

SLO AGM 2018

Minutes of the meeting held at Broadford Hall 10 Feb.

Present: John Hockett, Maria Pelletta, Hugh Morison, Ilona Morison, Meg Rosher, Satsuki Azuma, Katherine Thomson, Elizabeth Watt, Duncan Watt, Laura Grisi, Philippa Davies, Jo Cumine, Wendy Riva, Polly MacInnes, Chris Chrichton, Alan Donald, Chris Manvell, Nic Bullivant, Judith Bullivant, Iain Roden, Crystelle Mountford, Rachel Jones, Chris Watkiss, Lis Phillips, Bar Purser, Christine Davis, Elaine Ferguson, and Claudia Knott.

- 1) Apologies: Jenny Hey, Maryon Gardiner and Douglas Strachan
- 2) The minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved by Hugh Morison, and seconded by Chris Manvell. There were no matters arising.
- 3) Chairman's report: John Hockett spoke of the success of our spring concert, particularly mentioning the performances of Chris Watkiss (Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto) and Mairi-Louise MacDonald (Handel Harp Concerto Op. 4 no 6). He also said not many orchestras had the opportunity to play a debut of a composition written by one of their members, referring to Nic Bullivant's "A New Companion." John added that some parts of the Christmas concert were less successful. In addition, there was the fiasco of discovering at the last minute that we had no one organised to sell tickets at the door or to do the refreshments, although, thankfully, Ilona had arrived with an excellent selection of food. Great thanks to Merry Hinton and members of The Island Chorus for taking over these tasks so efficiently. Chris Manvell said he had apologised to Tiggy Peach, who usually does the refreshments, for not contacting her. Polly MacInnes said she'd apologise to Steve Fennell, who usually sells ticket for us. Elizabeth Watt mentioned that the people who helped were not publicly thanked on the nights of our recent concerts. Hugh Morison said he appreciated the fact that there was sufficient music for the low brass at the Christmas concert.
John also mentioned the cymbals (bought with money collected at Shona Burd's memorial service) and the A clarinet (given by Helen McLoughlin's mother – the only price suggested was a donation to the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. A sum of £100 had been decided on by the committee). John mentioned too how wonderful it was that our member numbers are increasing, especially in the violin sections. He thanked Ilona Morison, Chris Manvell and Bar Purser for their work on the committee, and also Merry Hinton for all the help she'd given him on the computer.
- 4) Treasurer's report: Ilona Morison said that 2016 and 2017 had been good years. The costs of the hire of the hall had doubled because we were rehearsing so much more often. Less was spent on ads, as it didn't seem worth the money. The income from the Spring and Christmas concerts was £578 and £572 respectively. Christine Davis suggested that it would be helpful if the income from the tickets and raffle be counted separately. We gave £100 each to Ragtag and Highland Supports Refugees after the

spring concert. We still need to decide what charity to give to from funds from our Christmas concert.

The instrument purchase figure of £845.53 was for the cymbals we bought and the hire of the piano last spring. That sum is covered in the donation section (£250 from Shona Burd's memorial service, and £350 from Denis Briggs's gift to SEALL, which they passed on to us). The income from subscriptions is much the same as in 2016. It was suggested that members pay £30 for the whole year instead of £15 per term. If someone joins half-way through the year, they need only pay £15. The orchestra voted to accept that suggestion. Ilona suggested that we should use the money in the bank to purchase a better printer for Chris Manvell to use to prepare our music. His daughter, Abigail Szoke, has been doing a lot of that work because the music has had to be printed at the college and Chris can't drive just yet. It was suggested we give a gift to her in thanks. The orchestra voted yes to both those suggestions. Chris Manvell proposed to accept the treasurer's report, and Laura Grisi seconded it.

- 5) Election of committee members: Sadly, John Hockett and Satsuki Barnes are standing down from the committee, and John will be leaving the orchestra (in spite of all attempts to persuade him otherwise). No one was willing to join the committee, so we are left with the minimum number of five, plus our leader and conductor. It is hoped that someone will change their mind and come forward!

Claudia Knott said she found committee communications by email difficult, and suggested that the committee could sometimes meet during the tea break at rehearsals. The roles of the committee members were discussed. Chris Manvell is working on a list of job descriptions. Christine Davis said that the committee could request other orchestra members to do certain tasks, such as recruiting members and organising concerts. Alan Donald said it didn't need to be formal, and Chris Watkiss said the committee could draw up a list of things that needed to be done and ask for volunteers. Recruitment of younger players was mentioned by several. Iain Roden has been in touch with Sheena Amos, head of music at Portree High School, telling her that our rehearsal at the Fingal Centre on 17th March is an open one, and pupils could be encouraged to look in on it. It is hoped also that Becky Milne or Lynne Anstice-Brown might have pupils who could join us.

- 6) AOCB: Maria Pelletta has the bass drum in her workshop, and asked if there were a more suitable place to store it. John Hockett said there was room in the storeroom at the boatyard.

Iain Roden asked for a vote of thanks to John Hockett and Wendy Riva. He also asked for members to suggest repertoire. These suggestions can go to Bar Purser, who has the list of all suggestions, which then gets passed on to Iain. The website has a contact page members can use to contact committee members.

Judith Bullivant thanked Chris Watkiss for the choir, which not only opens up new repertoire, but brings in more audience as well. She expressed appreciation of the members who travelled a long distance for the rehearsals, and said a concert in the north end might be considered. Meg Rosher said Dunvegan was anxious to have us back. Yet again, the possibility of having two concerts, in the spring or December, was

discussed.

Christine Davis suggested an information sheet be written up for new members, and has agreed to draft it. Christine Chrichton said it should be put up on the website.

John said the chairman should thank, at the concert, the people who volunteer to help.

Elizabeth Watt pointed out that in the interval of our last Christmas concert, the audience didn't know where to go for refreshments. That should be announced at the beginning of the concert, and, as Laura suggested, be put in the programme.

Christine Chrichton mentioned the buffet/concert at the Fingal Centre in December, organised by Skye Chamber Music, and said maybe the orchestra could do something similar.

Christine Davis thanked Iain, enthusiastically endorsed by everyone. The meeting finished at 1.50pm.