

out that the two members concerned had subsequently apologised over this matter, though it was generally agreed that, in the circumstances it would have been the wisest decision if they had stayed off the stage during that particular group of pieces.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: It was agreed that the next committee meeting take place at 7:00p.m. on Thursday November 18th, 1982, at 44 SOUTH MARKET STREET, NETTON-LE-MOLES. ( Home of Mr. and Mrs H. Hall.)

The meeting closed at 10:40pm.

Signed:

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1982; AT 7:00pm; AT 13, ALL SAINTS

CHURCH ROAD, HETTON-LE-HOLE. (Mr. and Mrs. F. Williams.)

MEMBERS PRESENT: MESSRS Goudfield, Hall, Huggins, Kay, Pattison, Self, Seabrey, Riddles, Williams and Young.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

Apologies For Absence: There were no apologies reported.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: were duly read, approved and signed.

Matters Arising: Sec reported that he had prepared the letter to Mr. J. Davies (Sasaf) but was not able to send it since, the Tour Sec had not yet returned his address. It was reported that Mr. Davies had been ill but was hoping to return to the choir soon. It was reported that there was no word yet re the booking of the artists for the 1984 Annual Concert. Sec was instructed to write to John Coast Ltd, to ascertain what progress, if any, had been made in this matter. It was further reported that no reply had been received from the Roker Peers of Harmony re- the 1983 Annual Concert. Chairman then reported that he had spoken to Messrs Curtis and Hodgson over the matter of the Choir Magazine, and expressed his hopes that this matter is now resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all parties.

Treasurer: Treasurer reported a balance of £2427.85p, this being derived from income of £7046.37p set against Expenditure of £4618.52p. Monies held as per... Current £1071.70p and Deposit A/c... £1356.15p. Treasurer pointed out that this total included the proceeds from the Ladies Committee Autumn Foye of some £385.00p. Treasurer reported that he had received nothing in way of Grant Aid from Tyne and Wear County Council as yet, though some enquiries had been made of the choir, so that it could be assumed that the matter was being dealt with in Newcastle. He further reported that the choir had not received their fee for the Concert on July 18th, at Bishop Auckland. Sec agreed to look into this matter. Treasurer was thanked for his report which was accepted unanimously.

Social Secretary's Report: Sec. Sec reported that all arrangements for the forthcoming Social Evening at the Masonic Hall were completed and that some 84 people would be attending. He stated that it was the intention to hold a raffle and that any raffle prizes that choir members dared to donate, would be gratefully accepted. Committee felt that the response to this event was somewhat disappointing, though it was conceded that many people had genuine excuses for not attending.

Musical Director's Report: Mus. Dir. reported that he was hoping to do some more recording sessions, in the near future, but the choir's timetable and commitments between the end of the year were against this. He reported that for the Sunderland Exp- the Concert the choir are doing two groups of pieces on their own, plus selections from 'Oliver' in unison with the Operatic Society, plus 'Land of Hope and Glory'. He reported that he had made arrangements with a drummer, bass player and guitarist for the recording sessions, but that he was being forced to make the choir record a lower priority, at the moment because of the pressure of other commitments.

Concert Requests: Sec reported that two requests for concerts had been received as follows:

Blackpool Centre: asked for Dec 20th 1982, but this was not acceptable. A final offer was offered to be Friday December 17th, 1982, at 7:30pm, at a fee of £50.00p. This concert to be with the Houghton Schools Band.

Houghton Parish Church: In late May/early June 1983. Agreed that the date of Wednesday, June 15th, 1983, be offered at 7:30pm, and at a fee of £50.00p. Sec to write and seek confirmation of these dates etc, with the sponsors concerned.

Blackpool Festival: The following points were agreed. The stated time for leaving Hetton on Friday. The cost of the transport to be £6.50p per head, with no subsidy being given to choir members. It was originally proposed that there be only one bus pick-up point and that be Hetton, though this was subsequently found to be unworkable and pick up points were to be made by Sec. Sec instructed to arrange the booking of a room/hall in which to hold a rehearsal at approx 1:00pm or as near to this time as possible, since the expected E.T.A. in Blackpool would be 11:30am. Agreed that members be responsible for the purchase of their own meals whilst in Blackpool. In terms of leaving times it was agreed that (a) if we are not singing at night we leave at 8:00pm... (b) if we are

chosen to sing at night, then we leave straight after the adjudication at whatever time that concludes. Agreed that extra rehearsals for the competition be held at Elmore on Sun. Oct 3rd; Sun. Oct 10th, and Wed Oct 20th, at the discretion of the conductor. Sec instructed to find out the availability of the hall on these dates.

Donation of Plates: Chairman stated that it had been the intention of the choir to donate commemorative plates to local Authority V.I.P. guests at the 1982 Annual Concert, although only the donation to Hetton Town Council had actually been made owing to the absence of representatives from Sunderland Borough and Durham County Council. He asked committee if it was still their wishes that these plates be donated. Agreed that a decision on this matter be deferred until the next committee meeting.

City Hall Concert (Organ Concert) 1983: Sec explained the progress that had been made thus far on the arrangements for the concert and especially our part in this in the arrangements for the booking of the organ and organists. It was agreed that Sec. contact Mr Symmonds and suggest that he book the date definitely with the City Hall, since Williams's had totally committed themselves to this venture.

German Exchange Visit: It was asked that.... 'had the choir considered using the 'Big Club' in Hetton as a possible venue for social events during the visit of the German Choir?.... as an alternative to the Murton Welfare Hall. Mrs Dir. pointed out certain points of criticism concerning the Murton Welfare Hall, but stated that the main argument in it's favour was it's size. It was stated that the Murton Welfare Hall had already been booked for some functions in 1983. The question was raised as to whether an accommodation list had been started. Chairman reported that this matter was being seen to. It was asked if the same host/guest groupings were to be maintained for the return visit of the German Choir. Chairman stated that it was the full intention of the organizers to maintain such grouping wherever possible for the German Choir's visit to us. It was stated that Mrs Balmer had agreed to hold more extensive language lessons in German for choir members, wives and families etc, if a suitable time and venue could be arranged and if there was enough interest shown from within the choir membership. Chairman undertook to ascertain the possible level of interest at the next rehearsals and if this proved sufficient, he would try to arrange a suitable venue and time after consultation with Mrs. Balmer.

A.O.B: It was agreed that Sec write a letter to the Ladies Committee expressing the sincere appreciation of the whole choir for their sterling work in the arrangements and execution of the Autumn Fayre.

Time and Place of Next Meeting: Agreed that the next committee meeting take place on Thursday October 28th, 1982; at 7:00pm. at 37, Summerhill, Middle Herrington. (Home of Mr. and Mrs R. Pattison.)

The meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Signed:

COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY OCT. 28th 1982 AT

7:00pm AT 37, SUMMERHILL, MIDDLE HERRINGTON.

HOME OF MR & MRS RON PATTERSON.

AGENDA.

- 1) Apologues for Absence
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
- 3) Matters Arising
- 4) Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Social Secretary's Report
- 6) Musical Directors Remarks.
- 7) The Deputy Conductor.
- 8) The Chorus Magazine / Newsletter.
- 9) Competitions in 1983.
- 10) Future Concerts.
- 11) Annual Concert 1983.
- 12) A.O.B.
- 13) Time and Place of Next Meeting.

KINGSTON-UPON-HULL MUSICAL FESTIVAL MAR 5th '83

CLASS No 476. - MALE CHOIRS (OPEN).

TWO OWN CHOICE PIECES OF CONTRASTING STYLE.

TIME LIMIT ..... 10 MINUTES.

ENTRIES CLOSE NOV 20th '82

RYTON MUSICAL FESTIVAL SAT MAR 12th 1983.

CLASS I - 'A' SECTION

TEST. "SONG OF THE KING'S MEN" (THOS. F. DUNHILL)

OWN CHOICE :- NOT LONGER THAN 6 MINS.

ENTRIES CLOSE NOV 30th '82

TYNEDALE MUSICAL FESTIVAL SAT MAR. 18th 1983.

CLASS 75 - MALE CHOIRS OPEN

TEST. TWO CONTRASTING SONGS OF CHOIRS' OWN CHOICE

ENTRIES CLOSE DEC 4th

HUDDESFIELD (MRS. SUNDERLAND) CHORAL FESTIVAL

Details will be supplied at Committee Meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1982: AT 7:00p.m.: AT 37, SUMMERHILL,  
MIDDLE HERRINGTON, (Home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Pattison.)

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs Bousfield, Hall, Kay, Middlemas, Pattison, Settrey, Sanderson,  
Williams and Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from Mr. Colin Self.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: were duly read, approved and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: were discussed as follows:-

- 1) Chairman read a letter from the President thanking the choir for their gifts to Mrs Bousfield and himself, and congratulating the choir on their recent win at Blackpool. Included with the letter was a donation cheque. Chairman thanked the President sincerely for his thanks, congratulations and donation adding that the former were really more important than the latter. He concluded with the assurance that the letter would be willingly read out at the next rehearsal.
- 2) Sec reported that some progress had been made in the quest for payment of fee from the Concert at Bishop Auckland Town Hall on July 18th, 1982. Sec informed committee that he had made a formal application for the cheque to be paid, and hoped that this would be forthcoming within a few days.
- 3) Sec reported confusion over the concert which was apparently for the Houghton Parish Church. He had reply from the above body stating that it was not they who had asked for the concert, so there was something of an impasse at the moment, in that we have a concert date arranged and no sponsor. In mitigation he further added that during the telephone call he had asked the caller to write an official letter and this request had not been complied with. It was concluded that nothing could be done about this until the potential sponsor contacted the Sec again.
- 4) Sec apologised to certain members for not supplying agendas for the present meeting due to the fact that he had exhausted his current supply of copying paper, and he wished to discuss the factors of renewal of the same in A.O.B.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer reported a balance to date of £3020.17p this being derived from receipts of £7072.26p set against expenditure to date of £5276.10p. Monies being held as the date of the meeting in Current Account... £1664.02p and Deposit Account... £1356.15p. Treasurer pointed out that there are outstanding expenses from Blackpool of some £444.00p, so that the true balance to date should read.... £2576.17p.

