

# National Association of Choirs

UK Registered Charity – Number 1014630

Minutes of the Members Open Forum - Saturday 11 June 2011

held at The Belsfield Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness – on – Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 3EL @ 11h00

<b>Officers Present and any apologies received:</b>	Eric Jackson (EAJ – Non - Executive President)	P
	Celia Johns (CJ - Chairman)	P
	James Ferrabee (JF - General Secretary & Conference Co-ordinator)	P
	Paul Gailiunas (PG - Treasurer)	P
	Richard Bradley (RAB – Services Officer)	A
	Brenda Wilkinson (BEW - Membership Officer)	P
	Bob Swallow (RWS - Publications Officer)	P
	Eric Cooper (EC – Music & Festivals Officer)	A
	John Croft (JC – PRO)	P
Jeff Goldthorpe (JG – Co-opted Officer)	A	

[ P = present A = apologies for absence Empty box = absent with no apologies ]

## Attendees:

Anglia NAC Group	Lincolnshire NAC Group	Midlands East NAC Group	Midlands North NAC Group	North East NAC Group
Group Secretary Gildenburgh Choir	The Orpheus (Grimsby & Cleethorpes MVC) Humberston Singers	Group Chairman Group Secretary Boundary Singers Eastwood Collieries' MVC Gresley MVC Gresley Boys Choir	Mixed Harmony	Group Chairman Prudhoe Gleemen MVC Newcastle Male Chorus York Philharmonic MVC Gibside Singers
		Thames North NAC Group		Vice Presidents
		Luton MVC		W. Frank Rhodes Doris Williams

## Apologies:

Anglia NAC Group	Cumbria/Isle of Man NAC Group	Devon NAC Group	Lancashire North NAC Group	Lincolnshire NAC Group
Acle Community Choir Wenhaston Girls Choir Aragon Singers of Buckden Bure Valley MVC St. Edmundsbury MVC	Whitehaven MVC	Ilfracombe MVC	Colne Linden Singers	Group Chairman Bassingham Choir Grimsby & Cleethorpes Ladies Choir
Midlands East NAC Group	Midlands North NAC Group	North East NAC Group	North West NAC Group	Scotland East & West NAC Group
Concordia Wigston & District MVC	Group Secretary Cannock Chase Orpheus MVC Shrewsbury Police MVC Stone MVC	Gosforth & District MVC	Greater Manchester Police Choir Sale MVC	(Scot E) Linlithgow RFC MVC (Scot E) Lydian Singers (Scot W) Dumfries MVC
South West NAC Group	Southern Counties NAC Group	Thames North NAC Group	Thames South NAC Group	Wales North/Cheshire West NAC Group
Dursley MVC	Bridport Choral Society	Group Chairman Capital Arts Childrens Choir	Group Chairman Group Secretary Group Treasurer The Rowland Singers Snowdown Colliery MVC	Group Chairman Chester Ladies Choir Brymbo MVC Hawarden Singers
Wales South NAC Group	Yorkshire North NAC Group	Yorkshire South NAC Group	Yorkshire West NAC Group	Individual (not assigned to a choir or group)
Abertillery Orpheus MC	Langcliffe Singers	Tideswell MVC	Group Chairman Group Secretary Wakefield AOS Rodillian Singers Huddersfield U3A	Reg Jones – Choir/Group Unknown

Minute	Details	Action
	<b>Roll Call of Attendees:</b> Recorded by the General Secretary. (See above).	Noted
	<b>Conflict of Interest Declaration:</b> There were no declarations of interest with the published agenda.	Noted

