pm

Chairman: D Kay
Members: A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, R Wood, C Buckley

Apologies: J McIlroy, H Snowball, M Huitson

Correspondence: Letter of Resignation from D Brown, due to pressures of work;
Secretary to write to thank him for all he had done for the choir,
and to invite him to return at any time.

Two letters from Elemore Community Association:

(1) To inform the choir that they could no longer afford to pay a lump sum to the Performing Rights Society, but that performers who use the hall will have to share the cost. Committee wondered whether this applied to the Lyons since we do not give concerts but only use the hall for practices. Secretary to speak to Rita Grey about the matter.

(11) To invite the choir to arrange fund-raising events.

Treasurer: He informed the Committee that the final total collected for the concert with the Ever Ready Band was £495.50. The agreed 60:40 split meant £297.30 for the Band, and £198.20 for the Lyons. He had sent the money to the Band, but had so far received no acknowledgement.

The Elemore Community Association had so far received no Affiliation Fee from the Lyons for 1993 Or 1994 (£10 & £15). Jack Huggins had informed Bill that we usually give a lot more than this (£50)? The Chairman suggested we pay the £25 and £50 donation. Conductor moved we pay the £25, but leave any donation till the next meeting, as had been suggested by C Buckley. Committee agreed.

Conductor: Dr Corner of the Children's Society had asked Arthur to arrange any platform needed in the Town Hall. There is a reasonable piano, and Nancy will go there to try it out, if possible. In St Nicholas', Hetton we will use their piano, and Arthur will check it over. There is no decent piano in vane Tempest Club, Arthur to investigate if necessary.

German visit: Wednesday Buffet. Now free to Germans and choir members and wives. Choir funds to pay. Committee wondered about non-choir members who were putting up Germans. Conductor moved it should be a free night for all. Committee agreed. Chairman to put it to Jack that this will probably be a small number, so all free.

Tickets: German wives obviously to receive free tickets to both concerts. Committee agreed choir funds should pay the Children's Society for these tickets for Monday's concert.

Next Meeting: 21.7.94

Meeting ended: 9.10

D. Kay
Hon. Chairman
21/7/94

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elenore Welfare Hall on 19th May 1994 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman : D Kay

Members: A Kay, W Berry, P Hosser, R Wood, C Muckley, J McIlroy.

Apologies: H Snowball.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (i) Letter from Ann Dinn accepting invitation to act as interpreter during German visit, but unavailable during day on June 21, 22.

(ii) Conductor does not wish to hold a farewell concert.

Correspondence: (i) Letter from Frank Williams offering his resignation from choir as other commitments prevent his regular attendance.

(ii) Letter from Sunderland Osteoporosis Group concerning autumn charity concert, November or early December suitable. They will contact us later with possible dates.

Treasurer: Concert with Ever Ready - He gave details of income and expenditure. Profit about £500. He moved cost for pianist to replace Nancy come from the Choir's share. Committee agreed. It was mentioned that R Blackwell had commented that band deserved more than half profit. A 60:40 split in favour of band was put forward. Committee agreed. J McIlroy moved Chairman put this to Choir members at next practice. Committee agreed.

Treasurer informed Committee income from Subs now £500. Not many outstanding. Chairman invited Bill to contact members personally. All other income somewhat less than last year. Current Account: £199.94 Business Premium Account: £2106

Conductor: Arthur gave members copy of repertoire for German visit. He still had Rhythm Machine, which is Choir property. H Snowball to be asked if he wishes to keep it. He also asked about his uniform jacket. Chairman moved to let Arthur keep it. Committee agreed. Arthur offered to take the concert on June 27 in St John's Church Ashbrooke before leaving.

German Visit: Jack and Neville held another meeting. All Germans now placed bar one. Wednesday night - 200 Club or Choir funds now to pay for buffet for all wives, German or Lyons.

AOB: Soloists for 1995 Annual Concert : Chairman informed Committee Stephen McIlroy would appear himself, with a soprano and accompanist, for £500, but would wish to use his father's piano. Jack agreed to meet costs of moving his piano. Secretary to give letter to Jack to take to Stephen inviting him officially.

Next Meeting: 16.6.94

Meeting ended: 9.20

D. Kay,
Apr. Chairman
16/6/94,
✓

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 21 April 1994 at 7.15 pm

Chairman: D Kay

Members: A Kay, M Huitson, P Rosser, H Snowball, R Wood, C Buckley, J McIlroy.