Treasurer reported that the grant of £150.00p from Tyne and Wear had been received, and was included in the above accounts. Some discussion took place on the amount of this grant, the consensus being that in this day and age this was a relatively small amount of grant aid, though no concrete proposals were agreed as to remedial actions on this point. It was pointed out that the choir funds were being considerably enhanced by donations coming in from the ladies committee, and the Treasurer expressed some concern that the choir was going to pay large amounts of this financial gains in Corporation Tax in the next financial year. It was therefore agreed that the ladies committee be approached with a view to they themselves investing their own funds for the moment in possibly a Building Society account. Chairman and Treasurer undertook to talk to the officers of the ladies committee on this matter. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Social Secretary gave a brief report stating that he has no desire to "flood the field" with social events at the moment especially since the ladies committee are busy organising social and fund raising events, so he feels that he is willing to let the ladies play their full part in this for the time being. He stated his willingness to organise a social event for early 1983, if so desired by the choir. He stated that the next social event as such would be the 'Pie and Pee Supper' on Thursday, November 25th, at the Elmore Community Association. Social Secretary was thanked for his report which was unanimously accepted.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REMARKS AND BLACKPOOL FESTIVAL COMMENTS: Mus. Dir. opened discussion by stating what a marvellous time he had experienced the previous Saturday at Blackpool, and stated how good it was to win the 'A' Section of the competition again after such a

lengthy interval of time. He felt that one of our main achievements in the competition was our ability to sing in eight parts and to acquire an acceptable balance of sound there by, and he added his personal feelings that by doing this so successfully, the choir had broken through quite a large musical barrier. He thanked every member of the choir for the wonderful support that he, as Musical Director, had been given, both on the day of the competition and in the weeks beforehand during both normal and extra rehearsals. He stated that, on the day of the competition the choir was well disciplined and sang in a most confident fashion. It was his firm assertion now that Lyons is the North-East's second 'Premier' Choir along with Felling, and that we can now hold our own with the latter choir. Discussion followed on the more adverse aspects of the day, and here it was felt that the transport left something to be desired in terms of its comfort and the prices charged. After discussion it was agreed that for such events in future all transport would be put out to tender, and that the firms that we have used in the past be made aware of this new procedure. Some criticism was made of the lack of practice facilities within the Winter Gardens for choirs needing to rehearse for the evening competition. It was also suggested that the publication of the test pieces for the succeeding year's competition might be brought forward, so that it be known at the end of the present competition, so to speak. Social Sec was given leave to complete the N.A.C. Questionnaire on the Blackpool Festival, and was instructed as to the form his answer should take on certain issues and comments. The Musical Director then initiated a lengthy discussion on the Own Choice Piece, basing his opinions on the fact that the choice of the Bruckner 'Ave Maria' had been a somewhat chancy one both technically, and in its concept, but it had worked extremely well, had been very well received, and had undoubtedly played an important part in the winning of the competition. On this experience it was concluded that very careful consideration would have to be given to this matter in preparation for future competitions, since, in future the own choice piece would have to be both imaginative, modern, and as good a contrast as could possibly be achieved. Chairman concluded the discussion on Blackpool by stating that he would allow some time for discussion of the competition in the interval at the next rehearsal.

On the matter of recording dates, the Musical Director asserted that we would have to make every effort to make two dates free for recording during November, and to this end it was agreed that Friday November 12th, and Friday November 19th be the said dates. Mus. Dir and Chairman agreed to consult with Mr. Bowsy over the proposal to transport a decent piano from the Hetton Primary School to the Elmore Community Centre for the two recording sessions.

Musical Director concluded his remarks by focussing attention forward to the proposed 'oratorio' performance scheduled for March 26th, 1983. It was agreed that Sec prepare pro-forma invitations for the ladies choir at the earliest opportunity, and distribute these among the various contacts in the Male Voice Choir, so that we could ascertain as soon as possible when the rehearsals etc could begin.

THE DEPUTY CONDUCTOR OF THE CHOIR: It was proposed seconded and unanimously agreed that Mr. TOM HALL be appointed forthwith as the Deputy Conductor of the Choir, and that he also be appointed as one of the Deputy Accompanists along with Mr. PETER CRAWFORD.

THE CHOIR NEWSLETTER/ MAGAZINE: Sec reported that he had been approached by Mr. Curtis, on the subject of the choir magazine and had been asked to place this topic on the agenda for this meeting since he was originally seeking guidance as to the wishes of the choir committee in the light of recent comments and criticisms of a past issue of the magazine that had been relayed to him. Sec reported that Mr. Curtis was willing to continue his editorship of the magazine. Sec reported to committee that he had passed on the notice of this request to the Chairman. The Chairman had produced a document entitled the 'Duties for the Editor(s) of the Newsletter' as a possible solution to Mr. Curtis's quest for guidance, and that Mr Curtis, was already in possession of such a copy. Sec further reported that he had spoken again with Mr. Curtis on the matter of the document prepared by the Chairman, and as the result of this discussion, it was apparent that Mr. Curtis was in agreement with the main guidelines offered but sought further clarification on two main points namely the fact that in guideline(1) he felt that if choir members were being asked to contribute articles etc, then they would obviously express opinions from time to time, and that he, as editor, would feel that these opinions should be expressed so long as they complied with paragraph (a) of the guidelines, despite the fact that some of the opinions expressed might not reflect current trends or thought amongst the committee and officers of the choir. As a possible solution to this problem, Mr. Middleton

suggested that a disclaimer be included at the end of each successive issue of the magazine. He suggested that it should read.... "The opinions expressed by individuals in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Choir Committee". This proposal was seconded and subsequently agreed. Mr. Curtis also requested clarification of the sentence in brackets in paragraph (b) of the guidelines. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that there was a need to simplify this statements and that henceforth, it should read.... "Anything that is competent committee business, without prior approval of the committee". Sec stated his fears that this document be not interpreted as a direct 'job specification' and therefore it was agreed that the title of the document should now read "Guidelines For the Editors". It was agreed that Sec include an updated copy of these guidelines with the minutes, since they will be necessary to keep should the editorship of the magazine change in the future.

COMPETITIONS IN 1983: Sec had previously produced a duplicated sheet with salient details of specified competitions for 1983, and these were discussed at some length, and the following points were agreed:-

- (a) That we make application to be accepted for the Sainsbury's National Festival of Chorus on April 16th 1983.
- (b) That in the event of us not being accepted for the above competition, that we enter for the Huddersfield (Mrs. Sunderland) Choral Competition.
- (c) That we enter the Tynedale Musical Festival as a local festival.
- (d) That a return to the Blackpool Musical festival in October 1983 be Not precluded at this stage, but that the possibility of doing so otherwise be left on the table.

FUTURE CONCERT: Sec informed committee of a request for a concert received from All Saints Church Eplington, for the choir to perform there during the month of April 1983. Sec was instructed to reply along the lines that we are singing in the locality in May 1983 on two occasions, and that we feel that in few of two other local commitments that are already booked, the church might commend a better audience in say September 1983, and to suggest perhaps Saturday, September 24th. However, if April it must be then Sec was mandated to offer Saturday April 30th 1983, at 7:00pm, and at a fee of £50.00p.

ANNUAL CONCERT 1983: Sec informed committee that he had received written reply from the Roker Peers of Harmony who stated their willingness to take part in the concert with us, and that they would be in contact with us later to arrange times details etc. Sec also informed committee that, from earlier in the year he had been instructed to agenda the topic of ticket sales, procedures etc for this meeting. However, in the interests of time it was agreed that this topic be deferred to the November Committee meeting.

A.O.B.: Several points were discussed as follows:-

- 1) Concert at City Hall (Sun. Dec. 5th.) It was agreed that Sec take orders for tickets for this concert and to ascertain the potential transport requirements of customers with a view to organising transport/ticket packages as with previous concerts of this nature.
- 2) It was discussed and reported that Mr. Ron Cook has rendered great service to the choir in the past and possibly in the future, and it was unanimously agreed that his services be acknowledged. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman pursue this matter.
- 3) Sec reported the facts of a letter received from Ken Murray and the meeting on Dec 4th. Agreed that we send delegates and that Chairman read out the letter at next rehearsal.
- 4) Sec reported that he now had no photocopying paper and that on recent enquiries this had rapidly increased in price. Agreed that this topic be deferred until the next meeting so that further enquiries could take place.
- 5) Some criticism was expressed as to the presentation of the choir at the recent concert at the Sunderland Empire theatre, when two choir members had 'crept' onto the stage as the choir was about to start singing one of it's groups of pieces, and that there had been some glaring gaps created during the 'walk-ons'. Mus. Dir. explained that he was partly to blame for the late arrival of the two members who had arrived late. Chairman was directed to have quiet words on the matter with the members concerned. It was, however, pointed o

5. Accommodation: Mr Lamb asked if any dialogue had been set up with our German hosts, to find out exactly what accommodation is available in Germany and in what exact quantities. Tour Sec reported that a letter to that effect had been sent, though no reply was to hand.

6 Reciprocal Health Forms: It was reported that these were now available, and it was agreed that these be handed out to members one week after the A.G.M. for members to complete. Tour Sec to be responsible for the collection and processing of said forms.

6. It was suggested that savings scheme be set up to help members keep their deadlines for payment of the costs of the trip. No decision taken as to the adoption or rejection of this suggestion.

7. Tour Sec suggested that when he comes off committee any committee business concerning the Exchange visit be taken at short meetings either before or after a rehearsal, and that other committee dealings could be handled by the other two members of the tour sub-committee who still retained their committee status. This was agreed.

A.O.B.: Questions were asked of the Sec as to the long delay in the delivery of the choir photograph. Sec explained that he had been somewhat dilatory in not giving in the order until the end of the summer. Since that time the person doing the photographs had suffered a long and serious illness from which he was now only recovering. Sec reported that he was in possession of most of the order for the photographs and expected the order to be completed within the next few weeks.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: It was agreed that the next committee meeting take place on Thursday, February 25th, 1982, at 40, Park Lea, East Herrington, Sunderland. (Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Huggins.)

Signed;

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE ELEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, AT 9:30pm; ON FRIDAY  
February 5th, 1982.

Purpose of meeting to discuss a request received by letter to Mr. Bowey, from Hatton Community Association, that a section of the choir provide entertainment for 45-60mins, at the A.G.M. of the community Association on Wednesday April 14th, 1982. It was agreed that as many choir members as possible be asked to attend and that we go as a whole choir, and not a splinter group of the choir. It was further agreed that we ask a donation for our services. Sec instructed to convey these points to Mrs. Hall. Sec of the Community Ass'n.

Signed;

COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY JULY 15th, 1982; AT 7:00p.m.; AT 19, SEA VIEW PARK, WHITBURN. (Home of Mr. and Mrs. N.W. Middlemas.)