	<b>Apologies:</b> Recorded by the General Secretary. (See above).	<b>Noted</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/01</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 22 January 2011:</b> Copies of the previous minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Accepted as a true record and duly signed.  <b>Prop:</b> Prudhoe Gleeman – Paul Gailiunas <b>Sec:</b> Luton MVC – John Croft	<b>Noted</b> <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Unanimous approval</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/02</b>	<b>Matters Arising – not covered on agenda:</b> NAC Clothing range is now available in a range of colours; items available are polo shirts, jumpers and fleeces. The range will be added to the website in the merchandise section very soon.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/03</b>	<b>Business Plan 2012 - 2016:</b> The Chairman went through the document section by section pointing out the developments and changes so far. These had been identified by the Officer Team with input and suggestions from the membership. Members were urged at the last meeting to look through the plan and again urged to feedback to the Officer Team further suggestions to make the Association work for them - none had been received from the last meeting. Members were encouraged to suggest alternative Advice Sheets topics that they considered beneficial and relevant to either their choir or the membership as a whole. Two new advice sheets have been added to the structure – First Aid & Advertising for new MD/Conductors and Accompanists. The meeting was advised that there were no specific plans and developments regarding the phasing out of cheques. Treasurer is keeping a watching brief on this situation as it will affect everyone, not just choirs and charities.	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/04</b>	<b>News &amp; Views Magazine:</b> Summer Edition (195) is expected on the doormats any day, less content input from members this time resulted in this edition being smaller than 194 with padding and filling from the editor to fill certain pages. Editor encourages more submissions from the membership with interesting articles, editor will also be introducing a musical themed crossword and quiz in the next edition. Anyone with any ideas for this section is encouraged to contact the editor direct with these. Content is always sought that is showcasing what is happening in the future as opposed to events that have passed. Two questions were asked of the Publications Officer at the June meeting: 1. Publication dates; 2. A dedicated page for events. These had now been discussed by the full Officer Team at a recent meeting. After much deliberations, discussions and looking at all possibilities it was agreed by the Officer Team that the magazine publication dates would remain the same, it just isn't possible to please everyone all of the time, the magazine would stay at the current page formats and would remain at three editions per year. With the next edition the editor will introduce a dedicated forthcoming event pages to facilitate those members' request at the last meeting on a trial basis, members are advised to submit their events to the editor bearing in mind the publication date of the magazine and when their event will take place. Publication dates are printed in the magazine, online or from the editor direct. The Publications Officer was thanked once again for his dedication to the magazine and for his hard work and effort in producing a quality magazine; members from around the table expressed their delight with the magazine and how well it is received by their choir members.	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Noted</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/05</b>	<b>Conference 2012 - Cumbria:</b> Members were advised that plans for the 2012 conference in Cumbria were well advanced, prices would be significantly cheaper than 2011, provisionally the cost of the weekend was advised as Single Room (including single room supplement) £204 per person and a Double/Twin Room £327 for NAC Members. This year's conference will be made available to <b>NON NAC Members</b> and organisations for the first time to test the water and be more inclusive with the choral world. Prices for these individuals/groups would be 10% higher. Prices for the Conference would be given out to the entire members earlier than normal to allow NAC Groups and member choirs to plan their engagements/concerts around the conference so as not to clash and to encourage early bookings. Most of the 2011 Conference speakers could be rolled over to join with our plans already in place. These include David Lawrence as headline speaker. Conference Co-ordinator will make contact with the speakers. The Belsfield Hotel would be exclusively for the use of the NAC and is in a prime location overlooking the Lake and the stunning Cumbrian Hills. Extra days either side of the Conference would be available for those members wishing to take advantage of a mini break with favourable rates being offered by the hotel, members interested in this option are encouraged to contact the Conference Co-ordinator for further details. The local group choirs have already been approached with a view to them participating in the Saturday night concert, (organised by the Officer Team because the group is inactive at this time), possible venues have been sourced within Bowness - on – Windermere which the Officer Team need to make a decision on along with which choirs will perform given the logistics of the area. The General Secretary asked the members if they had any thoughts/negative issues with the cost of the 2012 conference in light of the cancellation of the 2011 conference. None of the attending members offered any negative issues.	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/06</b>	<b>Conference 2013 onwards:</b> Members were advised that plans were progressing well for Conference 2013 to be held in Chester, possible hotels had already been visited and negotiations opened on price and facilities. The local Group is well aware of the implications of hosting the conference in their area having previously hosted the 2006 conference. Numerous possibilities were still being explored for 2014, 2015 & 2016. It was decided that the idea to stage conference in the Isle of Man would be too expensive given the need for individuals to travel to the island. Thames South had formally expressed an interest in hosting Conference ASAP; other areas under consideration are Yorkshire South & Yorkshire East. Further investigations are still being carried out before bookings/venues and locations can be considered.	<b>Noted</b>    <b>Noted</b>
