



Annual General Meeting Minutes Curl 30th March 2026 @ 18:30

- 1. Apologies received from 4 members**
- 2. 2025 AGM minute approved by Lizzie Sinclair & Tina Newcombe**
- 3. Team Co-Ordinator Report by Debbie Pern**

The Aberdeen Chorus — or should I say the Faberdeen Chorus — is a well-oiled machine that runs like clockwork. That only happens because of the dedication, enthusiasm, and support of all our members, who give so much of their time as volunteers to the chorus we all love.

2025 was a quieter year than 2024 in terms of travel, with only our trip to Sheffield standing out. I think we'd all agree that, in terms of venue, it wasn't quite the highlight we'd hoped for! However, the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester looks as though it will suit us much better.

When we return from Manchester, we can start making plans for the next 18 months. I know there's an appetite to head back to Spain, or perhaps even Ireland—but let's see what Manchester brings first. With contest being in Perth next year we will be saving on travel and accommodation so perhaps we could do both Spain and Manchester?

We also had another wonderful run of Christmas shows—three full houses! That doesn't happen by magic; it takes a dedicated team of Christmas elves, so thank you to everyone involved to make the shows such a great success.

As always, the AGM is an opportunity to make special mention of some of our members and this year is no exception.

Firstly, the Management Team — we've had another great year working together, meetings have been kept to just over an hour and the what's app group is pretty quiet. A good sign of a good team!

Thanks to our amazing Music Team for all their dedication to our musical product: the section leaders, the evaluators, and of course Sophie and Lizzie.

Mummy Sophie, you are incredible—we love your infectious enthusiasm, especially when it comes to contest. And Lizzie, thank you for stepping up in Sophie's absence, and congratulations on being accepted to the regional faculty. We are extremely lucky to have such a talented team who give their time—and take the flack—to push us forward and make us better.

My thanks to Anne Cargill and her nominating team, Mhairi and Mairi, for keeping us on track with policies and procedures around annual nominations. It takes real pressure off the team to have someone who knows the process inside out. Even though it was not necessary to have an election this year as Jacqui, Ellie and Pauline are happy to serve another term, it's important that we still follow the procedures.

There are so many others to thank:

Val Muir, our IT expert—we are incredibly fortunate to have someone of Val's calibre. From managing Making Music and the website, to setting up Zoom each week, chairing the Music Team, and answering endless tech questions—thank you.

Also in IT, thank you to Lynette Cooper for sound engineering and bookings—your hard work is much appreciated.

Eillie, we know you'll do a grand job taking over and Claire Fyfe, thank you for stepping in when needed.

Sandra Mahoney keeps our Friends of the Chorus well informed—thank you, Sandra.

Shona Duncan, thank you for all your hard work with ticket sales—it is greatly appreciated.

Pam, thank you for printing the board name badges.

Miriam, thank you for decorating the risers for our shows.

Anne F—thank you for organising just about everything: Curl bookings, bedrooms, raffles, and everything in between! You have been my right hand woman and we've had a few laughs along the way!

Vera and her team—thank you for the monthly shoppie.

Mairi and Eileen have finally handed over their RMT roles after many years of service, and I'm sure that's a huge relief. However, for the first time in a long time, Aberdeen has no RMT representation. Let's hope we can change that next year and have someone flying the flag for us at regional level.

It's all the little things each of you do that keeps the chorus running smoothly and makes us as successful as we are. But to keep that clock ticking, we all need to play our part in the day-to-day running of the chorus.

That means attending rehearsals regularly, updating your availability for performances as soon as they're posted (before you forget and need chased—speaking from experience!), submitting evaluations on time, focusing on what's happening out front, and not talking on the risers.

If we all turn these things up just a notch, we'll see improvements across the board.

We are a truly fantastic chorus in every way—and that's down to every single one of you.

You are dedicated, friendly, and supportive, and each of you is an important cog in this wonderful chorus wheel.

Well done to us all—and here's to another fantastic year.

4. Musical Director Report by Sophie Radcliff

Another exciting year for Aberdeen Chorus has flown by!