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs Boufield, Hall, Kay, Middlemas, Pattison, Sanderson, Settley, Self, Williams and Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for absence, though Mr. Sanderson had previously apologised for the fact that he would be late to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: were duly read approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Chairman stated that most of the potential matters arising from the minutes were actually covered in the agenda for this meeting. Sec. reported re- the 1984 Annual Concert that he had written to John Coast Ltd, concerning the possible booking of Thomas Allen for this concert, though no reply on this matter was yet to hand.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer reported a balance of £2128.57p to date, this being derived from Receipts to date totalling £6528.90p set against expenditure of £4400.33p. Monies being held as per Current Account.... £834.89p and Deposit Account.... £1293.68p. Treasurer pointed out that some money for the payment of plates was still outstanding, though he expected that this aspect of the choir accounts would be finalised shortly. He further reported that he had duly completed the necessary grant forms to Tyne and Wear County Council, and that these had been returned to the Council for processing, so that we could expect our grant to be paid in the not too distant future. Treasurer was thanked for his report which was accepted unanimously.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Social Sec reported that arrangements for the next Social Evening at the Netton Masonic Hall on Sept 18th, 1982, are proceeding. He initiated some discussion with his reminder to committee that he would have to book hall etc that the choir is going to need to entertain the German choir in 1983, very soon, and asked that the tour sub-committee provide him with the necessary information as soon as possible.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Musical Director reported to committee on several points as follows: With regard to the recent recordings he reported that from the first recording session on 'Dona Dona' would be found acceptable. From the second session he found that the new arrangement of the choir was much better from the sound quality aspect, though he stated that the poor quality of the tone of the piano at Elmore was detrimental to some of the tracks recorded. On this point he felt that these pieces would have to be re-recorded, on a better piano, possibly in the Church in the Autumn. He also felt that 'If' would be recorded to much greater effect with a percussion and possibly double bass backing. Musical Director then went on to outline the music to be sung at the City Hall Concert on December 5th, 1982 (the combined Concert with 3 Choirs). Re- the concert in the City Hall in 1983, with Addison and Annfield Plain choirs he reported that as the result of our suggestions for this concert, the other two choirs wished to go ahead with the concert having an organist as guest artists, and reported that Sec. had already been in contact with Mr Davies of Williams's, to try and set the whole thing up, though, as of this meeting date, no firm arrangements were then made, but the matter was in the hands of Williams's. Committee would be informed as to the future developments that would, hopefully, take place.

CONCERT REQUEST: Sec informed committee that he had received a request from Trinity Methodist Church, Spennymoor, for a concert with Framwellgate School Band, at the Spennymoor Town Hall, on either March 12th, or March 19th, 1983 (both Saturdays). It was agreed that the choir accept this concert stating March 12th, 1983, as the most suitable date, the concert to start at 7:00pm, and at a fee of £50.00p. Sec to reply to this request stating the date time fee etc.

ANNUAL CONCERT 1983. Chairman reported that he had spoken with Mr. Jones of the Ropes Power of Harmony, who had verbally put this request to the committee of the latter organisation, to invite them to be our guest artists for the 1983 concert. This had been discussed and passed at their recent committee meeting. Sec was instructed to write the formal letter of invitation as soon as possible, stating that this is to be the reciprocal concert from the one at Monkwearmouth School.

**BLACKPOOL FESTIVAL 1982:** On the matter of transport for this festival Sec stated that some 70 people required coach transport altogether, and that he had booked one '53 seater coach only from Bleanch's Coaches. He further reported that he had managed some telephone conversation with Safari Coaches who had recommended a 25/29 seater coach rather than a mini-bus for this trip, but he had not been able to secure further details. Treasurer undertook to find out the details from the above coach company. The selection of the 'Own Choice' piece for this competition was again discussed. Mus Dir stated his preference for 'Ave Maria' (Bruckner) with possible alternatives being either 'Salt Beef' or 'Music When Soft Voices Die'. After discussion, it was agreed that the 'Own Choice' be 'Ave Maria'. Possible arrangements of the choir to perform this piece were discussed, plus the splitting of the singers into the two choirs necessary. It was agreed that Mus Dir. select and place the choir(s) so as to achieve the best possible effect from this music. The potential problem of the timing of the departure from Blackpool was discussed, though no firm decision was taken on the matter at this meeting.

**THE CHOIR ROLL:** Sec informed committee of the resignation from the choir plus the return of choir music and tie from Mr. David Robson (Bass II), due to the fact that he has recently gained promotion in his work and is shortly to move to Thronaby. This resignation was accepted with regret, Sec being instructed to write thus to Mr. Robson. Prior to this resignation the choir numbers were.... Tenor I 16 Tenor II 14 Bass I 19 Bass II 17... making a total choir membership of 66. He reported that notable low attendances in the past 3 months were from J. Maughan Tenor I (3), P. Williams Tenor II (0) though it was stated that since he has now returned to Wales and has returned music etc, this is now a resignation in effect, J. Davies Bass I (0) and J. Thompson Bass II (0). Sec was instructed to write to Mr. Davies to ask him to declare his intentions towards his membership of the choir. Sec further reported that John Whitfield Tenor I would have completed his probationary period by the next rehearsal. It was agreed that he be accepted into full choir membership. Some discussion took place over his son Jon Whitfield and the fact that his voice has not yet fully matured. It was agreed that he also be accepted into full membership of the choir, but that a careful watch be put on him until his voice settles and to move him from section to section as his voice development demands. The return to the choir of Mr. W. Macdonald was noted.

**GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT:** Chairman and Mr. Middlemas reported on sub-committee deliberations concerning the entertainment of the German Party in 1983. The German choir had expressed a desire to visit York and Edinburgh, and committee though the former would be a good place to visit in the Autumn, but had serious doubts about the suitability of the latter at this time of year. Mr. Middlemas reported on a contact made with the manager of the Eldon Square Complex in Newcastle, and stated the possibility of having the party shown round the complex, of having coffee provided, and then allowing the party to shop in the complex. Other ideas for visits were briefly discussed, though, from the initial contacts made the problems of size of party and hospitality loom large, with the possibility of the group having to be split in two for certain visits etc. Social Sec again made the point that evening entertainment in local halls would have to be booked soon. Committee agreed to suggest to the sub committee that the official welcoming reception take place at Murton Welfare Hall on the evening of Monday Oct 10th, 1983, that the concert in Hatton Church be on Friday Oct 14th, 1983, with a party to follow the concert at the Elwara Community Ass'n Hall in Easington Lane, with the possibility of the visit to Eldon Square and Newcastle on the morning and afternoon of the Friday as well.

**THE CHOIR MAGAZINE:** Chairman started discussion on this topic by asking committee members to consider the purpose of the publication, and stated that, since the publication is officially described as a 'Newsletter', it should be used to inform the people who read it and to publicise the activities of the choir. Discussion followed, and there was general agreement on these stated aims. It was also unanimously agreed that 'Life With the Lyons' should continue as a choir project. It was stated that certain complaints had been received concerning the fact that articles produced for publication prior to the German Visit had not been used, since the publication date had been delayed until after the trip, also that no member of the tour sub committee had been asked to write any retrospective views etc concerning the German tour. It was also the opinion of many committee members that certain comments and opinions made in the most recent edition of the Newsletter had extended beyond the normal bounds of editorial comment. Committee agreed that Chairman speak privately with the Co-editors of the Newsletter.

to pass on the feelings of committee that the Newsletter should not be a publication for editorial comment, and to respectfully point out that there is in existence a machinery for complaints about the running of the affairs of the choir through the committee. This the Chairman agreed to do. Further discussion was terminated at this point by the Chairman.

A.O.B: Some discussion took place on the fact that some choir members had given their choir lapel badges away whilst in Germany, to their hosts. It was agreed that choir members who had done this, be asked to replace their lapel badge at their own expense, at the earliest opportunity. Treasurer informed committee that he had a supply of the lapel badges sufficient to replace the donated badges. It was also agreed that the lapel badges of the German Choir, should not be regarded as part of the official uniform of Lyons Male Voice Choir, and shall therefore not be worn on the choir uniform at any official choir functions. Chairman agreed to inform choir of these points at the next rehearsal.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: It was agreed that the next committee meeting take place on Thursday, September 16th, 1982, at 7:00p.m., at 13, All Saints Drive, Church Road, Hatton-Le-Hole. (Mr. and Mrs. F. Williams.)

Signed:

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17th, 1982; AT 7:00pm; AT 34, CHURCH LANE, MURTON. ( Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Kay.)

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs Bousfield, Hall, Kay, Middlemas, Sanderson, Self, Settre, Pattison, Williams and Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no such apologies.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: were duly read approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Chairman stated that as far as he could see all the matters outstanding from previous minutes had been catered for in the present agenda. He stated that he wished to place on the official record of the choir his thanks and appreciation to Messrs Bousfield and Middlemas, for their sterling work for the German Exchange visit, both in the planning and organisation stages prior to the tour, and for their day to day arrangements during the duration of the exchange visit.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer reported a present balance of £1971.49p this being derived from receipts of £6353.90p set against expenditure of £4382.41p. Monies at present being held as per Current A/c.... £677.81p and Deposit A/c.... £1293.68p. Treasurer stated that as of this date no Grant forms had been received from Tyne and Wear Co. Council. Sec stated that he had telephoned concerning these and had been assured that they would be forwarded immediately, and should therefore be expected shortly. He reported a profit from the recent Annual Concert of £86.00p, though he expressed concern that there was still some ticket money outstanding. He further reported that the German trip had cost the choir some £864.00p thus far, though the above balance did include a Grant sum of £168.00p from Durham Co. Council. He explained that the largest single cost item had been the purchase of the presentation plates, of which 76 had been purchased originally at a cost of £722.00p. Of these 8 had been broken in transit, and application for replacement had been refused. In addition a further 14 plates had been purchased at a cost of £135.00p. Some 7 plates had been presented on the tour, and a further 42 had been purchased by choir members. These latter had been subsidised by choir funds at £4.50p per plate, the remainder being sold to choir members at £9.00p each. The Treasurer estimated that the total cost of the plates to choir funds had been £278.00p. The Treasurer was thanked for his report which was unanimously accepted.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Owing to the late arrival of the Social Secretary to the meeting it was agreed that this topic be deferred to the next meeting.

FUTURE RECORDING: Mus Dir opened the discussion by soliciting the opinions of committee members as to the desirability of going ahead and producing another record to be published in the Spring of 1983. There was general agreement in committee that this was indeed desirable, and Mus. Dir. stressed therefore the need to start taping pieces at the earliest opportunity, the dates for the first recording sessions being agreed. Some discussion took place on the mechanisms of financing the initial capital outlay for the pressing and purchase of the record, in view of the money being needed to finance the German choir's visit during 1983. It was agreed that the Chairman approach the Impulse Organisation to ascertain current prices on 500, 750 and 1000 copies of records, yet it was also agreed that no decision to produce the record be taken at this meeting, though Mus Dir was given a firm mandate to proceed with the making of the 'Master Tape'. It was agreed that recording session be held on July 2nd, and July 9th, with July 23rd being potentially agreed as the Film and Slide Night from the German tour, given that Sec found out the availability of a Hall for that particular evening. Mus. Dir gave an outline of the pieces that he had selected for the master tape. Discussion took place on these suggested pieces and various amendments and further suggestions were made.

