

BARRY MALE VOICE CHOIR

AGM 27/1/25

Chairman's Report

Thank you all for making the effort to attend tonight. The AGM may not be the most exciting of choir events but it is part of what we have to do as a charity.

We have seen choir life proceed in pretty much a state of normality I think over the last year. There was the annual appearance at the Shipbrokers dinner, our annual concert and a busy Christmas with our concert and the visits to Spoons and Cwm Talwg. We had a few weddings and helped with quite a few funerals.

We've taken part in some community events such as singing in junior schools, at the Mayor's Service and the GlastonBarry fringe. We helped launch the Sea Shanty Festival and took part in Gwyl Fach y Fro, both at Barry Island. We've also tried something different in appearing twice at Cubanias, put on a mini concert in Trinity Hall and had a successful Poets and Pints evening.

We have hopefully helped increase the choir's profile by taking part in the Ty Hafan celebration, the Vale of Glamorgan Business Awards and the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, and possibly cranked it up a notch with our appearance at the Aled Jones concert and even more so with our competing at the Eisteddfod – a lot more choirs of note now know Barry Male Voice Choir is alive and kicking. We also have Jason Mohammad agree to be our president, albeit still working on what his role will develop into.

Our trip to Northern Ireland proved to be very successful where we sang at two prestigious venues, Stormont and the Ulster Hall. I don't think I'll ever forget the wonderful acoustics of Stormont, and the feel-good factor at the Ulster Hall. The visit was a great opportunity for us to get to know each other that little bit better and be more appreciative of the benefits of being part of the choir community.

In terms of our standard as a choir, I am particularly proud of the concert with Wessex Choir, a very highly regarded and award winning choir and it is no small thing that they were happy for us to share a stage with them in their summer concert.

The highlight of the year though for me has to be the Eisteddfod. There was a lot of uncertainty going into it, probably a fair amount of fear, but we held our own and, I think most of us agree,

we performed to the best that we possibly could. We did ourselves and our music team proud. It was great to hear all who took part say how much they enjoyed the experience, and I recall a certain Yorkshire lad taking pride in the fact he was the only one from his village likely to have taken part in an Eisteddfod. It's also been great to hear some feedback from other music professionals who consider we should be proud of our performance.

I appreciate it was a big ask to learn all that Welsh, but we clearly succeeded as even the judges expressed a surprise that we were a choir with so few Welsh speakers. We can be really proud of our efforts, and hope that next time we visit the Eisteddfod, the fact we've done it before and given how positively it was enjoyed will result in more of us will being willing to take the plunge.

That's a snapshot of what we have done, but in total we have taken part in a total of 25 events, plus four weddings and nine funerals.

Membership number and recruitment

We are currently a choir of 55 members, three more than this time last year so we're going in the right direction. We've had 10 people come and experience choir life and retained 6 of them.

Recruitment is something that we must continue to keep at the forefront of what we do, but we have some high hopes that numbers will increase following our Men United in Song experiment.

7 of those 55 members are currently not taking an active part in the choir and we're thinking of those who are struggling with ill health, and hope it will not be too long before most of them can return to choir life.

Thanks

A lot of effort has gone in to achieve what we have this year, and we have so much to be thankful for.

Our thanks must naturally turn to Dot for all her efforts, with her patience in whipping us into shape at rehearsals and all she does quietly behind the scenes. In particular I want to thank her for being prepared to take the risk of taking up the Eisteddfod gauntlet and am so glad that it paid off. Hopefully the standard we reached serves as a reminder of what we can achieve when we listen to her advice and follow her direction. Let's honour her efforts by each us taking personal responsibility to improve our individual contribution and together as a choir.

Diolch o galon Dot.

Thanks also to Emma and James for their professionalism and loyalty to the choir. Emma and James make a huge contribution, particularly during the split rehearsals and we're very fortunate to have their skills to call upon.

Thanks particularly to my fellow committee members, Steve Jones, Geoff, Lee, Tim, Gary, Peter Allard, Russ Bright and Chris Murray. Thanks also to Ted who has been seconded on to the committee in his recruitment role.

Geoff, Steve and Lee are stepping down this year and I would thank the three of them for their valuable contribution during the last two/three years.

I have to give a special nod to Geoff and acknowledge his mammoth efforts as secretary.

Russ Bright – Newbies Rep and his efforts with the new constitution

Ted Heath – recruitment rep

and thanks to the both of them and all others who have helped with the organisation of the preparations for the Men United in Song event

Phil Murray – for organising the annual dinner and other social events

Dave Maggs for hosting the choir barbecue

Richard King – for his help with the drop box recordings

Nick – website, other tech issues and his work on the new choir rules

Mick Fisher – reports on website, Facebook

Paul Clemo – for continuing with the Friends communications

Charles – for his sterling work as librarian

Les and John for their work as choir archivists

Neil Pugh for his work in sorting our HMRC repayments

Sandy – for staging and his organisation of the lottery

Russ Phillips – for dealing with the choir accessories

Section reps – Mick, Anthony, Sandy and Tim

Choir ladies – front of house at concerts

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Choir friends – for their continued support

I apologise for anyone else that I've left out.

We can look forward to an exciting year ahead, with Men United In song event starting tomorrow and the concert in April, the recording event in June and the Scotland trip in August.

Let us all agree to move forward together for the good of the choir and each other.

Ymlaen a'r canu!

Steve Bowen

Chairman, BMVC

arry Male Voice Choir

Annual Accounts for Year Ended 31st December 2024

Income

Operational

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
£9,336.00 Subs	£9,800.70
£420.00 Friends Subs	£265.00
£660.00 Grants	£350.00
£890.00 Weddings	£1,000.00
£1,168.54 Xmas Meal	£2,116.00
£3,020.61 Gift Aid Rebate	£5,133.09
£8,689.34 Engagements	£9,408.92
£953.39 Bonus ball	£1,269.18
£65.00 Misc Sales	£300.00
£1,655.21 Donations	£850.00
£1,834.03 Social Functions	£323.24
£239.15 Misc Receipts	£464.84
£735.00 Travel	£80.00
Men United in Song	£2,805.00

£29,666.27 TOTALS **£34,165.97**

Difference

Uniform

£200.00 Jacket Deposit £ 300.00

Trips

£9,966.00 Payments in £ 3,288.80

Outgoings

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
£13,234.00 Music Team	£14,983.00
£1,655.00 Hall Fees	£1,890.00
£2,172.47 Travel	£2,510.70
£602.12 Music Copies	£496.21
£1,356.00 Christmas Meal	£2,331.00
£200.00 Visting MD	£50.00
£786.85 Equipment	£1,445.50
£1,296.48 Misc Purchases	£2,304.19
£1,652.40 Donations	£1,075.00
£1,875.75 Concerts	£1,120.40
£855.77 Recruitment Expenses	£776.25
£475.00 Licences	
£4,020.00 T/F to Reserve A/c	£5,000.00
Uniform Purchases	£3,789.63
Men United in Song	£2,668.53

£30,181.84 **£40,440.41**

-£6,274.44

£ 50.00 Jacket Refunds £ 100.00

£ 11,862.50 Payments out £ 11,188.51

Balances

Current A/c Opening Balance as at 01/01/24	£15,142.40
Total Income	£37,554.77
Total Expenditure	£51,728.92
Balance at 31/12/24	£968.25

Reserve A/c

Reserve A/c Opening balance as at 01/01/24	£11,768.71
Tansfer in from Current A/c	£5,000.00
Interest	£202.03
Balance at 31/12/24	£16,970.54

I have checked the BMVC accounts and found them correct

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