Apologies: W Berry

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved, and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Not enough members interested in making trip to Newbiggin a day out. Coach booked for concert at £2 a head.
(ii) Secretary had reminded Don Smith's in writing that they had still not sent bills for the two coaches booked in 1993.

Treasurer: Not present.

Conductor: Music to be performed by Ever Ready Band has arrived, Conductor to produce full programme of all items by Choir and Band. He suggested no charge for programmes, but plate to be placed for donations. Committee agreed. Arthur mentioned all problems of arranging Choir and Band in church. Committee discussed them, and agreed need to contact band to arrange meeting. Arthur once again reminded committee of poor tenor attendances at recent practices.

German Visit: Chairman further informed Committee of arrangements, including cost of visits. Committee accepted suggestions. Typed copy of events and times to be produced for members. M Huitson mentioned possibility of a meeting on Saturday June 18 for Choirs and Sedgfield Council in Hetton. Committee suggested this might be arranged at lunchtime, followed immediately by practice for evening concert.

AOB (i) Secretary reminded Committee of promise of a letter to Anne Dunn to invite her officially to act as German Interpreter. Committee invited Secretary to do this immediately.
(ii) Chairman asked Conductor if he would like some kind of fairwell concert after he finished. Arthur said he was not really keen on such a concert. Chairman invited him to think it over.

Next Meeting: 19.5.94

Meeting Ended: 8.40

D. Kay,
Hon. Chairman
19/5/94

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 17 March 1994 at 7.15 pm

Chairman: D Kay

Members: A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, H Snowball, M Huitson, R Wood, G Jones,
C Buckley, J McIlroy.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Secretary informed Committee he had received patron's fee of £150 from Hetton Town Council.
(ii) A member of Elemore Community Association told Nancy Gibson that they were delighted to receive our letter of thanks for hall improvements.
(iii) As suggested by Committee, J McIlroy asked his son if he was prepared to consider being soloist for the 1995 Annual Concert. He said he was keen to do this, and could bring another soloist and accompanist.

Treasurer: About 25% of subscriptions still outstanding. Still no invoice from D Smith's for the two coaches used last year. Committee agreed Treasurer should settle the account before end of financial year. Rent for Elemore Hall up to date.

Conductor: A Kay announced that, for various reasons, he intended to resign as Conductor after the German visit in June. However, he was prepared to continue for more of this year, if needed, and would be available to take the occasional concert in future if we were short of a conductor. Members expressed their sadness at this news, and said how much they had enjoyed singing for Arthur. Chairman to announce this to the choir on Friday March 18. H Snowball said he was prepared to take over as conductor from October, if the Choir accepted him.

Newbiggin: G Jones had considered the possibility of making the trip to St Andrew's Methodist Church, Newbiggin a day out. He suggested three places to visit, including Newbiggin, at a maximum cost of £5 per head. Treasurer suggested cost of coach should come from choir funds, reducing the charge to £2 per head. G Jones to put this to Choir on Friday March 25.

German Visit: Chairman informed committee of final arrangements, and these were discussed by members. Conductor suggested all cost for trip to Granada Studios should come from Choir funds. Committee agreed. Practice for Saturday concert would now be at 6 pm, before concert. Combined pieces confirmed as 'Soldiers' Chorus' and 'Morte Criste'.

AOB G Jones said that on one week when there were fewer members at practice, there seemed to be a much better balance. He suggested we could enter B Competitions with smaller numbers, and use different pools of singers for each competition. This was to be discussed by Committee under new Conductor.

Next Meeting: 21.4.94

Meeting ended 9:25

D. Kay,
Chairman.
21/4/94,

Chairman: D Kay

Members: A Kay, P Rosser, M Huitson, R Wood, G Jones, C Buckley, J McIlroy.

Apologies: W Berry

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as true record.

Matters arising: (i) Secretary had agreed provisionally with Ever Ready Band to hold joint concert in St Nicholas Church, Hetton on May 7. Waiting for confirmation of availability of church from Rev Dick. Secretary to inform band we would like to finish each half with joint item, suggesting Soldiers' Chorus from Faust and Morte Criste, and asking for any other ideas. Chairman suggested price of ticket set at £2.50 with £2 concessions. Committee agreed.