ANNUAL CONCERT 1983: Sec reported on his lack of progress in being able to book any of the artists that he was instructed to enquire about at a previous meeting. Some discussion took place on this matter and it was agreed that Sec ring London to find any answer that he could as to the availability and fees of the various artists. Further discussion took place on possible alternatives, Mus Dir offering a series of alternative singers who appeared in the current catalogues mainly on a 'F.O.A.' basis. Another possible alternative was to hire the winner of the 'Young Musician of the Year'.

Competition. Chairman suggested that another alternative would be to invite the Roker Peers of Harmony as guest artists. These various alternatives were discussed, but it was agreed that no decision would be taken until the Sec could provide some definite information concerning the London Artists.

CITY HALL CONCERT 1983 WITH ADDISON M.V.C. AND ANNFIELD PLAIN GLEEMEN: Mus. Dir. reported that he had recently been contacted by telephone by Norman Whitfield of Addison Choir to ascertain if Lyons M.V.C. would be willing to take part in another concert with the other two choirs on a Saturday during November 1983. Mus. Dir. had re-iterated the mandate given him by committee that Lyons M.V.C. were "for" the concert in principle but would not be willing to have the J.S.V.B. as guests again, on the basis that we had worked so much with this group in recent years, we felt it was time for a change. Mr. Whitfield had stated that his choir wished to do the concert with J.S.V.B., and Mr. Kay stated that he would bring the offer to committee for its discussion and decision. Discussion duly did take place and committee re-affirmed its previous mandate that we do not wish to take part in the concert with the J.S.V.B. but Mus. Dir. was mandated to state that, if the other two choirs wished to proceed on this basis, then they go ahead with our good grace but without us. Mus. Dir. suggested that it would be right and proper for Lyons Choir to offer concrete alternative suggestions to Mr. Whitfield. It was agreed that Mus. Dir. offer the following alternatives.....

- (a) A singer of International repute eg.... Kiri Te Kanawa
- (b) An organ concert similar to our recent Annual Concert.
- (c) The Kings Singers
- (d) Jon Williams and Skye

BLACKPOOL FESTIVAL OCTOBER 23rd, 1982: Sec stated the need for discussion on this topic, especially re-transport, since he had placed a firm booking on 1 coach and had placed an option on another, and had promised that this option would either be taken up or dropped by July. He outlined the facts that some 69 people required coach transport, which was too many for one coach, but at these figures a second coach was not viable. It was agreed after discussion that Sec drop the option on the second coach, but to make enquiries with Bleach's coaches as to the possibility of hiring a Mini-coach to take the people who were at present 'surplus'. Sec outlined the fact that there were some 53 choristers who had thus far signed up to go, these breaking down into T(I) 14....T(II) 10....B(I) 15.... and B(II) 13, though it was stated that several choristers had not yet signed. Mus. Dir. stated that he would very much like to take 60 choristers onto the stand for the competition, so Sec was instructed to see the remaining choir members as soon as possible to find out if they wished to go or not.

MUSICAL FESTIVALS IN 1983: Sec reported on his findings from the 4 Festivals that he had been instructed to contact from the previous meeting. These results were as follows.....

CARLISLE: Do run a Male Voice Section, but usually small entries 2 or 3 but only 1 in 1981.

HULL: Do not run a M.V. Class any more due to lack of entries.

HUDDERSFIELD: Do run a M.V. Class and that they can attract around 6 entries per year.

EDINBURGH: Do run a M.V. Class but have only had small (2-3) entries in last 2 years.

It was agreed that out of the above, the latter 2 looked the most promising. Sec was instructed to write to Edinburgh and Huddersfield for the Syllabi.

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT: Discussion took place on the arrangements for the forthcoming Film and Slides evening on July 23rd. It was agreed that Chairman ask choir members to submit their slides etc as soon as possible, these to be edited and made into a programme by an agreed sub-committee made up of Messrs Bowey, Huggins, Middlemas and Hadfield. It was suggested and agreed that the tape made of one of the concerts in Germany owned by Mr. Nixon should be borrowed and played during the film show. It was stated that the only points of criticism concerning the tour that could be made was from the English cf.. the German side, with the comfort and lack of air-conditioning of the coaches being mentioned and commented upon, plus the choice and number of

stops on the journey. The Chairman suggested that in future, the choir should perhaps not be so hide bound by costs when choosing it's routes and modes of transport.

PRE-PUBLICITY FOR THE GERMAN TOUR: Sec reported that, on the night before the party left for the tour to Germany, and after the announcement to the choir that a photographer from the Durham Chronicle would be taking photos of the departure of the party, he was approached by Mr. Curtis, who reported that, on hearing the announcement, Mr. Anthony Hodgson had expressed hurt and extreme disappointment that a photographer from his paper the Sunderland and Washington Times had not been asked to attend... all this in the light of the work and publicity given to the choir by Mr. Hodgson in his job as a staff reporter for the latter paper. Mr. Curtis expressly asked that this matter be brought to the attention of the choir committee at the earliest opportunity. The Chairman stated that to the best knowledge of the committee and the sub-committee no arrangements or invitations had been sent to any newspaper, and that the photographer from the Durham Chronicle had appeared entirely on his own initiative. From this point the discussion broadened out to the publicity need and the need to start making detailed arrangements for the return visit of the German Choir, during the week of OCTOBER 9th-16th 1983. It was proposed and agreed that the same sub-committee as handled the outward arrangements, be kept in office to continue the planning and arranging for the return trip, this committee being empowered to co-opt other choir members as and when it is deemed necessary. This sub-committee was instructed to draw up a plan of action and possible activities/visits etc for the return trip as soon as possible. They were also instructed to explore the possibility of asking local firms eg... G.M. Pearson and Sons for some sponsorship for the tour.

A 'PERMANENT HOME' FOR THE CHOIR: Sec reported that on the day the choir left for the German Tour, he had been approached by Mr. Curtis who asked that the submission he put to the choir that the committee look into the possibility of purchasing the former Methodist Chapel (Next to the Church Hall in Hetton) as a possible rehearsal and social centre for the choir. Mr. Hall stated that this particular building is shortly to be converted into offices and therefore, as he understood it the building was already sold or leased. Discussion followed, with the Chairman broadening the discussion by stating that this was a 'hobby-horse' that had been ridden many times in the past by former committees, and added his own personal opinion that, as a long term objective, the choir should look for such a permanent base from which to operate. Other members of committee voiced their objections to such an aim on the grounds of excessive drain on funds in maintaining a building, and some members questioned it's viability in terms of the fact that since the choir so so spread, would it be supported by even the choir members themselves? It was agreed that the committee attempt to plumb the feelings of the choir in this respect, by writing two articles for the Christmas edition of the choir magazine one (to be written by the Chairman) in favour of this projected aim, the other (to be written by Mr. Pattison) against the projected aim, thereby using the magazine as a 'forum' to catalyse the opinions of the choir membership.

A.O.B.: Sec conveyed a request from the Hetton Methodist Church for a concert on any Wednesday evening in May 1983, as part of the 125th Anniversary Celebrations of the Church. It was agreed that the choir accept this concert offering Wednesday May 25th, 1983 as the most suitable date. Discussion took place on the fee to be charged for this concert. It was finally agreed that the choir charge a fee of £25.00p, though Sec to state in his letter to the Chapel that the normal fee is £50.00p.

Discussion took place on a concert request for the Seaham Masonic Gardening Ass'n in September 1982. It was agreed that Sec write to this association thanking them for the request, but declining the concert on the grounds that the Masonic Hall in Seaham is so small that the choir would literally drown the audience, and that the policy of not splitting the choir is still to be maintained. Chairman asked if there had been reply by W. Macdonald to the letter sent by Sec in March. Sec replied in the negative, and read out their original letter that he had sent. It was agreed that Sec write to Mr. Macdonald again to ask him what his intentions towards the choir are and are to be in future.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: Agreed that the next committee meeting take place on Thursday, July 15th, 1982; at 7:00p.m. at 19, Sea View Park, Whitburn... (home of Mr. and Mrs. N.U. Middlemas).

Signed;

BLACKPOOL FESTIVAL. OCT 23rd 1982.

TENOR I

- 1 Don Race (5)
- 2 Gerald Coggins
- 3 Ron Pattison (1)
- 4 Bob Henderson
- 5 David Jones (1)
- 6 Harry Ramsdell
- 7 Steve Bowey (1)
- 8 Osborne Menneat
- 9 John Whitfield
- 10 Jon Whitfield
- 11 \*Bob Wilson
- 12 \*Frank Williams

H. Hall x  
D. Hall x  
J. Maughan?  
A. Self??

TENOR II

- 1 Ron Cook (2)
- 2 Jack Huggins
- 3 John Sanderson
- 4 Brian Hadfield
- 5 Anthony Hodgson
- 6 Leo Hodgson
- 7 \*Alan Peel
- 8 Maurice Huitson
- 9 Jack Simpson
- 10 Paul Blakey (1)
- 11 Jack Neil (1)
- 12 Harry Pascock
13. Tim Wilkinson ??

BASS I

- 1 Harry Bousfield (1)
- 2 Pat Coade
- 3 Tom Grey
- 4 Harry Crow
- 5 Ray Settre (1)
- 6 Colin Self (1)
- 7 Henry Haidler
- 8 Bill Berry
- 9 Ken Tilly (1)
- 10 Jackson Gibson (1)
- 11 Richard Wood
- 12 Jim Bennett
- 13 Dave Brown
- 14 Harry Guildford (1)
- 15 Neil Scott

W. Macdonald?  
N. Shaw x

BASS II

- 1 Bob Gibson
- 2 Alan Nixon (1)
- 3 Wilf Jabling
- 4 Thomas Grey
- 5 Ron Lamb
- 6 Jack Curtis
- 7 Tom Young
- 8 Don Kay
- 9 \*Neville Middlemas
- 10 \*Norman Midgeley
- 11 Arthur Morris
- 12 Trevor Stokes
- 13 Peter Crawford
- 14 George Sandy
- 15 David Charlton ???

J. Thompson?  
R. Johnson. x

\*Arthur Kay

Nancy Gibson (1)

TOTAL SINGERS = 55  
TOTAL BUS TRANSPORT = 70

USING OWN TRANSPORT

EXTRA PASSENGERS  
REQUIRED.

COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:00pm ON THURSDAY APRIL 15th 1982

AT 42, HAVERLEY DRIVE, SEATON, SEAHAM (Mr & Mrs C SELF).

AGENDA.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Matters Arising.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Social Secretary's Report.
6. The Chait Roll.
7. Annual Concert 1982.
8. Annual Concert 1983. - 14 May.
9. Competition Commitments for 1983.
10. German Exchange Visit.
11. A.O.B.
12. Time and Place of Next Meeting.

