

SLO AGM 2017

Minutes of the meeting held at Broadford Hall on Saturday, 4th March 2017

Present: John Hockett (Chairman), Bar Purser, Wendy Riva, Jo Cumine, Lis Phillips, Chris Crichton, Mairi Louise Macdonald, Iain Roden, Laura Grisi, Elizabeth Watt, Duncan Watt, Satsuki Azuma, Maggie Manvell, Helen McLoughlin, Hugh Morison, Maria Pelletta, Judith Bullivant, Nic Bullivant, Jenny Hey, Alan Donald, Chris Manvell and Philippa Davies.

1) **Apologies:** Ilona Morison, Rosemary Bungard, Claudia Knott and Katharine Thomson.

2) **Minutes** of last year's AGM were approved by Elizabeth Watt and seconded by Hugh Morison, and there were no matters arising.

3) **Chairman's report:** John said we had had two outstanding concerts last year, and particularly mentioned the Schubert Unfinished Symphony, the Strauss Horn Concerto and the movement from the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. He also praised Iain's conducting sketch and Chris Watkiss's choir at the Christmas concert.

John mentioned Denis Brigg's bequest of a piano to the orchestra. The piano was thought not to be dependable enough to use for the Beethoven concerto, so we will be hiring a piano. £350 of the £500 cost will come from money Denis left for Duncan MacInnes (SEALL) to use. The orchestra also has £250 from Shona Burd's memorial service. We thought of using that for getting new cymbals, but there is not quite enough money to cover that. Decisions will have to be made.

John thanked the committee, especially Chris, who spends so much time organising and printing the music, and Iain, who not only conducts, but puts in hours of work choosing and preparing music. Ilona was thanked later in the meeting for all of her invaluable work. John also thanked John Purser for taking the rehearsal on 18th Feb.

4) **Treasurer's report:** John read Ilona's report. The bank balance is healthy - at the end of December 2016, we had £3940.21. SLO is running well within its means and is able, either via its own funds or donations, to purchase new musical instruments. Expenditure in 2016 was £964.68, which is on a par with 2015. Subscriptions were down in 2016 from 2015, as was the revenue from the concerts. We were able, though, to contribute £100 to each of the chosen charities. A donation paid for some of the printing of the posters and notices. Because of our healthy bank balance, we will be able to pay for the storage of the timps and of the archive materials, which up to now have been stored at Chris and Maggie Manvell's house (thanks to them). The accounts were audited by Peter Abernethy again.

5) **Elections:** John proposed Claudia Knott, seconded by Bar. Claudia was unable to attend the meeting, but had agreed beforehand to join the committee if elected. Laura is standing down - we thank her for her help over the years.

6) **AOCB:** John said we still need a recruiting officer, but Bar said most of us try our best to recruit members anyway. Chris Crichton had suggested to Bar that the Portree rehearsal be open to friends in the hope some would be inspired to join. It was agreed that this was a good idea. It was suggested that it might also be an idea to have an open rehearsal at Portree High School during the day, when students were around, and also at Broadford. It was also suggested a notice be put on our Facebook page, and Chris Watkiss might mention our need for new members to Skye Chamber Music. Iain has written an article for the WHFP, which will be submitted when he has been in touch with Duncan MacInnes. Nic offered to write something for Skye Echo, and apparently Duncan MacInnes will put something in the Oban Times. Chris mentioned that our website has a page with press cuttings, so hopefully someone will photocopy the Oban Times article when it comes out. SEALL has a broadsheet as well, which might be used.

Chris mentioned the poor return of music, and said he is trying to chase up the people who still have their parts.

Hugh asked the committee to remember the brass players in the choice of music. Iain reminded him that this term music had been chosen with that in mind, but the programme had to be changed when Douglas Strachan said he wouldn't be available for the April concert. Iain will be choosing some music that will feature the brass for the next concert.

The importance of choosing concert dates ahead was mentioned, and 16th December was thought to be a good date for our 2017 Christmas concert.

Alan asked if weekly rehearsals were the norm now, and Iain said not necessarily at the beginning of a term, but they were desirable nearer the concerts. He said he was willing to come every week, and could have just winds one week and just strings another, when beneficial.

Bar mentioned Jenny Hey's suggestion that children be admitted to concerts for free, and this was thought to be a good idea. Also the possibility of printing programmes ahead, which could be sold as tickets, was discussed.

Iain said that Hugh is going to be stage manager (thanks to Hugh!). He will organise our coming on and off stage, etc. If there are health and safety issues, he should be told so he can get members of the orchestra to deal with them.

Elizabeth suggested that people who help with the concert, such as serving refreshments, should be publically thanked - all agreed to that.

Laura said it would be good to have the concerts recorded. She said Polly had pointed out that there were students at the college who could do that as part of their course. Bar said she would email Polly to follow that up.

Hugh thanked the chairman, and again thanks were expressed to Iain, Chris and Ilona.

The meeting finished at 1.33pm.