

WRABLERS AGM on 24th September 2024

CORRECTED 01/10/2024

P: Robin (chair), Juliana, Wendy, Marcus, Janette, Kathy, Peter, Louli (mins)

A: Max, Colin

In Blue - Actions / Proposals

1. Finances

- a) **Audited accounts:** accounts audited by Robin. Wrablers OKed them
Vote of thanks to Colin for doing this job.
- b) **Website costs** – agreed to be funded by Wrablers. Thanks to Wendy for funding all these years. **ACTION** Wendy send Colin the invoice.
- c) **Increase fees to Rob:**
 - Marcus' research finds that choir directors are paid £42.50/hr for rehearsals and £275 for a day.
 - Currently Rob gets £45/hr rehearsal and £180 for a day.
 - He has not had an increase in 6 years and jokingly raised it last week
 - We have agreed to raise as follows: to £47.50/hr (ie £95 for evening rehearsal) and £200 for day rehearsal
 - Juliana added - These rates cover his own prep, checking the set list music, changing arrangements, extra tuition for some songs, etc
 - **ACTION** - Juliana let Rob know
- d) **Increase subs:** agreed to increase payments to £100 when Colin emails us

2. Recruitment: all agreed we need more peeps most especially in the light of:

- **Kathy** let us know that after the Xmas gig she will be leaving Wrablers. Boo hoo, we will be very sorry to see you go Kathy
- Ideas for where to recruit include
 - If we had more gigs we could recruit from other choirs
 - People in existing choirs speak to members
 - If peeps approach us we need to be pro-active in following this up
 - Juliana contact Kathryn Dixon

3. GIGS

A long discussion in which all the points: holidays, gigs at different times of the year, small groups interlinked. Main reasons that brought the discussion up in the first place are:

- a) How do we reduce pressure and increase enjoyment
- b) What needs to happen to make us better (see feedback sheet too)

ACTION: JB to list all songs and when. Circulate and place on website which can be updated each gig.

Summary of comments

- **Holidays:** **agreed**

- 1 month off after each gig
- After Xmas gig - meet for Xmas supper
- After Summer gig: meet no earlier than 2 weeks + take August off and re-start September
- **Gigs at different time of the year, or change format to reduce learning**
 - **Proposal** – Xmas is the main gig. Lighter learning schedule for Summer gig and maybe do some songs we can use in Xmas gig
 - **Set the gig dates very early**
 - **All to use the alternate week off' to really learn parts well**, be much better prepared for rehearsals so that in rehearsals we use the time to sing together (not learn the part)
 - **Other small gigs – we need to find these**
- **Small groups**
 - Small group songs mean fewer songs for us all to learn, reduces learning pressure, ups the pressure on exposure!
 - Rep gang and individuals identify songs for small groups early on
 - Poses logistical issues for rehearsals (*Louli comment – we all need to be a little patient, take time out to enjoy listening to a small group in which we are not singing to support them etc. It can be done if we are prepared to do this*).
 - Small song groups can meet outside of rehearsal time in peeps homes. (Wendy has not offered to cook chicken)

4. **Feedback from Gigs:** Two types of feedback: from audience and from ourselves. Thank you Robin for collating this from the last gig. We had a round the table discussion which revealed: 2 were in favour, 1 not in favour, 5 had mixed view

Summary of points:

- **Audience feedback** is unscientific / when several audience members say the same thing it is of value and this is what Robin recorded. We are audience-led, need to please them, they pay, so hearing their views is important. Want to know who said what!
- **Self reflection** - very useful to identify what went well, what did not go well, what can we learn to make it different next time. One person did not enjoy the gig, some thought it not our best, so wouldn't it be useful to be specific and identify what we could do differently next time

ACTIONS:

- General agreement to gather choir comments and to collect from audience if you wish too and share