<b>MOF 11/06/07</b>	<b>Insurance Update:</b> The Services Officer was unavailable for this meeting; members were advised that the Services Officer had been working very hard on their behalf to secure a new three year deal with our current insurance partners – TIP. Advance information shows that there will be a slight increase on premiums and the need to introduce a claims excess on all policies to limit the amount of small value claims which could potentially push up the cost of insurance premiums. Two specific questions were raised, these to be forwarded to the Services Officer to deal with upon his return -	<b>Noted</b> <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could a summary of the benefits of cover be displayed in a brief easy to read format on the website in the members section so that members can look at this and see instantly what is covered and to what limit instead of having to read masses of information within the policy documents.</li> <li>2. One choir asked if TIP were able to replicate the same policy that they currently have with an alternative provider at the same cost. The policy they have is quite extensive and when they initially looked at the TIP cover they felt it wasn't the same.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Noted, these questions would be sent to RAB by the Gen Sec for his action when he returns</b></p>
<p><b>MOF 11/06/08</b></p>	<p><b>Raising the Profile of the NAC:</b> The members discussed the topic in great detail, specific questions and points were identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The main NAC Board should continue to remind its members that they should be using and displaying the NAC logo and displaying the logo on their websites, concert programmes, flyers, posters etc, this is one way of publicising that they belong to the NAC and will also widen the name of the NAC.</li> <li>2. Suggestions were made about the benefits of partnering with other choral groups and organisations to mutual benefit of both organisations. Giving a collective voice, better representation for lobbying and other associated sources of information and strengthening the profile of the NAC within the choral movement.</li> <li>3. One group reported on the success they had experienced in working with other groups/organisations (Making Music) to run parallel schemes to attract members to choirs in their area. This had resulted in new members to some choirs.</li> <li>4. It was noted how disappointing the turn out from the membership both locally and nationally, a suggestion was put forward that when apologies were tendered to the General Secretary that this be followed up with a reply saying how disappointed we were to learn that the individual/choir was not able to attend the meeting, giving them the date of the next meeting/time/venue, urging them to put the details into their diaries and that we would be pleased to welcome them to that meeting instead.</li> <li>5. A suggestion was to make contact with OFSTED under the Freedom of Information Act to request details about how musical provision will be planned within secondary schools with a view to lobbying for more musical provision etc.</li> <li>6. Information was received that a choir is sponsoring the musical development/education of an individual within their own location through a bursary scheme from the choirs own funds, the suggestion was that the NAC as an organisation could consider the same kind of scheme.</li> <li>7. The PRO posed the following question to the meeting – “Why do we need to raise the profile of the NAC, what are the aims of the exercise and what are we hoping to achieve at the end of it” once these have been identified then we can begin to formulate strategies to achieve it.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b></p> <p><b>Noted &amp; Agreed</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted &amp; Agreed, Gen Sec to action in the future</b></p> <p><b>Noted &amp; Agreed, Officer to assess further</b></p> <p><b>Noted &amp; Agreed, Officer to assess further</b></p> <p><b>Noted &amp; Agreed, Officer to assess further</b></p>
<p><b>MOF 11/06/09</b></p>	<p><b>Group Reports:</b> <b>Anglia NAC Group:</b> - Nothing to report since the last Open Forum meeting as the Group hasn't yet held its next meeting. <b>Midlands East NAC Group:</b> - The Group's AGM was held recently. All the Officers were re-elected unanimously, but the Treasurer wished to stand down. There wasn't an immediate replacement, but there was an offer of shadowing if he would stand for one more year. This offer was accepted so, if all goes well, there will be a handover at the next AGM. <i>(57 words)</i> <b>Midlands North NAC Group:</b> - The Group held the concert arranged to support the NAC AGM in 2011. A very successful, well attended concert with the venue full to capacity. Sylvia Baker, Group Chairman, has recovered from a serious blood related illness and is once again in control of the Group. The Group is now looking to arrange a concert in the North of the Group or another workshop. <i>(64 words)</i> <b>North East NAC Group:</b> - Arrangements are in hand for a 'Choral Spectacular' to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in the Sage, the North East's unique musical venue. 26 choirs are to participate in the chosen programme of massed singing for ladies', male and mixed voices with a combined finale for choirs and audience. The choirs will be conducted by musical directors within their category, and the evening compered by Marion Foster BBC presenter. We have welcomed three new choirs into the group. <i>(80 words)</i></p>	
<p><b>MOF 11/06/10</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b> The Chairman advised the meeting that as always the main Officer Team is always looking for potential candidates to join the Team, bringing with them skills and experience that can be used by the Association to the benefit of its members. The Chairman pointed out that new Officers are not left to sink or swim, the NAC has Officer Induction Packs full of valuable help and advice and there is the current Officer Team to help and assist them. The members were once again reminded that the NAC is a volunteer organisation run by willing volunteers for choirs by choirs and any help and assistance that members can offer to the Officer Team would be gratefully received. It was pointed out that the Officer Team should take advantage of the setting of the Hotel and the location to sell Conference 2012 to the membership, the wonderful views from the hotel, the fabulous location and the presenters booked for the conference should make it very easy to sell to the membership.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>
<b>Meeting closed at 14h00</b>		
	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman (Celia Johns)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">General Secretary (James Ferrabee)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">.....</p> <p>Date.....</p>