Following convention in May 2025, despite receiving a 5th place medal, I think the chorus were a little disappointed with our score as it was the lowest we have scored in the last few years. I believe this was a good thing for the chorus as it gave us the fire and the inspiration to better ourselves and continue working and developing to be the best Aberdeen chorus we can be!

Performing at the Music Festival in June certainly gave us the boost we needed as we achieved an 'Outstanding' award and won every class we entered! It reminded us that we are a wonderful chorus and not everything is about competition...it's just the yearly "levelling" we receive to determine what skills and learning we should focus on developing in the coming year. Lizzie also started teaching the chorus a new song for our repertoire – For Good, from the musical 'Wicked'.

July saw the chorus performing at the amazing Tall Ships Event at the harbour – thank you to Lizzie for directing this daytime sing-out, it was a great morning out for the group of singers and a fabulous stage!

Heading out of Summer and into September, the chorus had been working hard preparing for our exciting Cabaret show, written and produced by our incredibly talented Gwenny! The show had something for everyone with different sets, Directors (well done all on a fantastic job!), costumes and “surround sound” achieved by splitting the risers and having two sets at either end of the venue.

All small groups and chorus quartets had the opportunity to perform on the show including my own quartet, Silhouette. What an honour this was for us, and we enjoyed every second of it! The 3 girls have certainly adopted Aberdeen as their own!

This was the highlight of the chorus year and a very special thank you to Gwen for creating such a wonderful show and to all those who helped make props/scenery and generally helped to bring the entire production together!

In October we had our first of 3 coaching weekends with the wonderful Nicky Salt! Another great opportunity for us to hone our skills and prepare for the next regional contest in May 2026! The chorus have learned 2 new songs for 2026 contest, but these are also a brilliant addition to our current repertoire.

My quartet Silhouette also headed to Columbus, Ohio to compete at SAI International. Thank you so much to everyone for all your support, and contributions to our fundraising efforts. It was one of the best experiences we've ever had and to know that the chorus were behind us every step of the way made it a very special opportunity indeed! Hopefully we'll see more of our fabulous Aberdeen quartets at International going forward!

Over the course of the next 8 weeks, the chorus spent time rehearsing for our upcoming Christmas shows. Abby taught us a brand-new song – Sleigh Ride – as part of her DCP, it was certainly a challenge with all the key changes, but we had so much fun performing this as a part of our shows! A massive thank you to Lizzie again this year for producing a classy and fabulous Christmas show with 3 sold-out performances! Showtime at Christmas went down a treat with all our audiences!

Happy New Year! The chorus step into 2026 with more coaching from Nicky Salt! This was a great session with lots of updates, expression work and choreo finessing! Another exciting step forward for the chorus heading into competition season!

Moving into February, the wonderful Abby received her DCP certification!! Well done Abby, this is a fantastic achievement, and the chorus is very lucky to have your talent!

Next up we had Valerie Taylor come to coach the chorus. This was a first for us as we hadn't had Valerie coach us before and it was good to experience a different approach and benefit from Valerie's very accomplished experience as a certified Sound Judge within SAI! More skills to add to our ever-increasing singing toolkit!

February also marked the beginning of my maternity leave from work – with my ever-growing bump, I was getting more uncomfortable as weeks went on which meant that rehearsals became more difficult.

A HUGE thank you to Alison and Lizzie for stepping up and taking these in my absence – you're both wonderful and it meant that the chorus never missed a beat!

Here we now are in March, and things are looking a little different...my wee girl Darcy-Mai is here! Following her birth on the 9th of March, Lizzie has stepped into the role of director and led the chorus over the past few weeks, including a full weekend of coaching from

Nicky Salt! Without Lizzie, we would not have been able to maintain this high level of consistency, and she has done it seamlessly.

The time and talent she has dedicated to the chorus - specifically over the last month – has been nothing short of incredible!! Her support and hard work have assured me that the chorus are in great hands while I recover and figure out this whole parenting thing!

I am infinitely thankful to Lizzie for her continued support as we head to competition in May and beyond. She is absolutely wonderful and I couldn't ask for a better Assistant Director and friend!