(ii) Letter received from Shiney Row MVC to thank us for our interest, but that they now had two applicants for post of conductor, so there should be no advantage in discussing amalgamation. Shiney Row members in favour of joint concert with Lyons, but this would depend upon their new conductor.

Correspondence: (i) Letter of thanks from Gibside Singers for concert in December at Brunswick St, and to inform choir that profit of £500 to be split between 'Listening Post' and the Samaritans. (ii) Letter from Hetton Town Council to confirm they would be pleased to continue as choir patrons, and donation to be forwarded in next four weeks. (iii) Secretary to write to Elemore Community Association to thank them for hall redecoration. It is now really a pleasure to practice there.

Treasurer: Treasurer not available, but informed Chairman no change in circumstances.

Conductor: Choir to work on unaccompanied pieces in next few months. Chairman suggested we should concentrate on learning about six pieces really well. Conductor agreed.

NAC: Numbers and money required for members attending Neville's Cross on March 19. Form of Membership Renewal to be sent in by treasurer.

Concert Requests: J McIlroy had letter from Sunderland Health Authority Dept. of Rheumatology asking for possible concert on Sunday Oct 9. to raise funds for bone mineral DEXA machine. Secretary to reply asking about possibility of another date as we already have two concerts in October, and Sunday not easy for many members. November to be suggested.

German Visit: Chairman informed Committee of arranged programme. J McIlroy asked whether anything had been arranged for free evenings. Conductor informed him Ladies' Committee were considering local party for Hetton area. Other areas, eg Durham might arrange something similar. Conductor suggested we need practice before first concert on Sat 18 and mentioned 2 pm in St Nick's on the Saturday. Committee agreed.

AOB: (i) Secretary informed committee that we soon need to book coach for concert in Newbiggin on April 23. He asked if we were to make a day of it, or just arrive for concert. He is first to obtain quotes from D Smiths for 50-seater. (ii) Secretary also informed Committee we soon need to consider soloists for 1995 Annual Concert. Conductor suggested date as May 13, or possibly May 6. (iii) Chairman gave warm welcome to new Committee Members C Buckley and J McIlroy.

D. Kay
17/3/94
Hon. Chairman
Next meeting: 17.3.94

Meeting ended: 8.56

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on Jan 20 1994 at 7.15 pm.

Chairman: D Kay.

Members: A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, J Whitfield, R Wood, G Jones.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: Secretary informed the committee he had received a letter from Thomas Allen to say that he was happy, in principle, to do something for our 50th year in 1997, but that he was already very busy. Secretary to write suggesting dates in May and June and to ask him, if the concert were in support of some charity of his choosing, would he be prepared to appear for expenses.

Correspondence: (i) Letter from caretaker to apologise for heating as one boiler not working. When repaired, heating to be switched on one hour earlier.

(ii) Letter from Hetton Town Council to inform choir final total collected at charity concert £350, and to ask if we were prepared to share in a similar concert in early december 1994 with Hetton Silver Band. Committee agreed, secretary to write.

Treasurer: Choir accounts complete and checked by auditors. Treasurer presented copies to committee.

Annual Subscription: Committee recommended they should remain the same. proposed Treasurer, seconded R Wood.

Conductor: Conductor does not foresee buying much music in near future. He again emphasized the need for a deputy conductor. He will be absent for fridays July 1 & 8. AGM to consider whether to have any kind of practice on these dates.

NAC choral day at Neville's Cross on March 19.

Concert Requests: Treasurer informed committee Ever Ready Band interested in joint concert with Lyons. Secretary to write offering dates in May 1994.

Amalgamation: Secretary to write to Shiney Row Male Voice Choir to suggest meeting of choir officials to discuss whether there is any possibility of some form of amalgamation. Also to suggest some joint event(s).

Next Meeting: 17.2.94

Meeting closed: 9.40.

D. Kay
Hon. Chairman.
17/2/94.

Chairman. D Kay

Members. A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, J Whitfield, R Wood, M Huitson.

Apologies. None

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (1) Secretary informed committee he had received a letter from the Save the Children Fund accepting our offer of a 50/50 concert with the Germans in St Nicholas' Church, Hetton on Saturday June 18 1994.

