



MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th September 2008 at the Regis School of Music, Sudley Road, Bognor Regis.

Apologies: John Mason, Jez Rogers, Johnathan Parrott, Pat and John Kelsall.

RP opened the meeting by thanking all for attending.

1) Minutes of the last year's AGM

The minutes from the AGM of 10/9/05 were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

2) Artistic Director's report

RP claimed that last season was the best that the club had ever had and that the club was financially healthy and the membership was higher than it had ever been. The benefits of various outreach concerts had been great and although we had lost £800 in sponsorship, this had been recovered through various public events. RP gave his thanks to SL.

3) Accounts

There were no additions to JP published accounts and no-one raised any issues with regards to them. A unanimous show of hands was adopted to approve JP's accounts. RP gave thanks to JP in his absence for his work over the past 12 years as treasurer and administrator for the club. His work has been greatly appreciated with his care of the finances.

4) Elections to the Committee

An amendment had been made to the papers that had been sent out for the AGM in regard to this point – the table headings had been mixed up. The committee for the new season was proposed as follows: RP – chairman, SL – artistic director, TW – newsletter editor, JM – workshop co-ordinator, JR – treasurer, TP – fundraising officer, VW – general secretary, MW – photographer, vacant - hospitality officer. The committee members were re-elected by a show of hands and the new members to the committee were also appointed via a unanimous vote. Non-committee posts were as follows: RA – membership secretary, JP – press officer, PD – librarian. RP gave thanks to all members individually for their efforts. SL also gave thanks to Pam Davies for all her work with the photo albums and presented her with a DVD player. Pam expressed her thanks for her time as photographer and said that it was nice to have been appreciated.

5) Any Other Business

There was no matters raised.

6) Club Affairs

RP asked the members of the club if they felt that the outreach concerts had gone down well or if they felt them a burden. It was the general consensus that friends had enjoyed coming to the concerts and Tamzin Barnett's suggestion of playing within nursing homes was asked to be given further thought by the committee. RP put forward the idea of arranging events in other villages in West Sussex to attract more members to the club. SL asked members of the club to get in touch if they could think of any venues that we could perform in to get in touch with him. SL also asked for volunteers to come forward to assist with the organisation of such events. TP suggested the Emsworth Food Festival as a viable venue. Roger Ainley asked if the orchestra music for club evenings could be provided in advance?

SL said that the problem would arise as there were different players at every club evening and that people would have to approach him in advance of the club evening if they required the music prior to the night. SL also added that the success of the orchestra was due to the majority of them coming to the Monday night sessions. Linda Kelsall-Barnett mentioned that more people might be persuaded to attend club evenings if they knew that they were going to be able to play the music. RP suggested that they make copies of the orchestra music available on the website. SL mentioned that it was difficult to cater for every ability, but asked TW to write an article for the newsletter saying that the music would be available 1 month before the club evening and could be received by telephoning him direct. RA said that the website was also a good idea and RP said that this item would be discussed further by the committee.

RP mentioned that people had suggested 'adult-only' evenings at the club, where children were not invited. Linda Kelsall-Barnett said as a busy working parent, she would be happy for a child-free night. Pam Davies asked at what age should we draw the line. SL said that it was a bizarre idea, as children are the future of our club. Tamzin said that she enjoyed coming here to play as she wasn't so nervous and that it was a homely atmosphere. Debbie Burford said that the club is extraordinary and that the children enjoy it. Linda said that it gave her daughters confidence in performing, and that she was appreciative of that fact. Tamzin also added that she couldn't see why people wouldn't want children at the club. RP said that it was not a question of exclusion, but that people wanted to play under different circumstances. Peter said that perhaps people didn't want to have children running around screaming. TP said that children benefit from mixing with adults and SL added that the festival has classes which are adult's only.

RP gave thanks to all contributors of the meeting and thanked them again for coming. SL expressed his thanks to the Mayor for attending and for all the support of Bognor Town Council. The Mayor added that Bognor is proud to have the WSGC. SL concluded by saying that all members would be sent a brochure of the following season.