26 March '987. ? Mixed Choir.

5 Dec. Jack Dyke Mills  
£60 - 25p per ticket

9 April Crowscote P.M. Church £50

19 Feb. Seaham Meths.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 18th, 1982; AT 7:00pm; AT 12,

MAUREEN TERRACE, BLACKHALL ROCKS. (HOME OF MR. AND MRS. R. SETTREY.)

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messr's Housfield, Hall, Kay, Middlemas, Pattison, Self, Settreay, Williams and Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: from Mr. Sanderson.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: were duly read approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING: Several Matters were dealt with as follows:

1. Sec reported that the application for grant aid to Tyne and Wear County Council had been duly sent.
2. Sec reported that no enquiries had been forthcoming for details of the Sainsbury's National Festival of Chords.
3. Sec was instructed to book one coach and to put an option on another for the trip to Blackpool Musical Festival in October 1982.
4. Sec reported that the Church Hall was booked for the rehearsal in Holy Week on April 7th, 1982. He agreed to confirm this in writing with Mr. Waddle.
5. It was confirmed that the Church Hall was also booked for the Pre-Germany meeting on Wed May 19th 1982. Social Sec confirmed that the cost of the Hall for this evening would be £6.00p plus approx £2.00p for the use of tea making facilities at the meeting. Chairman agreed to contact Mrs. Cook re - the involving of the Ladies Committee in the arrangements for this evening meeting.
6. Re- Blackpool 1982, it was agreed that Sec start a list of people going to the competition and the various modes of transport that they wished to take.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer reported a balance of £2999.81p, this being derived from receipts of £3989.82p set against expenditure amounting to £287.21p. Monies being held at this date as follows.... Current A/c £1923.70p and Deposit A/c £1076.11p. Incl in this balance is £580.00p as deposits for German Tour, making a real balance of £2419.81p. The patrons list continues to improve, to date 70 persons have become patrons and have contributed £116.50p. It was expected that further patrons fees would be forthcoming. Treas. was thanked for his report which was accepted unanimously.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: With reference to the Social Evening on April 29th, 1982, Sec reported that all bookings for Hall, meal etc were now confirmed, that tickets were now in circulation for this function. It was agreed after discussion that this function be made into a 'Family Night' and that tickets for children of members and friends be sold at half price. Social Sec initiated discussion on his idea of inviting members of the choir who have been forced to leave the choir through no fault of their own, to this function, as the guests of the choir. Discussion took place around this point and it was finally agreed that Soc Sec send complimentary tickets to the following.... Chairman of Hetton Town Council and Wife, Mr. and Mrs. Balmer, Mr. and Mrs A. Shields, Mr. and Mrs Jake Hall, Mr. and Mrs Joe Paxton, Mr. J. Maughan, and Mrs Sharp.

THE CHOIR ROLL: Sec apologised to members for having forgotten the choir roll book, so full discussion on the choir roll had to be shifted to the agenda for the April Meeting. Discussion did take place on the attendance of certain members, Sec being instructed to write to Mr. W. Macdonald (Bass) expressing the concern of committee for his lack of attendance during 1982. Chairman agreed to see Messr's Brown and Coade, to ask that they see to the return of the music of the new member they brought with them who has now, apparently left the choir. Any further discussion was curtailed until the next committee meeting when the full statistics would be made available, hopefully!

GENERAL POLICY RE-MIXED VOICE PERFORMANCES: Mus. Dir. opened discussion on this topic, by expressing his hope that an augmented choir could possibly perform the 'Requiem' by Faure plus another complimentary work sung in English, around Easter time 1983; though, in the light of the financial loss and the lack of support from a fair proportion of the choir members, for the 1981 performance of 'Messiah' he earnestly sought the views of committee members on the prospects for such a performance coming to fruition. Lengthy discussion took place on this topic and several members expressed their views freely. Mr. Pattison was very much in favour of such a performance going ahead, and suggested that a mixed choir be formed as a separate unit. Other members felt that this would prove detrimental to Lyons Male Voice Choir for it might provide divided loyalties in terms of another practice, rehearsal each week etc. An alternative suggestion was to combine for such a mixed performance with an already existing ladies choir in the region viz...

Low Fell Ladies Choir, or the Middleton Singers. Another idea was to organise the choir for such a performance on a purely invitation basis for both Lyons Choir members and lady singers, rather than to expect all the choir members to support the venture. Chairman summed up the discussion by stating that the majority of the committee felt in favour of another mixed voice performance, and it was apparent that Easter 1983, would not only be the ideal time, it might be the only feasible time in 1983, and that the performance should be based on the Lyons Male Voice Choir providing the male chorus, and an invited ladies chorus be again assembled.

COMPETITION COMMITMENTS FOR 1983: Sec and Soc Sec reported that they had received two lists of available Festivals for 1983, which amounted to over 200 altogether, but that these lists had just recently arrived and therefore neither had had time to assimilate this bulk of information. It was therefore agreed to place this topic on the agenda for the April Committee meeting. It was, however stated that the information provided, only gave information on choral classes and did not specify if the festival held specific Male Voice Classes. It was also thought desirable to discover which of the listed festivals attracted large Male Voice Entries, so as to give good competition. Soc Sec and Sec agreed to write to N.A.C. and Nat. Assoc'n of Music Festivals respectively, to try to provide answers to these questions for the next committee meeting.

ANNUAL CONCERT 1983: Sec asked committee to think about possible artistes for the 1983 Annual Concert since, if they wished to book a London Artiste, then plans had to be set in motion within the next few weeks. Mus Dir. floated the idea of using the 'Roker Peers' as our guests for the 1983 Annual Concert, but stated that he wished to reserve judgement on this suggestion until after the forthcoming concert with that particular group. Further discussion took place on possible artistes, and Sec was instructed to write to the various agencies to enquire as to the availability and fees of the following..... Thomas Allen, Kiri Takanawa, Stuart Burrows, Isobel Buchanan, Moira Anderson.

ANNUAL CONCERT 1982: Sec reported several items on this topic as follows:-

1. Tickets for the concert would be available from printers on Mar.19th, but posters would be another week.
2. Re- V.I.P. invitations a reply had been received from Chairman of D.C.C. who would attend the concert.
3. Sec asked permission to arrange complimentary tickets for Mr. R. Mills and David Sparrow, as a token of our appreciation for their kindness and help in retrieving the Treasurer's papers on the day his house was broken into. This request was granted.
4. Chairman reported that arrangements for the movement of piano and staging from Hetton Primary School, had been made and would be attended to by Mr. Bowey.
5. Sec reported that he had written to the artistes asking for their programme for the concert, but, as yet, no replies were forthcoming.

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT: Mr. Middlemas reported that bookings had been made for some 76 participants in the trip, this being made up of 40 choristers 8(Tenor I) 8(Tenor II) 12(Bass I) 12(Bass II) plus M.D. and Accompanist, and 36 extra passengers. 1982 tariffs are not yet fixed but should be known after April 1st 1982. Insurance had been taken out for everyone going on the trip except Mr. Don Race who was making his own arrangements in this respect. He reported that some 76 plates had been ordered, plus 30 extra orders, plus a further 3 for presentation purposes while in Germany. Since we are ordering less than the quoted figure the price per plate had now gone up to £8.00p. Mr. Middlemas reported that he had been in contact with Mr. Henshaw who is in the process of finishing his current print of Durham, and that he had ordered 1 large print, plus 5 smaller prints all for presentation purposes on the tour. Discussion took place on the status of Mr. Ritson, in terms of him purchasing a plate, and in this respect, it was agreed that he be included for the D.C.C. subsidy share out.

THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CONDUCTOR: Chairman introduced discussion on this topic from the Annual General Meeting, by outlining previous discussion that had taken place on this topic last year, and re-stated the desire of the choir committee to seek a deputy conductor from outside the choir membership. Discussion followed on the criteria for a deputy conductor, and the following points were agreed. 'The deputy Conductor shall....

- a) not be offered an Honourarium.
- b) be asked to join the choir as a member.
- c) be given rehearsal pieces to rehearse, and be encouraged to conduct the pieces he rehearses at concerts where and when they are included in the programme.

It was agreed that Chairman tell this list of criteria at the next rehearsal.

Mus. Dir. reported that he had held conversation with Mr. Tom Hall, on this subject, and that he had refused the offer of the position, due to health reasons and lack of time. On the suggestion from the A.G.W. of Mr. Joe Parker, it was stated that his wife is very ill and therefore, although he is now a retired person, he would also be very unlikely to accept the position. Similarly, Mus. Dir. reported that he had also tentatively approached Mr. Walter Robinson, but for family reasons he had also declined the offer. It was finally agreed that Mus. Dir. again approach Mr. Tom Hall to see if he could suggest a likely person to take on the job of deputy conductor.

It was agreed to place the topic of publishing lists of choir officers and nominations for official positions within the choir, until the September Committee meeting.

A.O.B. There were no topics raised.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: It was agreed that the next committee meeting take place on Thursday, April 15th, 1982, at 7:00pm; at 42, Haverley Drive, Seaton Farm Estate, Seaton, Seaham. (Home of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Self.)

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.

Signed:

T. Young.

COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY MARCH 18th 1982, AT 7:00 PM.  
AT 12, MAUREEN TERR, BLACKHALL ROCKS (MR & MRS. R. SETTLEY.)

AGENDA.

- ✓ 1. Apologies for Absence.
- ✓ 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings.
- ✓ 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.
- ✓ 4. Treasurer's Report.
- ✓ 5. Social Secretary's Report.
- ✓ 6. The Choir Roll.
- ✓ 7. General Policy Re- Mixed Voice Performances.
- ✓ 8. Competition Commitments for 1983.
- ✓ 9. Annual Concert 1983.
- ✓ 10. German Exchange Visit.
- ✓ 11. Deputy Conductor (from A.G.M.).
12. A.O.B.
13. Time & Place of Next Committee Meeting.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25th, 1982; AT 7:00pm; AT 40, PARK LEA, EAST HERRINGTON, SUNDERLAND. (HOME OF Mr. and Mrs. J. Huggins.)