(ii) Committee decided to set value of photocopier for insurance at £2,000.

Correspondence: (1) Secretary had received letter from Newbiggin confirming the booking of the choir for concert at St Andrew's Methodist Church on April 23 1994.

(ii) Vernon Midgeley had called secretary to offer Maryetta and himself with accompanist for £800. Committee to keep this in mind.

(iii) Secretary read out letter from J Whitfield jr. offering his resignation from the choir. He had already replied.

Treasurer: Choir assets now stand at £2773.

Annual Concert - not all ticket money in yet. Chairman to remind members. Committee agreed to send £60 to St Nicholas Church, Hetton. Proposed M Huitson, seconded P Rosser.

Conductor: Photocopier - repair people out 4 times already at £45 + VAT per hour. However, photocopier should soon have paid for itself. Servicing Contract not available for machine in present state.

Choir now very short of soloists, particularly Tenors.

Letter from Gibside Singers - Rehearsal on Saturday afternoon now at 4 O'clock. Committee agreed to organise coach for concert in Newcastle on Dec 4 at £3 each.

Deputy Conductor: To replace Peter Crawford. Paul Dewhurst approached by conductor. He might be interested although Fridays impossible at present. Committee encouraged to keep eyes and ears open.

German trip: Chairman, Jack and Nevill held second meeting to decide possible timetable of events, including Sunderland Glass Trail, and day-trip to Granada Studios, Manchester.

N Middlemass not keen to restart 200 club, and does not feel we need the money.

Secretary to put list of members on board asking for numbers of Germans each can host.

Soloists: Committee decided not to hold an Annual Concert in October 1994 but to return to May in 1995. Secretary informed Committee that he had written to Thomas Allen via his Agent asking if he had any dates free in 1997 for our 50th year.

Rule change: Since the choir can not provide 10 members for Committee, conductor proposed Quorum needed for Committee business to be conducted be reduced from FIVE to FOUR. Committee agreed. Notice to be placed on board.

Next meeting to be held on January 20th. Meeting closed at 9.35

△ Kay.
Hon. Chairman
20/1/94.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Elemore Welfare Hall on Sept 23 1993 at 7.15pm

Chairman : D Kay

members. A Kay, P Rosser, G Jones, M Huitsen

Apologies. R Wood, W Berry, J Whitfield, P Crawford.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (1) B Hadfield offered his resignation from the committee as he finds it difficult to attend meetings. Committee accepted.

(11) G Jones had been approached by committee to become a full member. He accepted.

Correspondence: (1) Secretary informed committee that he had now obtained written confirmation of joint concert with Seaham Band in Peterlee Leisure Centre.

(11) Secretary also had proofs for the Annual Programme should anyone wish to look over them.

(111) Conductor informed committee that he had heard from Gibside Singers that the concert on December 4 will now take place in Brunswick Methodist Church, Newcastle.

(14) Chairman informed committee that he had received a letter of resignation from the choir from Peter Crawford as he was forced to leave the area. Secretary to send reply expressing our thanks for all Peter has done as singer, soloist, assistant conductor and accompanist, and inviting him at any time in the future to sing with us again. Chairman to read letter to members and to invite them to show their appreciation in any way they feel suitable. Conductor pointed out that this was a special case because Peter had given the choir so much, and will be sorely missed.

Treasurer: Treasure not present. Choir agreed that we could do with more funds. N Middlemass to be asked to restart the 200 Club.

Conductor/NAC: Conductor informed committee that the music for Cathedral 900 was coming along well. J Huggins had reported from NAC that all was arranged, although there may be some parking difficulties since Palace Green not available.

Concert Requests: Letter from Houghton/Hetton branch of Save the Children Fund requesting concert in May 1994 at Hetton Church to celebrate their 75th anniversary. Committee felt this not really suitable as we are already giving two concerts in St Nicholas' church next year. Conductor moved that we offer the joint concert with the Germans on June 18 and split the proceeds 50:50. Committee agreed.

Photocopier: Insurance cover needed. W Berry to obtain quotations from Insurance Companies. Servicing Contract - Conductor suggested this may be an unnecessary expense considering the amount of use the machine will get. Committee agreed more opinions should be gathered before taking action.

