

SLO Committee Meeting 6 Jan, 2018

Present – Iain Roden, John Hockett, Ilona Morison, Chris Manvell, Nic Bullivant, Claudia Knott, Satsuki Barnes and Bar Purser (apologies – Wendy Riva)

John called this meeting because he was concerned about Ilona's work load, and also because just before our last concert, we realised that no one had arranged for someone to sell tickets at the door or do the refreshments. Chris said Tiggy Peach usually did the refreshments, and Steve Fennel has manned the door. We will get their contact numbers and be sure that is organised ahead next time. Chris said that Tiggy might not want to do it again, and Claudia suggested asking the orchestra if they knew of anyone who might be willing. We all agreed that at our Christmas concert, Chris's choir did a great job of serving refreshments, and Merry Hinton saved the day by being at the door. Ilona said she was willing to carry on organising the food. She is also willing to carry on doing the programmes and posters, but asked that someone remind her several weeks before the concerts. Chris mentioned his Procedures that he sent us, and was asking for suggestions on that. Claudia has offered to take over booking the halls. Nic suggested that we have a committee meeting six weeks or so before each concert to be sure we are properly organised.

The date of the AGM was discussed, and 10th February decided on. Bar is emailing the members about this, meeting our deadline of informing them four weeks before the AGM. Iain wants to have two of the rehearsals allocated separately to strings and winds to allow a week off for some people. Because the Schumann and Haydn have little for brass, Iain wants to fill up the remaining 15 – 20 minutes of the program with music which has more interest for them. Possibilities include an arrangement of some Tallis anthem tunes and the Gabrieli Sonata Pian e Forte. We decided to keep 24th Feb's rehearsal, when Iain will be away, and Nic will conduct the winds on that date. The string sectional will be on 3rd Feb.

John mentioned that Helen McLoughlin's mother's clarinet in A has been offered to the orchestra (donation to the Musicians Benevolent Fund being the only request for payment). John said it was in excellent condition, but not top of the range, and without case or mouthpiece. We decided to offer £100 for it. We might find an inexpensive case on Ebay.

Nic asked how we account for the orchestra's assets. Chris said we do have a register, but it isn't up to date. He thinks there is a triangle missing.

John made a plea that committee members read the minutes of previous meetings so we don't, for example, discuss ticket prices before each concert! He suggested that a clause be added to the constitution saying that committee meeting decisions were binding until the next meeting. Chris felt that a clause should also be added stating that committee office holders be re-elected by the committee each year at the first meeting following the AGM.

Nic brought up again the possibility of having two concerts at Christmas and/or in the spring. We agreed that it would have to be put to the orchestra, but finding two suitable dates is a major

problem. We had suggested a Sunday concert in the past, but too many members objected to that on religious grounds.

We discussed the rehearsal on the day of the concert. We used to “top and tail,” but we need a proper rehearsal now because often we have people joining us at the last minute, and also our repertoire is such that we NEED that rehearsal time. Iain suggested having a portfolio of popular pieces that we can fall back on to fill up each program, so we don’t need quite so many rehearsals.

John said Helen McLoughlin is really keen to come back and play bass when she is free. We think we only have Fraser McRobert on bass for this term (he is playing Dennis’s bass, as was Helen), but if by any chance both Helen and Fraser become available, John said a new bass is affordable.

The meeting ended at 13.40.