The plan going forward is that I will attend rehearsals every Monday for approx. 1/1.5 hours to work on our contest set in the lead up to competition. Lizzie (with support from Alison as required) will then work on rep/new songs for the remainder of the rehearsal.

We have two new wonderful quartets in the chorus this year – Seaglass and DIVA - we are excited to continue to hear you ladies and support you on your quartet journeys!

A big thank you to Dorothy for her continued hard work and leadership of the amazing Afternoon Singers! They have more performances than anyone over the course of a year and are always ready with a fabulous set to impress any audiences. Well done ladies, keep up the wonderful singing!

Thank you so much to our brilliant management team who keep us all in check and ensure the smooth administrative running of the chorus! You all make it look so easy and we know it's anything but...! At the helm is Debbie who continues to leave us in awe with her superb organisational skills and ensure that we the chorus are always compliant, registered, up to date, on time, legal, etc etc. You are Wonder Woman and we certainly appreciate all your hard work and efforts!

A massive thank you to my awesome music team! You all work so hard to keep the chorus sounding our best and ensure we are constantly learning new skills and developing the art of barbershop. The chorus have gone from strength to strength over the past year and it's down to your skilled musical management of each section and support of the continuous striving to be the best Aberdeen chorus we can!

The BIGGEST thank you to my incredible directing team, Alison and Lizzie! I couldn't do this without you (especially over the last few months being pregnant and now having had Darcy-Mai). Nothing is ever too much effort, you both just step up and get on with it the best you can, and the chorus certainly reap the benefits! I don't have anything to compare it to, but I am unsure that other choruses have the same incredible support, talent, and willingness within their directing teams!

A special thank you to Lizzie as mentioned before, taking over and stepping into the directing role while still being choreographer as well!! I never had to worry about the chorus or their musical progress. You took it all in your stride - your quick learning and talents never cease to amaze me! Thank you both from the bottom of my heart for your unyielding support and leadership of the Aberdeen Chorus, I couldn't wish for anything more!

Finally, to you, my wonderful Team FABerdeen! You are why we are all here! Thank you for always being willing, working hard, being supportive, helping each other and being dedicated to continuing our journey as the fabulous chorus we are. Team FABerdeen truly is a family, and I can't wait to see what this next year has in store for us! I love you all very much!

P.S When can I register Darcy-Mai as an official chorus member...?!?!?

5. Afternoon Singers & Quartet Report by Dorothy Main

Regarding our Afternoon Singers group, I want to expand a little bit on what we do. We did six performances over Christmas 2025 and into the New Year, which not only brings in performance fees for the chorus, but also adds to our individual vocal and performing skills in a small group.

We usually number around 20/22 singers.

From the end of September onwards, we meet fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon and get our Christmas repertoire back up to performance level. We do get repeat Christmas bookings and we enjoy singing in the residential homes, where we are made so welcome and we get a cuppa and a fine piece in the break!

We are now meeting once a month over the summer months to keep our “normal” repertoire up to date and are currently working on adding some new “old” songs. Apart from Miriam and Teri who have both learned all the “old” songs over the last couple of years, the rest of us have sung them away back when, and we enjoy bringing back our favourites, and trying to remember the choreo!

We meet and practise for fun, we don't do evaluations – if something doesn't sound right, then we find the problem and fix it.

Mabel has recently joined us, which is great as afternoon Baritones can be a rare breed sometimes....So if any of you who are free in the afternoons would like to come along and see if our group is for you, please let me know.

Regarding our Quartets, we now have five quartets, with DIVA and Seaglass coming through this year, alongside our existing quartets Rough Diamonds, Vocal Zone and Tempo. So, Twenty singers in the chorus who sing in quartets, and we have several other singers who are singing with small groups – all of this again adds so much to the vocal and performing skills of our whole chorus.

DIVA, Tempo and Rough Diamonds are all competing in Manchester in May at the Regional Convention, and I know we will all be very proud of them all, and cheer very loudly!

Whilst quarteting or small group singing is perhaps not for everyone, if you have a desire to try, please do not hesitate. There are plenty of us who have the experience to help putting a group together or helping to choose suitable music etc. Singing is fun and it's good for you, and the more singing you do, the more fun it is!