Annual Concert 1994: Secretary reminded committee that it is the time we normally look for a soloist. Conductor suggested the members should be asked for suggestions. G Jones suggested we also ask members for ideas for the 50th Annual Concert in 1997. Committee agreed a sheet to be put on the notice board asking for names for both concerts. Committee agreed no provisional date could be given for 1994 at present.

Next meeting to be held on October 21. Meeting ended at 9.08.

D. Kay 18/10/93
Chairman

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Elemore Welfare Hall on May 27, 1993 at 7.15 pm

Chairman. D Kay

Members. A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, P Crawford, J Whitfield.

Apologies from R Wood.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising: (i) Questionnaire - Committee agreed there should be further discussion at next meeting when, hopefully, more members would be present.

(ii) Conductor informed committee that Dick Barrass had suffered a heart attack. Sick visitors to be notified.

Correspondence: Letter from Gibside Singers re joint concert at Winlaton on Dec 4. Concert to begin at 7, tickets £2, no concessions. Title 'Music for Christmas.'

Treasurer: Unpaid subs now only 3. Patrons now 38.
£700 transferred from Current Account to Business Premium Acc.
C/ac now £710.10 Business Premium Ac now £2063.21.

Conductor: Conductor informed Committee of details of Tom Young's funeral and moved we send a donation of £15 in lieu of flowers. Committee agreed.

NAC: Cathedral 900 - Only 700 seats for audience at £6 per head.

AOB: Conductor moved we appeal to choir for another member of committee, or maybe two, since B Hadfield had so far failed to attend one meeting.

Next meeting to be held on June 17.

Meeting ended at 8.39.

D. Kay
Hon Chairman,
23/5/93

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Elemore W Hall, Apr 29 1993 at 7.15 pm

Chairman D Kay

Members. A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, R Wood, M Huitson

Apologies from J Whitfield, P Crawford.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (1) Williams - Secretary spoke with Mr Dorman, and he will pay him a visit to make final arrangements.
(ii) Bowburn concert - Sid Snowball cannot rebook hall for another date. Conductor to ask Bob Wilson if his wife's trio of singers can join us, otherwise we do concert on our own.

Correspondence: Dick Barrass has asked if he can miss practices until september. He cannot sing at the Cathedral anyway, so committee agreed

Invitation to attend Derwentside Festival at Stanley, 6 Nov. Committee considered not suitable.

Treasurer: 7 Subs still not paid. Committee checked names against attendance record. Most showed poor attendance. Treasurer to see members personally.
Patrons now 37, compared with 39 for 1992.
Committee agreed to pay St Nicholas Church, Hetton £10 for the two practices for Newcastle.
Business Premium Account at £1363.21
Current Account at £1290. 10
Someone asked if we need so much in Current Account.
Treasurer to look into this.

Conductor: Despite result, conductor felt Newcastle Festival good for choir, because of having to learn pieces.
Conductor also felt the choir needs practice on September 3 if suitable conductor can be found.

NAC Marshall concerned about problem of moving singers around cathedral, and will want numbers of singers attending as soon as possible.
John Rutter's music not available until September. Chairman insisted choir must have all other pieces off well, before summer break.

Annual Concert Tickets: Committee agreed to keep price at £4 each.

Future of Choir: Chairman asked whether we are still able to be competitive particularly with so few tenors. Amalgamation with another choir has been suggested. Conductor said this would have to be considered over a long period of time, e.g. 3 years.
Chairman suggested a questionnaire to be put to members to find out which members wanted it to remain a competitive choir, and which members would leave if the choir ceased to enter competitions. Committee agreed chairman should inform choir that the next Committee Meeting will consider producing suitable forms.

CarMoney: Takings have been going down recently. At practices a reminder to pay, and other important notices to be given before the break.

Next meeting to be held on May 27

Meeting ended at 9.45.

D. Kay
Chairman *D* 27/5/93

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Elemore W Hall Mar 18th 1993 at 7.15

Chairman. D Kay

Members. A Kay, W Berry, P Rosser, J Whitfield, R Wood, M Huitson

Apologies from P Crawford.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: (i) Letter of resignation from D Race due to ill health. Sick visitor called and jacket and music returned.

(ii) Letter from St John's, Meadowfield to apologise that they would have to cancel as they could not meet our fee for a fund-raising activity. Secretary to offer to perform concert for half the takings.