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs Kay, Middlemas, Pattison, Sanderson, Self, Settreay, Williams, Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: from Messrs Bousfield and Hall.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS: were duly read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING: Several matters from the minutes were taken as follows:-

1. Sec reported that the order for choir photographs was now complete, these would be distributed as soon as possible from the next rehearsal.
2. Sec. reported that the new supply of choir letterheads had been done.
3. Sec reported that letter to N.A.C. regarding competitions had been sent, but, on looking back through previous correspondence, it was clear that this was not published until March each year anyway.
4. Sec reported that he had not yet ordered the Music Year book since he did not know the publisher. The volume would be ordered when this was known.
5. Sec reported that confirmation of the start time of the concert for Hetton Comm. Ass'n on April 14th was now to hand. This was to be 7:45pm.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer reported a current balance of £2245.92p, this being derived from receipts of £2295.52p set against expenditure of £129.60p. Monies being held as follows.... Current A/c £1189.81p and Deposit A/c £1074.11p. Treasurer pointed out that included in the balance was the sum of £158.50p in cheques and cash that had been stolen from his home during a recent break in at his house. He went on to state that the cheques had all been duly stopped at the banks concerned, and that he was endeavouring to claim back the cash on his own personal house contents insurance policy, though, in this respect he was experiencing certain difficulties with the Insurance Company concerned. He reported that he had arranged the use of a night-safe bag with the bank so that choir monies need not now be in his possession over each week-end. This step met with full approval by the committee. Chairman mentioned a quote he had taken for insurance of the Treasurer while money belonging to the choir was in transit. He quoted the necessary costs of premiums etc, and allowed discussion on the point. Treasurer stated that he felt such a step would not be necessary, so no further action was taken on this topic. Treasurer was thanked for his report which was accepted unanimously.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: In the unavoidable absence of the Social Sec it was agreed that this topic be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting, with no further discussion taking place at this meeting.

ANNUAL CELEBRITY CONCERT (Saturday, May 15th, 1982.) The following detailed points were discussed regarding this concert and the following decisions were taken.....

1. Admission Prices: Agreed that there be a standard charge for admission to the concert at £1.00p
2. Tickets/Programmes/Posters: Agreed that tickets be sold for the concert, Sec to arrange for the printing of 500 concert tickets. Agreed that a programme be duplicated and distributed free to the audience. Sec to see to the production of the duplicator skins. Mr. Sanderson agreed to see to the actual duplicating of the same. Agreed that 50 crown posters be printed advertising the concert. Sec to see to the printing of the same.
3. Invitations to V.I.P. Guests: Agreed that complimentary tickets be sent to the following guests..... Mayor and Mayoress of Borough of Sunderland, Chairman of Hetton Town Council and Lady, Chairman of Durham County Council and Lady, Chairman of Elmore Comm Ass and Lady, County Coun and Mrs. J. Steel, Mrs. Bousfield, Mrs Ritson, Mrs Sharp.
4. Rehearsal Arrangements: Agreed that the choir rehearse in the Church on the Friday evening before the performance, and again from 2:30pm on the afternoon of the performance.
5. Mr. Tom Ritson: Agreed that choir ask Mr. Ritson to play the necessary organ accompaniments. Mus. Dir to liase on this matter with Mr. Ritson.
6. Bouquets of Flowers: Agreed that a bouquet of flowers be presented to Nancy Gibson at the end of the concert. Presentation to be by the President. Agreed also that a bouquet be presented to Miss Franks. No decision taken on presenter. Treas to see to the purchase of flowers.
7. Sale of Tickets: Discussion took place on ticket sales and suggestions about how best to maximise on these. Agreed that people who want tickets be given these to sell but Chairman to stress the need to push and sell tickets to all choir members when they

are available.

8. Assembly for the Concert: Agreed that the choir assemble in back vestry of church with artistes in Lady Chapel.
9. Piano and Staging: Agreed to call upon services of Mr Bowey to provide these and see to transport thereof from Hetton Primary School. Chairman agreed to arrange this with Mr. Bowey.

BLACKPOOL FESTIVAL 1982: Sec informed committee of his letters that had been sent to the Festival committee and of his attempts to secure accommodation for the festival. He was able to confirm the date of the choral competition as Saturday October 23rd, 1982, though, at time of meeting no information was available on test pieces etc. He gave as accurate an outline of possible costs as he could, mentioning the fact that subsidy from choir funds was not likely this year in view of the German Exchange visit. Some discussion took place though the consensus was that until such time as the test piece was published, no real progress could be made on this matter. Further discussion was therefore left until such time as more information was to hand.

ACCEPTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS: Agreed that Harry Peacock (Tenor II) be accepted forthwith into full choir membership. It was reported that Mr. Dewhurst (Tenor II) may have to leave the choir during his probationary period, owing to difficulties being experienced in attending rehearsals on a regular basis. Mus. Dir reported that he had made approaches to Mr. Harry Tomaker and Mr. Bobby Blackwell to joining the choir. The former had agreed to do so, and it was hoped that the latter would also join.

GRANT FROM TYNE AND WEAR CO. COUNCIL: Sec reported that he had not yet written the letter of application to Tyne and Wear County Council for grant aid for 1982, though he would do so withing the next month. He further reported that Hetton Town Council had granted the choir the sum of £150.00p for 1982, this would be presented at a future rehearsal.

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT: The following points were conveyed by Chairman and Mr Middlemas from a recent Tour Sub-Committee meeting.....

1. Choir was now in possession of written confirmation of Ferry Bookings.
2. Total cost of £55.00p was quoted as being calculated as near as possible to the likely final figure this being based on coach hire, Ferry Passage, and Basic Insurance.
3. Group Liability Insurance to be taken for the party, with cover of up to £250,000.00p at a premium cost of £1.90p.
4. Agreed after some discussion that memento plates be purchased to be given to Mayor of Sunderland, Chairman of Durham Co. Council and Chairman of Hetton Town Council.
5. Established that any grants forthcoming from Durham Co. Council will only be paid retrospectively, therefore choir funds would have to be used to provide any bridging finance until such time as the grant were paid.
6. In order to help the cash flow problem associated with the arrangements for this trip, it was agreed to ask each person going on this trip to contribute another £10.00p to the funds by two weeks time from the next rehearsal.
7. It was revealed that Durham County Council are now to provide only 1 plaque, and that any other commemorative articles to be taken must be purchased by the choir itself, these having already been decided on prints from Mr. David Henshaw.
8. It was re-affirmed that members going on the trip and who have not been in the 200 club for 2 years will be subsidised in proportion to the amount of time they have been in full 200 club membership.
9. It was reported that Mrs. Balmer had expressed her willingness to talk to the party going on the trip about German life, customs etc, and to teach members in basic German phrases etc if they so wished. Whilst it was agreed that such a meeting would be both useful and desirable, it was also agreed that it should take place outside rehearsal time, probably on a 'one-off' basis on a Sunday afternoon, the suggested date being Wednesday, May 19th, 1982, at Elmore Comm Ass'n.

A.D.B. FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION FROM A.G.M: Agreed that in reality points 1 and 2 from the list prepared by Sec, and concerning the development of the Patrons List, had actually been dealt with during the A.G.M. itself, and further discussion was un-necessary. On point 4 concerning the possible future charge for the choir magazine, it was felt that, in view of the large increase in Subs, that the magazine should remain as a free service to members, patrons and friends of the Lyons.

Discussion took place on point 6 concerning the suggestion that the choir advertise in the local press for new recruits. It was felt that on past experience this had proved a

fruitless exercise. It was agreed that the best way to recruit new members was to appeal to people at the end of each concert to come and join the choir. It was agreed to place points 11, 12 and 13, all concerning the appointment of a deputy conductor on the agenda for the March Committee meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF CONCERT BOOKINGS FOR 1982: Sec read out the details as far as he knew them of the choir's participation commitments so far for 1982. Chairman agreed to relay these to the choir corporate at the next rehearsal. Mus. Dir asked committee if it would be feasible to rehearse on the Wednesday night of Holy Week as an alternative to missing a rehearsal on Good Friday, in the context of the fact that Herr Heinz Druen, an officer of the German Choir would be in Seaham at that time and might possibly like to come over and pay us a visit. Agreed that this should happen if the hall could be booked for that night. Sec agreed to contact Mrs. Gray to find this out. Mus Dir also asked for the topic of 'General Policy Towards Mixed Performances' to be placed on the agenda for the March Committee meeting.

SAINSBURY'S NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS: Sec reported that he had been sent details of this festival and booking forms plus details of a fairly cheap rail package and hotel deal for this festival. Agreed that Chairman relay details to choir members and see if there was any response to this.

VENUE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Sec reported that Mr. Hall had established via Mrs. Gray that the library room at Elemore would probably be available on the nights we would require it for committee meetings at a cost of £2.00p per night (7:00pm till 10:00pm). Discussion took place on this topic and it was finally agreed to maintain the status quo and continue to meet in committee member's homes. Sec was instructed to make enquiries into the possibility of having a choir notice board placed in the Hall at Elemore.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: A reed that the next committee meeting take place at 7:00pm on Thursday March 18th, 1982: at 12, Maureen Terrace, Blackhall Rocks. (Home of Mr. and Mrs R. Settrej)

Signed:

COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:15pm; ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26th, 1982, AT THE ELEMORE COMMUNITY ASS'N.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Huggins.

.. BLACKPOOL MUSICAL FESTIVAL 1982: Sec reported that he had received word of the test piece ofr the above festival that morning, it being "The Bandit's Chorus (Ernani)". He also reported that he had made enquiries about coach prices at £6.00p per head, and went on to outline the total cost in view of the added transport element. Some discussion took place about the festival, and it was finally agreed that the choir take part in the competition, but that no accommodation be sought in Blackpool ie... the choir go there and back withing the day. This to be a recommendation to be put to the choir by the Chairman and Sec that evening for their approval or otherwise.

Signed:

COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1982; AT 7:00pm; AT 40, PARK  
LEA, EAST HERRINGTON, SUNDERLAND. (Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Huggins.)

A G E N D A.

1. Apologise for Absence.
2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.
4. Treasurer's Report and Insurance.
5. Social Secretary's Report.
6. Annual Concert 1982. Detailed Arrangements for the Concert.
7. Blackpool Festival. Sat Oct 23rd 1982. Preliminary Arrangements.
8. Acceptance of New Members.
9. Grant From Tyne and Wear County Council.
10. German Exchange Visit.
11. A.O.B. for Committee Consideration from A.G.M.
12. Confirmation of Concert Bookings for 1982.
13. The Sainsbury's National Festival of Choirs.
14. Venue of Future Committee Meetings.
15. Time and Place of Next Committee Meeting.