6. Treasurer Report by Jacqui Young

The Chorus accounts for the 2025/2026 financial year show an overall surplus of £5481.01. This includes £1657.42 raised from our charity pub crawl.

Since the accounts were prepared, this money has been paid out to the beneficiary, Charlie House.

Our effective surplus for the year is therefore £3826.59. This was only possible due to income from our fundraising and performance activities.

The net benefit to the Chorus from performances was £5359.83. The main income generators were our Cabaret show in September and our Christmas shows.

There were also smaller performance fees from the Afternoon Singers group and other smaller groups throughout the year.

Our 4 largest fundraising activities this year raised the following

Tea Party in August - £537.54

Raffles - £702.55

Shoppie - £450.41

Easyfundraising - £450.41

These along with smaller fundraising e.g. crafts, marmalades etc. contributed to a net total of £2225.30 from fundraising.

Thank you to all for your contributions to the success of fundraising and performances.

Our major source of income remains members' dues, so as I did last year, there is a table at the end of this report which shows where your dues go.

Because our member numbers fluctuate, I have based it on 90 members. I have split the numbers into essential expenses which we cannot avoid and additional expenses which are the things that we have some control or discretion over.

As you can see member dues alone do not cover all of things we would like to do and illustrates why fundraising and performance income are so important.

Our current financial position is secure with £17,056.77 in our savings account (less the aforementioned £1657.42 charity donation).

Thank you to you, the chorus, for entrusting me with overseeing the chorus finances and thank you to the rest for the management team for their support over the past year. I especially want to thank Shona who manages all the ticket sales for our events. She does this so well and is so helpful in keeping the numbers right.

Aberdeen Chorus Budget 26/27- Based on 90 full fee paying members

Essential expenses	Per year	Per Month	Per member per month	Notes
International dues	£8,550.00	£712.50	£7.92	\$125 per year per member (approx £95)
Regional dues	£2,250.00	£187.50	£2.08	£25 per year per member
Curl Rent	£4,000.00	£333.33	£3.70	50 weeks @ £80/week
Storage space rent	£600.00	£50.00	£0.56	12 months @ £50/month
Director Fees	£1,500.00	£125.00	£1.39	50 regular rehearsals
Riser Maintenance	£120.00	£10.00	£0.11	
Website Hosting Fee	£70.00	£5.83	£0.06	Based on 2025 figure
Google Storage	£79.99	£6.67	£0.07	Based on 2025 figure
Zoom Subscription	£155.88	£12.99	£0.14	Based on 2025 figure
Making Music Platform Fee	£185.00	£15.42	£0.17	Based on 2025 figure
Wix Archive fee	£54.00	£4.50	£0.05	Based on 2025 figure
Chorus Registration Contest	£166.25	£13.85	£0.15	Based on 2025 figure
Chorus Registration SAI	£124.00	£10.33	£0.11	\$165 (approx £124)
Director Registration Contest	£90.00	£7.50	£0.08	Based on regional contest
Director Hotel/expenses contest	£600.00	£50.00	£0.56	Estimate for regional contest
Insurance	£74.00	£6.17	£0.07	Based on 2026 payment
Audit Fee	£125.00	£10.42	£0.12	Based on 2026 payment
Total Essential Expenses	£18,744.12	£1,562.01	£17.36	

Additional expenses	Per year	Per Month	Per member per month	Notes
Regional Contest Registrations	£7,040.00	£586.67	£6.52	£90 per member
Coaching	£7,000.00	£583.33	£6.48	Based on 25/26 costs
Costume	£2,250.00	£187.50	£2.08	Based on £125/costume every 5 years
Sheet Music/Learning Tracks	£900.00	£75.00	£0.83	Based on 3 new songs/tracks per year
Tech/Equipment costs				Variable
Education				e.g. sponsoring attendance at events
Total Additional expenses	£17,190.00	£1,432.50	£15.92	

Total expenses	£35,934.12	£2,994.51	£33.27	
Dues income	£32,400.00	£2,700.00	£30.00	90 members @ £30/mth
Surplus/loss	-£3,534.12	-£294.51	-£3.27	

7. Financial Statement

The annual accounts were approved by Betty Grange & Eileen Milne

8. Social Media & Marketing Report by Ellie Smart

This year, our Facebook presence has continued to perform well, with strong engagement across our posts.