(iii) Charity concert for Hetton Town Council agreed for 20th November. Hetton Council to seek other performer to share evening.

(iv) Still no news from Williams of Darlington.

Correspondence: Rev Dick happy to carry out duties asked for Annual Concert.

Mayor and Mayoress of Sunderland delighted to attend Annual concert.

Treasurer.

Income now £804, leaving balance of £766.90.

16 subs still owed. Patrons now 27, not too bad but less than last year, and more would still be helpful

Form for Grant Aid arrived. Treasurer in process of completing. Committee suggested we claim for increased grant this year. £250 mentioned.

Conductor:

Organiser for Newcastle Festival has requested a loan of the choir's rostra for City Hall. Lyndon Lamb to be asked if prepared to transport them.

Bowburn:

Cathedral School unable to take part on June 12th, and has received nothing in writing concerning the charity concert. They suggest June 19th, but this is really too close to the concert at St Clare's, Aycliffe on the 26th. Conductor and secretary to contact Sid Snowball about this when he returns.

AOB:

Secretary to seek possibility of printed self-adhesive strips to cover names and addresses on old letterheads as he has 500 of them. Committee suggest letters may be left blank in future and names and addresses of officers always added on such strips.

Next meeting to be held on April 29

Meeting ended at 9.10.

D. Kay.
Chairman. 29/4/93.

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore W Hall Feb. 18th 1993 at 7.15

Chairman. D Kay

Members. A Kay, P Crawford, W Berry, P Rosser, J Whitfield, R Wood

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising : (i) Folders; Chairman to enquire whether Bob can purchase as before.
(ii) Still no news from Williams of Darlington.
(iii) Conductor to take letter from St Clare's church re a visit.

Correspondence: Letter from Hetton Town Council to confirm Councillor Mrs J and R Heron delighted to accept invitation to attend annual concert. Secretary to send two celebrity tickets a fortnight before.

NAC membership renewal form to be returned with subscription.

Letter from Folkworks with leaflet re visit of Northern Harmony to NE, including a song weekend at All Saints, Newcastle. Letter expresses hope that members will be interested in taking part. Letter to be placed on notice board.

Treasurer: Subs and Patrons' Fees so far total £437, leaving account £646 in credit.

Expenses total £15.50, on incidentals.

Only 22 patrons have replied so far, and more still needed.

Chairman to mention this again to choir at next practice.

Conductor: Conductor announced good progress on test pieces for Newcastle. However, shortage of Tenors an obvious weakness, Newcastle the main worry as it is too late to recruit new members now, in time for then.

Extra practices: Conductor not available for wednesdays.

Committee decided practices should be on Mondays March 8, 29 and April 5, and either Tues April 13 or Wed 14.

These dates to be put to choir.

NAC: Letter reminding of AGM on March 20th at Chester-le-Street Methodist to be put on notice board.

Chairman to ask Jack Huggins if he wishes to continue as NAC rep.

Concert Requests: Letter requesting choir for a concert at St John's church Meadowfield, suggesting Nov 6 as a possible date. Secretary to reply to say this date is suitable.

Letter from Hetton Town Council asking whether the choir is available to take part in a charity concert on Nov 18th as part of the Hetton Christmas Illuminations switch-on.

Secretary to suggest Saturday 20th would be better for choir, and to check full concert not required.

Transport: P Crawford informed committee that some members would prefer not to use own transport to go to Darlington and Newcastle. Committee agreed that Chairman should put to choir that they felt a bus would be suitable for Darlington, provided enough members required it, and would contribute to the cost. However, Committee felt bus would not be suitable for Newcastle.

D. Kay
Hon. Chairman 18/3/93

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore W Hall Jan. 21st 1993 at 7.15

Chairman. W Berry

Members. A Kay, P Crawford, D Brown, J Huggins, J Whitfield, L Lamb, D Kay
J Sanderson, P Rosser.

Minutes of last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters arising : (i) No reply as yet from Williams of Darlington re confirmation of booking and insurance of organ.
(ii) Letter from St Clare's church re access to church for conductor.
(iii) Problem voices not dealt with yet.

Correspondence : Letter from Gibside Singers re confirmation of Dec 4th 1993. Secretary to write declining expenses. Charity to be choice of the Gibside Singers. with proceeds less printing, donation to church, if any, and other expenses.