POINTS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

1. The need to build up the patrons list from its present sorry state (N. Shaw.)
2. The fact that the Patrons Fees at £3.00p and £1.50p are too low (D. Jones.)
3. The proposal that the choir seek sponsorship from firms etc for future large scale musical activities.  
(D. Charlton)
- no change* 4. The proposal that committee discuss making a small charge for future copies of the choir magazine (J. Curtis)
5. That a list of choir officers etc be posted prior to the 1983 A.G.M. asking for nominations for official posts etc. (P. Crawford)
6. That the choir advertise for new membership through the advertising columns of the local press (P. Coade)
- Sept.* 7. That nominations for future officials and committee members be sought specifically from choir members who have not previously held offices ect on committee (R. Johnson)
8. That in future prior to Annual Concerts etc, each member be issued with a number of concert tickets which will be his responsibility to sell. (J. Bennett)
9. That the memento for the German Tour be decided upon and made known to choir members as soon as possible. (H. Guildford)
10. That further ideas for increasing choir funds be generated, especially those with a 'quick sales' element to them like the sale of pens. (H. Guildford)
11. That the position of the Deputy Conductor be resolved by committee as quickly as is humanly possible. (R. Lamb)
12. That the position of Deputy Conductor be offered to Mr. Joe Parker of Chester-Le-Street (R. Johnson)
13. That the committee produce a series of terms of reference or criteria to be looked for in a deputy conductor from outside the choir, so that members can possibly offer serious suggestions for the post, in the light of the criteria required. (D. Charlton)

LYONS MALE VOICE CHOIR. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 7:00pm; ON JANUARY 30th, 1982; AT THE  
ELEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, EASINGTON LANE.

The meeting was opened by the President who gave a short address of welcome. He thanked the members for turning out to the A.G.M. in such numbers, considering the state of the night. He wished the choir well and expressed the hope that it's fortunes would continue to flourish during 1982 as they had done in 1981. The President was thanked for his remarks and for his work on behalf of the choir by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Secretary reported that there had been no written apologies for absence received, but verbal apologies were received at the start of the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: were duly read, approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: The Chairman reported that the only business still outstanding from the previous A.G.M. was the appointment of the Deputy Conductor for the choir. He gave a brief outline of the committee deliberations thus far on this matter, the ideas discussed etc. and promised that this matter would be cleared up as soon as could be arranged. All the other matters for Committee consideration from the previous A.G.M. had been discussed in committee at various meetings during the past year, and the choir had been informed of any decisions/recommendations taken on these individual points.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer presented the balance sheet for the previous year (copies of which were available to members). He explained various points concerning the finances of the choir, and invited questions from individual members, which were duly presented and answered. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for the meticulous way in which he kept the finances of the choir. The Treasurer's report and the balance sheet were unanimously accepted.

AUDITORS' REPORT: Mr. Coode, speaking on behalf of himself and Mr. Cook, reported that all the choir account books etc had been duly examined by the Auditors and found correct. He commented on the difficulty of the Treasurer's work and the commendable and efficient manner in which he executed his tasks.

ROLL SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Roll Secretary reported that he had duly kept the choir register as faithfully as he could, though often in somewhat trying circumstances. He gave details of the best and worst attendances within the various sections of the choir during the previous year. He also made comment on the continuing difficulties of the retrieval of music from members, hence his recently adopted policy of deliberately taking individual members' music cases from them and extracting the various copies of music that were being recalled at the time.

SICK VISITORS REPORT: Mr. Hutton reported that all the members who had been reported to himself and Mr. Simpson as sick, had been duly visited during the year; but made the assertion that the sick visitors could only do their job efficiently if they were informed via other choristers, when choir members were ill. Chairman thanked the sick visitors for their work on behalf of the choir. Their report was accepted.

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REMARKS: Musical Director prefaced his remarks by emphasising the problems of library management faced by the choir, especially when copies of music seem to "mysteriously" disappear. The choir always bought more copies of a piece of music than the total membership of the choir, and yet, there had been several occasions in the past year when members had genuinely asked for copies and there were literally none left in the library cupboard. He continued by stating that the past year had been a good year musically, when both our membership and our musical standards had risen. He stated his disappointment concerning the unfortunate draw, timings etc about Llangollen, yet he felt that we should all have learned, musically, from this experience. He offered sincere thanks to Mrs. Gibson, for her sterling work as choir accompanist during the year, often under difficult circumstances at certain concert venues. He looked forward to a busy and successful 1982, perhaps highlighted by the German Exchange Visit, but also to the possibility of competing at Blackpool Festival, and to a full programme of concerts. Musical Director was thanked by the Chairman for his effort and dedication plus his patience with his choristers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Sec reported another busy year of choir business and administration, and paid tribute to the help received during the year from the Assistant Sec and Treasurer. He stated that since the last AGM, committee had met 11 times on its allotted night and on at least as many occasions again (usually after rehearsals) to deal with matters of increased urgency. He apologised to members that, since the move to the new rehearsal venue, there had been something of a breakdown in the visual communications policy that had worked well

enough in the former venue. Until this situation could be remedied, the onus of communication would have to fall back onto Chairman's announcements. Sec thanked the committee and members for putting up with his mistakes in the year past.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: Retiring Chairman expressed the hope that he had served the choir in the two years past with both honour and dignity. He felt that the reputation of the choir had been enhanced and its musical standards uplifted in the talented hands of the Musical Director. He expressed his sincere thanks to the editors and contributors to the Choir Magazine, to the committee members and choir officials for their hard work and dedication in running the affairs of the choir. He wished the Chairman elect a happy and successful period of office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The following were elected to serve:-

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Higgins. VICE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. R. Settreay. SECRETARY: Mr. F. Williams. TREASURER: Mr. V. Young. SOCIAL SEC/ASSISTANT SEC: Mr. M. Hall. ROLL SEC: Mr. N.B. Scott. AUDITORS: Mr. B.P. Coode and Mr. R. Cook. LIBRARIANS: Messrs N.B. Scott, J. Sanderson and R. Settreay. SICK VISITORS: Mrs. M. Hutton and Mr. J. Simpson. COMMITTEE MEMBERS (to serve for 2 years) Mr. R. Pattison and Mr. C. Self. Committee Member (to serve for 1 year) Mr. J. Sanderson. PATRONS: Hutton Town Council and Sunderland Borough Council.

The "Incoming" Chairman thanked Mr Bouey for his service to the choir through what had been a period of hard work administratively. He made special reference to the tireless work that the retiring chairman had put in to get the exchange visit off the ground and re-iterated that he had indeed served the choir with honour and dignity. In this same spirit, he embarked on his term of office with equally high hopes for the musical success of the choir.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1982: The Chairman outlined to members the discussions that had taken place in committee on this topic. He stated that committee had recommended that subs for '82 be increased to £3.00p for full membership and £1.50p for student/O.A.P. membership, but that it had been agreed in committee that this topic be open for discussion at this meeting. After due discussion it was agreed that subscriptions for 1982 be £5.00p for full membership and £2.00p for student/O.A.P. membership.

PATRONS FEES: Chairman again informed the meeting of committee concern over the state of the Patrons list and offered the committee recommendation that for 1982 the fees be reduced to £3.00p (double patron) and £1.50p (single Patron). Sec was to prepare forms for patrons and distribute these to members who were asked to seriously recruit new patrons for the choir and thus build up the patrons list.

A.O.B. FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION: Individual choir members asked committee to consider several points and suggestions concerning the patrons list. Committee was asked to consider making a small charge for the choir magazine. Several members offered ideas and possible names for the resolution of the problem of the appointment of a Deputy Conductor for the choir. Points were made and taken concerning ways of recruiting membership to the choir through the possible use of the press and other media organisations.

## LYONS DALE V. CC CHDR.

## ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1982.

RECEIPTS.	£	s	p	£	s	p
Members Subscriptions	272	0	00			
Sale of Badges	35	0	00			
Donations	59	0	25			
Patrons Fees	199	0	50			
Grants From Local Authorities	300	0	00			
Sale of Cassettes	14	0	00			
Annual Concert	272	0	00			
German Tour	2923	0	50			
Social Evenings	410	0	21			
Choir Uniform	475	0	00			
Concert Fees	269	0	50			
Massiah Concert (1981)	30	0	00			
City Hall Concert (1981)	300	0	01			
Byron Musical Festival (1981)	4	0	00			
Photographs	117	0	75			
Fund Raising (H. Guildford)	200	0	00			
Roker Peers Concert	50	0	00			
Ladies Committee	681	0	57			
Sunderland Amateur Operatic Concert	200	0	00			
Blackpool Musical Festival	495	0	00			
City Hall Combined Concert	618	0	75			
Bank Interest	112	0	37			
Balances at December 31st, 1981:-						
Current Account	147	0	90			
Deposit Account	1076	0	11	1224	0	01
<u>TOTAL</u>				<u>9322</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42</u>

AUDITORS REPORT: We certify that the above statements are true and correct. All the relevant documents were produced and all necessary books of accounts were examined.

B.P. Conde; R. Cook (Auditors)

PAYMENTS.	£	s	p	£	s	p
Music and Insurance	104	0	07			
Hire of premises	243	0	50			
Printing and Stationery	24	0	58			
Subscriptions and Donations	67	0	10			
National Ass'n of Choirs	10	0	00			
Cassettes	25	0	35			
Annual Concert	187	0	31			
German Tour	3562	0	96			
Social Evenings	330	0	60			
Chorale Magazine	5	0	50			
Honouraria	175	0	00			
Telephones	252	0	00			
Admin Expenses	44	0	23			
Corporation Tax	70	0	80			
Photographs	132	0	00			
Fund Raising (H. Guildford)	95	0	91			
Roker Peers Concert	50	0	00			
Ladies Committee	681	0	57			
Sunderland Amateur Operatic Concert	221	0	00			
Blackpool Musical Festival	382	0	00			
City Hall Combined Concert	538	0	75			
Bank Charges	14	0	40			
Balances at December 31st, 1982:-						
Current Account	696	0	84			
Deposit Account	1406	0	05	2102	0	89
<u>TOTAL</u>				<u>9322</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42</u>

Signed: T Young (Treasurer)

15th Jan. 1983

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 28th, 1982; AT 7:00pm; AT 4, BELMONT  
RISE, HETTON-LE-HOLE. (Home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Bowey.)

