

Minutes Wrablers 3rd AGM – 21 January 2014

Chairs: Wendy, Sally

Attendees: JB, SE, JL, SL, KM, MM, RM, JP, LS, MS, WT

Apologies : DD

<i>Item</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
1 Membership: Do we have the right number of members and the right balance of voices? <i>Identify vacancies in group and agree how to fill them.</i>	SE proposed we recruit 2 x soprs, 1 x tenor and 1 x bass, taking the membership to 16. This was agreed. LS requested that in any new configuration she be allowed to sing tenor as well as alto. This was also agreed. We agreed to attempt to recruit new people through attendance at workshops, and through promotion at gigs. Need to check with DD on the status of Duncan and KM agreed to make clear to Naomi that we are looking for a soprano, rather than someone who just sings high through preference or default. KM agreed.
2 Recruitment Process: Is the current process right? How could we improve it? <i>Review and agree process</i>	We agreed to keep the existing recruitment process, but to tighten up some aspects, eg there will be a probationary period of 6 rehearsals (probably equal to 12 weeks, depending on frequency of meetings). There will be continue to be two introductory meetings prior to joining (starting the probationary period). The first is to observe, but we agreed to invite the new person to join in. As before, the second invitation meeting would be the 'audition' with material specially selected for the person in question (so that we can give a high song to a potential soprano, for example).
3 Repertoire: Review the work of the Reprobates. Is this method of obtaining and choosing material working? What about workshops? Are there any suggestions for	In general it was felt that the rep gang are doing a useful job, but that we have some 'catching up' to do so that we don't have another stressful term like last term. With this in mind, the rep gang agreed to produce the repertoire for the second half of the year too. We will know what this will be, and songs will be available for learning, by May 2014, to allow for learning over the summer, and to avoid new songs being introduced in August and

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making it work better? Any views on how the process works generally? <i>Review and agree the repertoire process.</i>	September when members are away.
4 Rehearsals: Are we meeting often enough? Too often? Are rehearsals too long/short? Is the structure we agreed in Rehearsal Elegance still working? Have we implemented it properly? <i>Review and agree rehearsal process</i>	We discussed meeting more regularly (weekly) but this was dismissed as several Wrablers can only meet on alternate weeks due to other commitments. Madrigals and Madriguys also value off weeks as opportunities to meet in our smaller groups. We agreed to try our very best to adhere to the Rehearsal Elegance framework we developed (see attached) so that we get a chance to sing in small groups more regularly and work through any issues that parts are experiencing. We universally agreed that there is too much talking in rehearsals and that we all need to take responsibility for supporting song leaders by not talking or offering insights into songs while they are leading. We will leave opportunities for this at the end of a song, or at the end of a rehearsal, whichever makes more sense in the implementation.
Break	
5 Performances: Are we performing enough? Too much? Wrong kind of performance? Where shall we look to perform in future? <i>Review and agree Performance schedule.</i>	It was generally agreed we would like to perform more as it would be useful in keeping old repertoire alive and also improve our skills. Suggestions for additional gigs, not reliant on entire group being available included: collaborations with other choirs; small group performances and open mics. We agreed to perform two main gigs a year. We agreed to try to fix a June performance date at our next rehearsal. Please all bring diaries.

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	The group seemed in favour of finding a new venue asap. One possibility is Unity Hall, and WT suggested we might need a PA, which we could source for £60. This would also be useful for after-performance dancing etc. We agreed to consider this when we know what our likely venue is.
6 Musical Director: Are we still happy to lead ourselves? Do we need outside help? What kind? What do we most need to learn? <i>Review and agree learning goals.</i>	In Daniel's absence it wasn't clear what he had wanted to say on this matter, but the group generally felt we wanted to continue to lead ourselves with occasional help from an outside leader to work on specific aspects of technique or repertoire. Robin suggested a workshop leader who is not available until 2015 but the group seems generally open to the idea. Jill suggested approaching Janna (her choir leader). Other ideas welcome. We agreed that we were leaning a lot on Daniel, and this should be discussed during rehearsal AOB, when Daniel is there. LS suggestion to workshop dynamics in songs was agreed.
7 Decision making: Are we happy with our 2/3 quorum plus one majority? How else might we make decisions? <i>Review and agree decision-making process.</i>	Robin pointed out we'd got our sums wrong on what constitutes a majority. We are currently 12 members and $\frac{3}{4}$ of that (9) is quorate. We agreed that on most operational items, a majority of the quorum is sufficient to carry decisions, but on matters of membership, all 12 (or however many we are) members must vote. We agreed that one member can't veto a new joiner, but if two or more members object they will be asked (privately) to state their reasons why.
10 Key Tasks: Is the list in the constitution correct and complete? Do other tasks need to be added? Can we ditch any? Would anyone like to volunteer or un-volunteer for anything? <i>Review key tasks list and</i>	We agreed to circulate the key tasks list again for the sake of new members. JB agreed to do this.

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<i>re-allocate as appropriate.</i>	
11 Summer Break: <i>Review and agree summer break.</i>	We agreed not to introduce new songs in August (see above).
13 Costs: We have paid £5 per year so far <i>Review and agree subscription.</i>	The subscription was raised to £10 per year, and Mercedes collected subs.
14 Feedback: Since we've agreed to offer and receive feedback, how should we do this? <i>Review and agree feedback process.</i>	We agreed that this was happening organically. We agreed to add this to the person spec (circulated already)
15 Constitution: <i>Agree any amendments to constitution arising from the AGM</i>	See attached.
16 Singing: Ide Were	
17 Agree date of next AGM (not a rehearsal night)	We didn't do this. Suggest Tuesday 13 January 2015 (not a rehearsal night)