Treasurer : Presented balance sheet.

Conductor : Reported 13 new pieces for 1993. Five to be photocopied, four conductor's choice, and other four compulsory for N.A.C. commitment to Cathedral 900. All music to be counted and numbered. Need of a sub-committee to vet clear-out of music. 50 to 60 new folders required.
Resolved Lyndon Lamb to be on this reorganisation.

N.A.C report : There will be 900 singers in the Cathedral. Our allocation is 55. All choirs to be in uniform. A plan of the Cathedral will be available for Jack Curtis and Neville Middlemas to use when they visit.

Conductor discussion : The chairman reported on his visit with the Vice Chairman to the conductor. The lengthy discussion touched on new pieces, resignations, German pieces, lack of confidence, learning problems and conduct at joint rehearsals.
(i) Conductor will make a statement at the annual meeting.
(ii) Further matters will be postponed till the AGM on Jan 29th 1993.
(iii) Chairman to report matters of above discussion at the rehearsal on Jan 22nd 1993.

Subscription : Resolved increase from £11 and £7 to £12 and £8.

Patrons to be Sunderland City Council and Hetton Town Council. Fees to remain at £3, with a request from the Treasurer to find more Patrons.

The next meeting will be on Feb 18th. 1993

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

D. Kay Chairman.
18/2/93

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in Elemore Welfare Hall on 16 Apr 1998 at 7.15 pm.

Vice-Chairman: L Lamb

Members: P Rosser, J Curtis, A Hood, C Seccombe

Apologies: C Buckley, R Wood, B Martindale,

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- (i) Concert at Holy Trinity Murton confirmed for Sat June 27.
- (ii) Piano for Annual Concert ordered from Key Pianos Washington. They require a cheque for £200 to be handed over on delivery, not to be cashed, but to be returned when piano collected, to be destroyed by ourselves. Piano to cost £120 plus VAT.
- (iii) Tickets for Annual Concert soon ready at Chisters. Programmes also ordered.
- (iv) Hector Parr will play solo on St Nicholas' organ. Details sent to secreatry.
- (v) Stone plaque - This will have to wait for some time.

Treasurer: Not present.

Conductor: Clare will produce Annual posters as soon as possible. She had chosen pieces for the Annual Concert we had not sung for the last two years. All agreed how much we needed new music.

Concert Requests: Letter from Mrs Gammie of Houghton and district Save the Children, to ask if we might give another charity concert later this year. Secretary to suggest October 10 or 17, and ask about possible venue.

Haymarket Coach: Secretary asked if we could once again pick up coach at Elemore, with Carman to look after our cars for the evening. Jack felt this proved to be the best way last time, so Lyndon to put it to Choir, and then to ask Carman. Clare once again to be picked up at Washington Services.

Annual Concert: Advertising - Jack to produce something with new photograph of Choir.
Door - Committee agreed to ask Mrs McElroy if she would do this again, with Mrs Wood to help, possibly.

Bouquets - R Wood to be asked to arrange for three bouquets and two bottles. B Hadfield to help again?

Complimentary Tickets - Members agreed Hetton Council 4, Ella Hughes 2, Colin Short 2, Sunderland Echo 2, Richardsons 4, Rector 2, H Hall 2, Nancy 2, Arthur 2, Elemore Secretary 2, Carman 2, Clare's parents 2, Paul 3.

Date - Lyndon suggested we must ensure we miss this date in future, when so many tenors unavailable. Possible dates to be considered further.

1999 Annual - Secretary reminded members it is time to consider a soloist for next year. A Hood mentioned a Brian Newton Elliot, and will give secretary details.

AOB:

- (i) Jack felt we were very remiss with our sick members, and could the Roll Secretary inform the Secretary when a member was absent for some time, so he can then contact them, and if necessary send a get well message from the Choir. Seconded Secretary and all agreed.

- (ii) Lyndon wondered about G Sandy who had not paid his subs, but still had his jacket and music. After discussing the situation it was agreed to leave things at present.

- (iii) Jack felt Secretary should phone Charlie on behalf of the Choir, to ask him how things were going. All agreed.

- (iv) Jack wondered should Lyndon speak at Annual Concert. All agreed this was best after the concert when he has to present all involved, and thank people.

- (v) Clare wondered if we needed another Committee Meeting before the Annual