

HENLEAZE CONCERT SOCIETY – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 17 September 2018

1 Attendance

Present: Roger Huckle (Chair), Penny Rawlings, Keith Budd, Sue Paterson, Roger Caldwell
Apologies: Steve Rawlings, Armelle Young
The meeting was declared to be quorate.

2 Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting on 21 September 2017 were approved.

Matters arising:

- (a) Gift Aid – HMRC had ruled that Gift Aid was only available on donations, not on membership subscriptions
- (b) Under 25 tickets – There was a mismatch between the information on the HCS website and Eventbrite, which referred to ‘students’ rather than under 25s as being eligible for £5 tickets

3 Chairman’s report

It had been a good year overall, although numbers for the March and May concerts were disappointing. The May concert date was unfortunately left off the season ticket, which may have been a contributory factor, even though reminders were given at the preceding concerts. The aim should be to sell at least 200 tickets per concert.

4 Treasurer’s report

This report was later circulated by email with the accounts for 2017/18, which were duly approved.

In the 2016/17 season there was a loss of £362.31, but this year the loss has increased to £1,138.85. Income has dropped again by some £290. Season ticket sales fell to 109. Memberships were unchanged and ticket sales on the door rose slightly but not enough to match the fall in season ticket sales. It was hoped that raising ticket prices will enable a return to the break-even target.

Expenses have risen again this year, particularly Publicity and Printing which doubled to £1,117.24. Refreshment costs rose a little and Church rental was higher due to a back payment for 2016/17 which was made when the final charitable rental was agreed with the Church. This figure should now fall in 2018/19.

The orchestra showed a saving on their costs from the previous year, with thanks to the Chair for his careful planning and concert selections.

There are still funds in hand thanks to the savings held in the CCLA account which have now been transferred to the main account.

5 Membership Secretary’s report

In the year 2017/18, 109 season tickets and 24 memberships were sold. Figures for 2016/17 were 123 and 30 respectively. While this reflected a loyal membership, it was important to extend the membership base to a younger audience. It was hoped that the ability to buy tickets online and by credit card through Opus would help with this aim.

6 **Publicity**

There was a general discussion about different ways of increasing awareness of the concert programme, both through leafleting and strategically placed advertising. Committee members offered to distribute leaflets in various venues.

7 **Bar Manager's report**

The voluntary donations from concert goers had proved to be more than enough to cover costs and were also eligible for Gift Aid. Approximate consumption was 15 bottles of wine, plus soft drinks, per concert.

8 **Election of Officers**

Chair: Roger Huckle
Secretary: Sue Paterson
Treasurer: Penny Rawlings

Bar Manager: Keith Budd
Publicity: Armelle Young
Committee: Bill Martin¹, Roger Caldwell

Date of next meeting: 3 September 2019

¹ Bill Martin resigned from the Committee shortly after the AGM, on 24 September 2018.