



FEDERATION OF CATHEDRAL OLD CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Old Stables Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 11th May 2019, commencing at 2pm

14 delegates representing 13 Associations signed the Attendance Register. The following Associations were represented: Chelmsford, Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Leicester, Lichfield, Rochester, Norwich, Salisbury, St Albans, London St. Pauls, Warwick and Westminster Abbey.

29a Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman of the Federation, Alastair Pollard, welcomed delegates to Chelmsford.

29b Federation Prayer and Obituaries

The Chairman read the Federation prayer and delegates stood to remember 7 individuals who had passed away during the year: Rev. Canon Derek Goodman (Leicester), Colin Tipple (Leicester), Peter Wood (St. Edmundsbury), Peter Boizat (Peterborough), Jack Dilrew (Norwich), Tim Hampshire (Exeter), Dr. James Wakelin (Salisbury).

29c Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from 11 individuals: David Horwood (Eton), Peter Fellows (Portsmouth), Richard Belton (Leicester), Gordon Hughes (ChristChurch Oxford), John Connah (Chester), Richard John Stevens (Guildford), Arnold Wills (Peterborough), Tony Froggatt (Portsmouth), Philip Sowley (York), Andrew Orland (Lincoln), Chris Royal (Rochester).

29d Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 12th May 2018 at Chelmsford Cathedral, having been circulated in advance, were corrected and signed as a true record.

29e Matters arising from these minutes (not on the Agenda)

There were no matters arising.

29f Presentation and Adoption of Annual Accounts for 2018

The Honorary Treasurer, Michael Lake, gave a statement supporting the accounts, the report being filed with these minutes. Insurance premiums continue to be the largest outgoing for the Federation, being difficult to avoid and discussions would continue at Executive Committee regarding the future level of subscriptions to ensure our increased costs are met and that we are not in

constant deficit. Deficit is partly due a lack of merchandise sales and no income from sales of printed Once a Chorister Magazine.

In reply to a question, the Chairman clarified that merchandise stock (excluding ties and pin badges) had been disposed of in previous years following agreement of committee.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Geoffrey Mitchel (Exeter), seconded by Stephen Milner (Salisbury) and agreed by all present.

29g Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners

The nomination of Mr Matthew Guest, ACMA, of Manchester as the Federation's Independent Financial Examiner was formally proposed by the Honorary Treasurer, Michael Lake (Chelmsford), seconded by Vice-Chair, Nick Hodges (Warwick) and agreed by all present.

29h Election of Officers

The Chester Association will propose the Dean of Chester, The Very Rev. Tim Stratford to be the Festival President for 2020.

Richard Lilley (St. Albans) was appointed as Federation Membership Secretary.

There being no other nominations received for the Executive Committee, the following will continue to hold Office until the next AGM.

Office	Name	Association
Chairman	Alastair Pollard	Durham
Vice Chairman	Nick Hodges	Warwick
Hon. Secretary	Nicola Pollard	Durham
Hon. Treasurer	Michael Lake	Chelmsford
Membership	Richard Lilley	St. Albans
Website Officer	Richard Watts	Westminster Abbey
Development Officer	Arnold Wills	Peterborough
2020 Festival Rep's.	Jeremy Jones / John Connah	Chester
Associations' Rep's.		
South West	Stephen Milner	Salisbury
East Anglia & South East	Ayrton Westwood	Norwich
North and Ireland	Alastair Pollard	Durham
Midshires & Wales	Nick Hodges	Warwick

29i Reports by Chairman, Secretary and Associations' Representatives

The Chairman read out his report and two Associations' Representatives' reports. There was nothing specific to report from the other two regions, and there was no separate Secretary's report. These reports will be published in Once a Chorister later this year.

29j 2019 Festival – Portsmouth: 21st – 23rd June

No representative from the Portsmouth Association could attend this meeting but the Chairman had recently been in touch with Peter Fellows and John Bolt in Portsmouth and everything appeared to be in hand. There are links on the Federation Website to the agenda and to the on-line booking system, and

invoices have recently been sent out to those who have already booked (check your spam folder if missing!) A reminder email is to be sent out to all members by email. A booking form can be printed and submitted by Royal Mail, as some members had difficulty with the online form.

29k **2020 AGM – Rochester: 9th May**

Ian Henderson confirmed that plans are already in place. There is a new railway station close by with regular trains from St. Pancras. A Cathedral tour will include the crypt.

29l **2020 Festival – Chester: 11th – 13th September**

No representative from the Chester Association could attend this meeting but the Chairman had (only yesterday) had an email from Jeremy Jones with a detailed draft agenda including civic reception, organ recital, banquet and Choral Evensong. It looks good. Chester Association hope to have a final agenda in time for the Portsmouth Festival in June.

29m **Future AGMs & Festivals**

The Chairman gave an update on the next few years: 2020 and 2023 are confirmed, but 2021 and 2022 are only suggestions and hence preliminary.

Year	AGM venue	Festival venue
2020	Rochester	Chester
2021	Salisbury ??	Ely ??
2022	Gloucester ??	Lincoln ??
2023		Warwick St. Marys

The Chairman said that there was an on-going discussion at Executive Committee as we may be forced by circumstance to combine the two events in the future due to a lack of suitable and willing hosts. This was typical until a few years ago, when some associations wished to host a smaller event and so the AGM and Festival were separated.

29n **New member Applications**

An application form has been received from All Saints Kingston Choir Association and agreed. The membership Secretary to follow this up.

We are expecting an application to be filed from Chapel Royal Hampton Court, but not yet received.

The Chairman had received an email from a former chorister at Llandaff Cathedral,. Llandaff are no longer a members of the Federation, so Individual membership was suggested to him.

29o **Once a Chorister magazine**

The Chairman confirmed that, once again, he would be compiling an electronic version of Once a Chorister this year for publication as a .pdf document on the Federation’s website and by email. A deadline for copy was set at the end of October. Associations and former choristers were encouraged to submit interesting articles and reports to chairman@fcoca.org.uk. Association reports are published on the Federation Website when received by the Secretary, but it

was requested that individual chorister names were not included for Data Protection reasons.

29p **Discussion on the Branding of The Federation**

Nick Hodges, Vice-Chair introduced a discussion document about the Federation Name and Brand. The image that we promote to the outside world should say who we are and what we do. Is the current name and brand still appropriate to the 21st century? Some think that the word “old” in our name is no longer appropriate, but if we do change name what should we use instead. Richard Lilley is getting to grips with our Social Media presence, and trying to improve our presence online. Attendance at Federation events is dropping noticeably, and several members associations are struggling to remain viable to existing former choristers and relevant to new ones. Cathedrals, music, choristers, associations in general have evolved over the years, and The Federation is more inclusive than it was, but should we do more.

The Federation hopes to set up a discussion and maybe a poll to report on what people think, especially our name and the benefits of membership. The committee will continue to discuss.

29q **Any other business**

There was no other specific business.

29r **Vote of Thanks**

The Chairman thanked Lichfield Cathedral, Francis Bunch and the Old Choristers’ Association for their kind hospitality.

29s **Close of meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3:25pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) Date _____