

St.MARGARET'S CHURCH ORGAN RESTORATION
MANAGING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

July/August 2007

A short meeting was arranged at 6pm on Friday 27th July 2007 to catch up on progress made since the last report. Further work has been undertaken since the meeting and this has also been included in this report.

Alan Leach expressed his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting due to illness.

Our recent concert in July this year, which Alan Leach arranged on our behalf, was very well received. The proceeds from the concert were £418 which will be matched on a £1 per £1 basis by the PCC Finance Committee making a total of £836 towards our own church's contribution to the restoration.

Towards the end of June 2007, we were notified by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) that we have been awarded a grant of up to £184,000 towards the total organ restoration cost of £210,849. We are all very pleased to have been awarded this grant.

Accompanying the formal letter from Jeremy Fenn from HLF is included documentation which details what needs to be accomplished at each stage during the restoration project.

A spreadsheet has been set up detailing activities needing to be done over the project duration. This will be updated on a regular basis to reflect an up to date picture of how the restoration is actually progressing and will also serve the purpose for reporting progress back to the HLF throughout the project.

Some of the activities have already been progressed and these have been included in this progress report.

Jeremy Fenn (HLF) requested that all our project team meet up during August or September to start the ball rolling, so to speak. We have agreed to visit the HLF offices in Nottingham to meet up with him on Friday 7th September 2007.

Nicholas Thistlewaite, our Organ Advisor has been notified of our award along with Goetze and Gwynn with a view to drawing up a contract and firming up on an early start date. Negotiations are already under way with the start date being 1st July 2008; the likely finish date is to be between Christmas 2008 and March 2009; a revised cost estimate has been obtained from Gwynn & Goetze based on these projected start and end dates.

The extra pedal board seems to still be an issue as it might affect the G&G estimate. There are issues about how it would relate to the re-designed pedal action which would make G&G a bit anxious. So they have left it out of their estimate. They did suggest that maybe there ought to be a site meeting with G&G, our project team and Nicholas Thistlewaite before proceeding, but that should not hold up the contract.

Harrison & Harrison have also been notified of our award just in case there is any chance of an earlier slot becoming available for our restoration. There is a possibility that they may be able to fit in the restoration of the organ starting in 2009 or 2010, but they cannot give us a firm date until the

contract is signed. Their programme appears to be full, but this includes some projects for which they do not yet have a signed contract. They have sent us an update cost estimate for the restoration.

We were disappointed to hear that the Foundation for Sports and Arts will not be contributing to our project, even after been notified about the award. CCC has been asked for a final decision on assistance but so far no response has been received. Further requests for funding assistance could be made and this activity therefore has been added to the project plan.

Fortunately we have received an undertaking from our PCC Finance Committee that they will underwrite any shortfall in funds, in order to allow our project to continue. Separate arrangements will, of course, have to be made to recover any short fall in funds after the restoration work has been completed.

In order to proceed to the next stage it is necessary for the managing committee to have its own bank account. It was agreed at the meeting to set up an account with Cater Allen Private Bank (Royal Bank of Scotland) paying interest and enabling Alan Leach and Nigel Howard to be joint signatories for signing cheques for expenditure items. Martin was happy to let Alan and Nigel together handle the finance side of the restoration committee.

The church has been inspected for asbestos and, as we suspected, some asbestos has been found in the organ blower box. This will be disposed of when the organ is dismantled for the restoration and a new one fitted in its place. We have allowed for the disposal of the organ box in our cost estimates.

The HLF requires a third estimate to have been obtained before we can start work. With that in mind we arranged for Nicholson and Nicholson from Malvern to visit our church and undertake an inspection of the organ. This was done on Friday 31st August. Their report should be available in about four weeks time. They did indicate that the earliest they could start work would be towards the end of 2010 or early 2011.

Fiori Musicali have been in touch with us following reading about our HLF award in the local press. We have tentatively agreed that we would put on a Fiori concert in June 2008 just before the dismantling of the organ, and another one in June of the following year 2009, hopefully well after the restoration is complete.