CHAIRMAN: Mr. S. Bowey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs Curtis, Hall, Huggins, Kay, Lamb, Middlemas, Settrey, Williams and Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from Mr. H. Bousfield.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: were duly read approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING: Several matters arose as follows:-

1. Sec confirmed to committee that the entry of the choir to the competition at Ryton, had been officially withdrawn and that the entry fee of £4.00p had been duly returned.
2. Sec confirmed the dates of concerts in 1982 with committee members as far as could be at the time of the meeting.
3. Questions were asked concerning the finances of the Messiah performance. It was agreed that the loss incurred would reveal itself in the 1981 Balance sheet to be presented in the Treasurer's Report, and would be discussed in that context.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported first on the current financial state of the choir, with receipts to date being some £1806.02p set against expenditure to date of £11.16p leaving a current balance of £1794.86p. Monies held as follows... Current A/C... £718.75p and Deposit A/C... £1076.11p. He then presented the 1981 balance sheet and went through this item by item, explaining the various gains and losses of the year past. Treasurer pointed out that receipts of £298.01p from the City Hall Concert had arrived but too late to be included on the 1981 Balance sheet. Mention was made of the fact that Len Parker (deceased) had bought and paid for choir trousers which would not have been worn, and suggested that we contact the widow with a view to buying these back from her, though no firm decision was taken on this suggestion. Treasurer went on to inform committee, that the subscription to the Elmore Community Association was due, and pointed out that, in the past we have also made a donation towards the community Ass'n funds of £25. Discussion took place on whether to continue the payment of a donation. Mr. Curtis suggested that we do them a concert free of charge in lieu of donation, though this suggestion was not taken up. Mr. Lamb moved that since we are now donating to the funds by using the premises, that we cease to give this donation. Mr. Huggins moved that we keep the donation going to the Community Association and this remain at £25.00p. Both motions were seconded, and Mr. Huggins motion was carried. Questions were asked of the Treasurer as to the payment of monies to travel agents for travel costs for Germany, and the Treasurer was of the opinion that if individual members did not meet the deadline payment dates with their payments the choir funds would be able to provide the 'bridging finance'. Lengthy discussion took place on the financial losses of the Messiah Performance and the near loss of the 1981 Annual Concert as shown on the balance sheet. In this Mr. Curtis sounded a cautionary note as to the booking of artistes in future at large fees. The Treasurer summed up this discussion by stating his considered opinion that the crux of the whole matter was the fact that the choir members were not motivating themselves to get out and sell tickets to people, evidence for which was the stated fact that only 20 choir members sold tickets for the Messiah Performance out of a total membership of 65. The Treasurer's report and the 1981 Balance Sheet were accepted unanimously.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Social Sec reported that the first part of the year is not very active socially due to such things as the weather, availability of halls, lack of definite knowledge re- bookings of concerts etc. He did state that he had received some good ideas for social events from the magazine. He reported that the Masonic Hall in Hetton is booked for a social evening on Saturday Sept. 18th 1982, and he suggested that instead of a set meal, this year we have soup, a good buffet meal and a sweet. This suggestion met with general approval but was not formally accepted. Mus. Dir. suggested a "send-off" function prior to the German Visit, suggesting the Elmore Comm. Ass'n Hall as a possible venue for this function. Soc. Sec agreed to find out prices and availability etc. He also suggested that the choir should sing at it's own social functions in future. Mr. Lamb suggested a social function to honour our President, suggesting Sat May 1st, or Thurs, April 29th as possible dates and either Elmore Comm ASS'n or the Church Hall as possible venues. This suggestion was approved, the Soc Sec being mandated to make enquiries as to availability of Halls, prices etc. There was also a feeling expressed among committee for a 'men only' social gathering. Mr. Curtis suggested a Darts and Dominoes Smoker, a possible venue for which being the Golden Lion at South Hylton. No formal approval was given to this suggestion though Mr. Curtis offered to organise such an evening when the choir wished to make this suggestion official.

MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE A.G.M.: Several matters were discussed as follows:-

1. Subscriptions for 1982: Discussion took place around making a recommendation to the A.G.M. on the subscriptions for 1982. There was consensus opinion that the subscriptions would have to be raised, the point being made that, at our present rate of subscription we get hyper cheap enjoyment. It was proposed and seconded that committee recommend that for 1982, choir subscriptions be raised to £3.00p for full membership and £1.50p for O.A. P. membership and students who are not earning a wage. Mr. Lamb proposed that the committee recommend that subscriptions be raised, but to leave the settling of the exact amount to the membership at the A.G.M., on the basis that the committee might very well be surprised at the value of the choir placed on it by its membership. It was agreed that the recommendation of the stipulated amounts be put to the A.G.M. but that mention be made of the discussion, and leave it to the membership to decide.
2. Committee Members: Chairman expressed the sincere thanks of the choir officers to the two retiring committee members, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Lamb, for the sincere and sterling work they had put in on behalf of the members they were elected to represent, during their two year term of office. It was established that two more committee members should be elected at the A.G.M.
3. A.O.B. for Committee Consideration: Mr Lamb expressed his objections of principle that if an A.O.B. item is to be included on the agenda, then this should be without the proviso of "committee consideration". Some discussion took place though it was finally agreed to maintain the current wording of this item on the agenda.
4. Sec asked permission to have a new supply of letterheads, duly amended and printed after the A.G.M. This permission was granted.

COMPETITIONS IN 1982: Mr. Curtis opened discussion on this topic with the proposal that, Blackpool Festival be the only competition we enter in 1982, given suitable music etc. This point was discussed and finally agreed. Discussion then moved to the various permutations of concerts, exchange visit commitments etc for 1983. It was agreed that the choir should now start and make plans for 1983, and to this end Sec was instructed to write to N.A.C. requesting the Competitions hand book for 1983, as soon as it is published. Mus. Dir asked committee to think about the possibility of being asked to do another City Hall Concert in 1983. It was agreed that Sec purchase on behalf of the choir the 'Music Year Book for 1983'.

VENUE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Mus Dir re-iterated his thoughts that a central meeting place for committee outside members homes might be in the best interests of both committee time and choir efficiency. Mr. Lamb voiced objection to this from the view point of the Sunderland based committee members, and other living well outside the Hetton area, who at least got one committee meeting night at their home base under the present system. Mr. Middleman echoed these views. No decision was taken at this meeting though Sec and Soc Sec were instructed to enquire as to availability and costs of booking a room in the Ealemore Comm Ass'n and the Church Hall for such meetings.

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT: Several points were discussed as follows:-

1. Mementoes: Tour Sec reported on the costs of the illuminated plate suggestion from the Gladstone Pottery Museum. Discussion took place on both the costs and the need to place and order for these as soon as possible. It was agreed that as soon as the specimen plate becomes available it be shown to the choir members and prospective orders taken as soon as possible thereafter.
2. Travel Arrangements: Tour Sec reported that the Ferry Company had not yet confirmed the booking of the ferry crossings, but the travel agents were endeavouring to secure this confirmation as soon as possible.
3. Composition of the party: Tour Sec reported the people who had dropped out of the trip, and suggested that the choir should be informed that spare places were available should any members now wish to make the trip. The possible problem of probationary choir members wishing to go was discussed though no firm conditions for acceptance of such cases was agreed.
4. Deposits: People who had not yet paid deposits were listed in committee, these members to be reminded through a choir notice that their deposits are due in respect of their commitment to this trip. Lengthy discussion took place as to whether the deposits should be refunded to the people who have dropped out of the tour. Committee opinion was much divided on this topic, some members felt that it should be a non returnable deposit, though the case of Len Parker lessened the weight of this argument, it being finally agreed that deposits would only be refunded at a time when it is not going to incur any financial loss to the choir.

COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY DEC 16th 1982; AT 7:00 pm

AT 40 PARK LEA, HERRINGTON SUNDERLAND (HOME OF MR & MRS. J. HUGGINS).

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for Absence.
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
- 3) Matters Arising from the Minutes.
- 4) Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Social Secretary's Report.
- 6) Musical Director's Remarks.
- 7) N.A.C. Group Meeting - Report on proceedings of Sat Dec. 4th.
- 8) Sainsbury's National Festival of Chorus - Entry Form & Tape.
- 9) Chorus Publicity & Photograph. 

20x16	-	11	-	19
20x24	-	15	-	12
20x30	-	18	-	17
20x40	-	24	-	22
- 10) Concert Requests. 1983 & 1984. 

1983	1984
11	12
15	17
18	22
24	22
- 11) Competitions in 1983. 

19th Sept 1983
6th October 1984
- 12) German Exchange Visit.
- 13) Crucifixion & F. Wappell Esq.!!! - Recording
- 14) A.O.B. - Dep. Constructor - should be on Committee
- 15) Time & Place of Next Committee Meeting.  
Jan 20th - Blackhall Rocks

Epworth Church Sept. 24th 7pm Saturday

Wed. 22nd May - Recording 7pm

16th April - London - Albert Hall

N.A.C. Group Meeting (Inaugural Session) on Saturday December 4th 1982

In the Coedmon Hall of Gateshead City Library. from 1.00pm until 3.00pm.

Messrs J. Curtis, J. Huggins, A.T Kay, R Lamb, J. Sanderson & F. Williams attended this meeting as representatives of Tyne & Wear Male Voice Choir.

- 1) Welcome to Delegates by National President of N.A.C. .... Mr. Norman Williams (Felling). He gave a brief outline of the history, aims, structure and activities of the N.A.C.
- 2) Address by Mrs. Cooper .... General Secretary of N.A.C. .... Bedworth (Warwickshire). She argued the need for "regionalism" within the N.A.C. Since the National Organization is so "far flung" .... So to speak .... that communication etc between choirs at national level is well nigh impossible. The N.A.C. itself is structured into regional groups on a geographical distribution basis. Some moves towards development of regional groups being set up already & the purpose of this session was to get people together & attempt to set up group communication / activities / organization structure etc in our area i.e. Group 7.
- 3) Roll Call of Choirs Represented at this meeting was taken. An officer from each choir giving brief details (& a great deal of humorous repartee) on the history, size activities etc of their choir. Choirs represented were .... how Fells Ladies, Columbia Singers (M'bans), Puddhoe Gleemen, Rawlands Gill Ladies, Felling, Lemington, Hyans, Wolongham Steelworks M.V.C., Ponteland Singers (Ladies Choir), Richardson Singers (Ladies Choir Darlington), Ashington M.V.C., Royal British Legion M.V.C. (Newcastle). 12 choirs in all. 39 had been contacted. (N.B. This was stated as good attendance by General Secretary!).
- 4) Address by Mr. Laurie Butcher (Dore M.V.C.) Chairman of Regional Group 9 (Sheffield & S. Yorkshire Area). He gave outlines of the formation / activities etc of this group which has been in existence since 1970/71. This group meets every 3 months to discuss matters of common interest & concern, They organize a mixed Choirs Concert annually, a popular event. He regards the main aims of his group as being one of promotion of choirs & choral music etc. Group 9 is organized by a small committee of 4, but other regional groups have larger committee representation.
- 5) Possible areas for Future Discussion / Participation / Consultation etc. eg. a Calendar of Events to avoid concert clashes where possible, a catalogue of music available in the region. Possibility of devising mechanisms for conductors of larger choirs to guest conduct smaller choirs. The mechanisms whereby the Choir members of N.A.C. can organize sponsor a profit from events etc produced by themselves for themselves. Mechanisms to encourage young people to partake in Choral Singing.
- 6) Next meeting to be in Coedmon library on Sat. Jan 29th 1983 at 2.00pm. Each choir to send a maximum of 3 representatives these not necessarily to be drawn from existing committee or officials.

F.W.

9/12/82.