



**Minutes of the Regional Committee Meeting held at Staplegrove Village Hall, Taunton, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008.**

**Present:** Rosemary Allen (Chairman), Rod Coomber, Roger Hughes, Sylvia Johnson, Veronica Lee and Donald Sheppard (Secretary).

**Apologies for absence:** David Edge, Ron Nourse, Sylvia Williams, Kate Allen (Regional Development Officer) and Ken Scott (First Call Director).

RA reported that Kate Allen had been recruited to replace Rachel Levay as Regional Development Officer. Kate had a prior engagement for the date of this meeting and regretted that she was unable to attend.

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held 26.04.08:** The minutes were confirmed and signed.

**First Call Director's Report:** Ken Scott's report was received after the meeting and is attached to these minutes.

**Financial Matters:** RH reported that, assuming project expenses of £3,300, which included £200 for purchase of banners, the outturn for the current year would show a net deficit of £156. In the 2009 budget year a case was being made for a grant of £8,000 for project funding. Estimated loss on the year was set at £400. The balance of total funds was currently £6180.

**Annual Members' Day:** DS gave details of the programme for the Annual Members' Day and ARM at Knightley Hall, University of Exeter, on 18<sup>th</sup> October. The morning session would include talks on the Makeover Grants Scheme, a Partnership Scheme in Devon in which we could be involved with community schemes and Kate talking about the projects she hopes to look after as Regional Development Officer. There would be an opportunity for representatives of choirs, orchestras and concert promotion societies to exchange views with colleagues. The Artists' Showcase in the afternoon would feature Trinity College musicians, two singers with accompanist and a pianist.

New committee members were being sought and nomination forms had been issued. At the ARM committee status for Rod Coomber and Ron Nourse, who were co-opted during the year, would be confirmed. Veronica Lee, whose 3 year term was ending would be nominated for a further term. DS announced that he would not be seeking re-election as Secretary. No one had been found to replace him, so a vacancy would be declared. DS said he was prepared to continue as Acting Secretary for a time, but not more than a year.

**Regional Organisation:** RA was writing to all Area Representatives explaining the new plans in which the region would be divided into four sub divisions, each headed by a committee member as Area Co-ordinator. As set out in her paper to the last committee meeting, it was the intention that visiting would be limited to responding to the needs of member groups, and the telephone and emails would be the principal means of contact. RA would also write to Society Representatives advising them of their Area Co-ordinators. In addition to committee members there would also be nominated contacts who could act as advisers on various topics. It was hoped that a number of former 'visitors' would be willing to serve in this capacity. RH agreed that funding for visits already arranged would be approved; the new system to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The four sub divisions were identified by postcode as follows: 1. PL, TQ, TR (SJ, although resigning from the committee, was willing to act as Area Co-ordinator), 2. BS, GL, SN (RC), 3. BA, TA, EX (RH) and 4. BH, DT, SP (DE).

**Committee Handbook Revisions:** The committee welcomed the proposed revisions to Section F of the Committee Handbook (Keeping in Touch with Making Music Members) although some considered that the aim to contact all members on a support basis was unnecessary.

**Proposals for Regional activities in 2008/2009:** A sub committee (RA, RH, KA and DS) had met to discuss the programme of activities which would form the basis of the project allocation to be included in the budget to be submitted to the MM Office by 13<sup>th</sup> October. Evan Dawson (Head of Support & Development) attended in an advisory capacity. Some of the items discussed had already been set in place earlier in the year during Rachel Levay's time as RDO. New ideas included the provision of 'Makeover Grants' on the model adopted by London region, encouraging member groups to bid for a grant in support of an enterprising project - often involving more than one group. It was also proposed to buy two banners which could be erected at any major event run by MMSW. *(Notes of this sub committee meeting are circulated with these minutes).*

**Any other business:**

Making Music Convention, London 13/14<sup>th</sup> September: Most members of the SW committee had attended this gathering of committee members from all regions. All agreed that it was a great success and had gained from the experience. In addition to the excellent presentations and workshops, members enjoyed meeting staff members and networking with colleagues. The only disappointment was the supper which even pizza lovers found a pizza too far!

**Date of next meeting(s):** 29.11.08, 18.04.09 and 19.09.09 with the ARM 24.10.09. The 29<sup>th</sup> November meeting would only be held if KA was available to discuss next year's programme. [ *KA is not available and the committee members could not find another date around that time. Next meeting therefore 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009*]

Donald Sheppard  
Hon Secretary  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Distribution: Committee members  
Ken Scott (First Call Director)  
Evan Dawson (Head of Support & Development)  
Linda Young (Chairman ISSC)