We have placed a greater focus on promoting the choir and highlighting our sing-out performances, which has helped increase visibility and audience interaction.

Later in the year, we will be expanding our content to include promotion of our FUNdamentals course, ensuring we continue to attract new members and opportunities.

We've had a fantastic range of performances and promotional opportunities over the past year.

Events such as the sing-out at the train station, the Tall Ships, and our cabaret night have also provided valuable exposure for the chorus.

In addition, we've been featured in Songbird Magazine, including coverage of our Tall Ships performance, further extending our reach.

To support our in-person marketing efforts, we now have new leaflets and business cards. These have been a great addition and will continue to be useful tools for promoting the chorus and engaging with potential new members at events.

This year also saw us launch our TikTok account. We've already begun to build a following and are seeing encouraging levels of engagement.

This is an area I'd like to develop further in the coming year, as it offers great potential for reaching new audiences and showcasing the fun and energy of our group.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your continued engagement on social media, and for your enthusiasm and willingness to take part in filming content—especially for TikTok.

Your support and participation make a huge difference.

9. Membership Report by Rachael Buchanan

Our current Sweet Adelines International membership stands at 90 members, our Chorus membership stands at 92 members with 2 members being in their 3-month waiting period. Our Chorus membership comprises of 19 Baritones, 31 Basses, 34 Leads, 7 Tenors and Sophie our fabulous Director!

Over the last year we have had 5 new members join us, one rejoining member and 4 brand new members who are all settling in really well, they have been busy learning our repertoire and some are preparing for this year's regional competition in Manchester. We held a successful 'newbies' evening to get to know each other better in May 2025 which provided the opportunity for sharing and asking chorus questions over tea and cake!

Sadly, this year we lost our dear friend and member of 36 years Trudy, she was a wonderful lady and was much loved and will be greatly missed. 8 members decided to resign from the chorus for varying reasons and demands of life, but we hope some may return to join us in the future when the time is right for them and we wish them all well and hope they will stay in touch with the chorus.

The Music Team are preparing for our next FUNdamentals singing course at the end of August, we are looking forward to welcoming some new potential members into our Aberdeen Chorus family. We continue to invite interested visitors along to promote the chorus and invite them to audition for membership.

Attendance has been generally consistent in numbers with a dip over summer months. Our recent coaching sessions with Nicky Salt and Valerie Taylor have had good attendance numbers with an average of 75% attendance per session.

Thank you to the section leaders and their deputies, and all the 'buddies' who work hard at ensuring our members new and 'old' are kept informed and supported throughout the year.

10. Costume Report by Pauline Glendinning

This year saw us give up our space in H1 and move all our stored costumes, props and risers to Curl. I'd like to thank the girls who gave up their time to help inventory, box and eventually move everything to Curl. It was a lot of hard work but so much better having everything in one place.

It was decided we would have a new costume for the 2026 Regional Competition in Manchester. After much deliberation, the final choice was black with black sparkle and ladies would be given the freedom to choose their interpretation of this. All costume choices were approved by either me or Sophie and this was debuted at the Christmas concerts and ladies, you all looked fantastic.

For anyone coming to Manchester full costume details can be found on Making Music under the Costume Icon along with full details of make-up. For competition, it has also been decided to go with a red nail instead of the usual French manicure. Anyone who still needs their costume choice approved please can this be done before the dress rehearsal on 20th April. If anyone has any questions regarding costume, please do not hesitate to contact me.

11. Election of Office Bearers

This year Jacqui, Ellie & Pauline have all submitted their names for a second term, therefore no election was required.

12. Unsung Champion Award

Dorothy Main was this years recipient, receiving her award from Miriam Stubbs.

A well-deserved nomination which Dorothy received with thanks.

13. AOCB

Jess Cran thanked the team for the flexibility in this year's contest costume.

Anne Cargill thanked the team for all the work that they do on behalf of the chorus.

Formal Meeting Closed at 19:10

Deborah Pen
Team Co-ordinator 1/4/26