



Trustees Report for the period 1/08/2023 – 31/07/2024

Charity: Côr Meibion Gwalia/Gwalia Male Choir
Charity Number: 1169319

C/o Canolfan Cymry Llundain/London Welsh Centre
157-163 Grays Inn Road
London
WC1X 8UE

Trustees:

Richard Hopkin (Chairman)
Steve Davies
Eben Owen
Colin Sanford (Treasurer)
John Taylor

Trustees Report:

Chairman's Report

I hope you all agree that 2024 saw us consolidate and move forward further on the positive progress we made as a choir in 2023. I will defer to Colin (as Treasurer) and Wyn (as Musical Director) for details on finance and our musical output respectively, but I will mention a few highlights.

On recruitment, we have been pleased to welcome a few more new members to our ranks. Growing our numbers has helped our musical balance and improved our confidence across the board, as well as helping with our financial position.

On administration, your committee has met regularly throughout the year to manage the not inconsiderable administrative burden of keeping the choir going. Our strategy remains to ensure that we have enough paid engagements to ensure that the choir is sustainable and able to afford to carry out charitable or low-fee engagements from time to time. In the case of the former, during 2024 we were engaged on a paid basis for three weddings and a funeral (yes, really), which enabled us to help raise funds for the LWC in March (with Bridgend MVC) and again in November (Mosaic and Lewis Barfoot), for music education at St. Alban's Church in Harrow in July and for St. Mungo's in a chilly Victoria Station just before Christmas.

We remain in contact with other choirs and musical groups, and made new friends during 2024 with Bridgend MVC and German Winds (which may lead to a tour in 2026). It is also good to see our regular informal concerts and sing alongs at Old Deer Park in Richmond with LWRCC and LWMVC become embedded in our diaries. There is work in progress on other possible joint choir opportunities.

Rehearsals on the whole have been reasonably well attended, with our average attendance improving from around 18 to 20 men attending. I remain grateful to Alison for the separate personal tuition she provides, alongside our rehearsals to those who want it, which has helped many of us.

We had an especially busy St. David's Day weekend in 2024: once again at the Oxford & Cambridge Club's St. David's Day dinner, then two concerts outdoors on successive chilly days at Spitalfields as part of Welsh Food Week and our joint concert with Bridgend MVC at the London Welsh Centre.

In the second half of the year, it was fun to perform with Sven Hollinghausen and German Winds in the Royal Military Chapel, Birdcage Walk in September, as well as with Mosaic and Lewis Barfoot at the LWC in November. Both these engagements stretched our repertoire a little bit.

Cerys Matthews our President has been kept informed throughout, and we remain grateful for her continuing support.

I am very grateful to all of you for your support and hard work in showing up for rehearsals and performances, to my fellow Committee members for helping to manage the administrative burden, especially in organising each concert, to our professional musicians for their expert guidance and encouragement, and to our supporters and volunteers especially here at the LWC for all the help they have given throughout the year, and continue to provide.

During the course of the year the Committee and Trustees have made a number of administrative changes. These include the formal delegation of day to day operational responsibilities to the Committee by the Trustees, the updating of the rules of the choir

and the introduction of new policies and procedures in respect of financial risk control and complaints procedures among others. The annual submission to the Charity Commission that the choir has to make every year now requires us to state whether we have policies and procedures on the areas covered. A copy of these will be sent out with the notification of the AGM

We have a busy programme of engagements for 2025, including a prestigious engagement at the British Museum in June and (we hope) a tour to Lille in December. Work in progress for 2025 on the administrative side includes a revamp of our website, new ties and shirts and the finalization of the review of our repertoire.

Treasurer's Report

The year ending July 2024 has resulted in a profit for the first time since before Covid.

Our Engagements income has nearly doubled versus last year 2022/23 and is the highest it has been for nearly 10 years.

Member donations are also up year on year.

As expected, our expenses have also increased, but fortunately not at the same rate as our income.

The number of engagements were not dissimilar to last year - however, this year, more of our events were not at a discounted rate, or just to cover our costs.

St David's day weekend was a bumper time for our earnings, with four events in three days.

Five weddings (Bravo to the Castle Howard attendees) in the year and the two Stornoway days - the recording and the concert, also helped to make this year a good one.

Our rehearsal costs (for our two professionals) are up year on year and this is reflective of the increase to their fees that we agreed at the beginning of the financial year.

Because of our profitable year, our retained funds look much healthier also. We have just over £2500 available funds if we pay all of our bills

The outlook for the following financial year looks to be very similar in terms of revenue, with St David's day again being a busy time.

Our thanks to Lekha Patel for undertaking the 'independent examination' of the accounts as required by the Charity Commission. The Trustees of Côr Meibion Gwalia have approved this report.

Signed on behalf of the current trustees,

Signed by:

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Richard Hopkin
Chairman & Trustee
Côr Meibion Gwalia/Gwalia Male Choir
26th March 2024

Cor Meibion Gwalia**Income and Expenditure Account as at 31st July 2024**

	2023-24	2022-23
Income		
Member donations	3,350.00	2,555.00
External donations	100.00	250.00
Engagements (fees and ticket sales)	12,900.00	6,960.00
Royalties from Downloads/CD Sales	57.25	41.90
Total income	16,407.25	9,806.90
Expenditure		
Committee expenses	128.07	181.95
Uniform Costs	736.90	0.00
Insurance	94.08	89.60
Nat Ass of Choirs subscription	53.00	65.00
Musician engagement fees	4,248.75	4,357.90
Beermats	0.00	252.00
Rehearsal costs	9,205.00	6,928.75
Total Expenditure	14,465.80	11,875.20
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,941.45	-2,068.30

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 JULY 2024

CHOIR ACCUMULATED FUNDS	31 July 2024	31 July 2023
Balance as at 31 July	2,620.53	614.08
REPRESENTED BY		
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	7,213.09	9,508.53
	7,213.09	9,508.53
Less Current committed funding		
Advance Payments	0.00	3,500.00
Fees & expenses payable	4,442.56	4,524.45
Engagement advances	150.00	870.00
	4,592.56	8,894.45
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	2,620.53	614.08