

## **HENLEAZE CONCERT SOCIETY – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 3 September 2019**

### **1 Attendance**

Present: Roger Huckle (Chair), Penny Rawlings, Steve Rawlings, Sue Paterson, Roger Caldwell, Roger Woolley

Apologies: Armelle Young, Anne Merriman

The meeting was declared to be quorate.

### **2 Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting on 17 September 2018 were approved.

Matters arising:

- (a) Gift Aid – Gift Aid returns had been prepared on the basis that membership subscriptions would be eligible. In view of the HMRC ruling that this was not the case, returns would be submitted for eligible donations and cash donations only. It was noted that the Gift Aid form in the concert programmes was in favour of Bristol Ensemble, rather than the Society, and this would be amended.
- (b) Under 25 tickets – The mismatch between the information on the HCS website and Eventbrite, which referred to ‘students’ rather than under 25s as being eligible for £5 tickets, has been corrected.

### **3 Chairman’s report**

The Chair reported that it had been a successful year, with an interesting and varied programme of music, including featuring two woman composers. Feedback from the audience had been positive at all concerts and there was a real buzz in the hall as people socialised over their interval drinks. The turnout for all six concerts was good, with a similar attendance rate to last year, and a young musician performed at almost every concert. It was not always easy to find a young musician and it was agreed to approach university students in addition to school students next year.

### **4 Treasurer’s report**

The Treasurer tabled the draft accounts for 2018/19 with detailed explanatory notes, summarised below.

In the 2017/18 season there was a loss of £1,138.85, but this year the Society is back in credit with a profit of £4,124.84. This result was contributed to by a modest increase in ticket prices, a generous donation towards publicity from the Bristol Ensemble of £1,132.50 and improved ticket sales through Eventbrite and Opus.

Expenses have reduced by £2,552.32, reflecting a reduction in rental and the Chair’s careful management of performance fees for the Bristol Ensemble. The final balance is £9007.10, including the savings transferred from the CCLA account.

The Society should budget for approximately £16,000 expenses over the year in order to break even and possibly make a small profit.

The accounts were approved subject to a correction of the allocation of income between season tickets/memberships and individual concert tickets. Amended accounts would be circulated by email after the meeting.

**5 Membership Secretary's report**

In the year 2018/19, 95 season tickets and 27 memberships were sold. Figures for 2017/18 were 109 and 24 respectively. As at the date of the meeting, 80 season tickets and 12 membership cards had been issued for 2019/20. It was unlikely that, even with the benefit of online ticket sales, it would be possible to reverse the trend of reducing numbers of season tickets and memberships. Although there were new audience members at every concert, this was not translating into additional subscribers, possibly reflecting different attitudes among younger generations towards making long term commitments. On the other hand, the concerts served a real social purpose in bringing people together to listen to wonderful music and the income from individual ticket sales was potentially greater than from the discounted season ticket prices. It was suggested that members be reminded that season tickets are transferable if the ticket holder is unable for any reason to attend.

Several members had added voluntary donations to their season ticket or membership purchases, and acknowledgements could be included in the concert programme as had been done in the past.

**6 Publicity**

Publicity costs continue to be high and the contribution from the Bristol Ensemble was much appreciated. It was agreed to try and limit costs to £1,200 per concert and the Chair would discuss this with Judith Ogden. However it was clear that effective publicity was crucial to the success of the Society.

As next year would be the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Society it was hoped to arouse local media interest in the story of Bristol's only music society. A Facebook events page was also worth considering and the Secretary would discuss this with Armelle Young.

**7 Bar Manager's report**

Keith Budd had retired from the Committee at the end of the 2018/19 season after nearly 25 years and would be greatly missed. Members had been invited to put themselves forward but no one had responded. Roger Caldwell volunteered to take over on an interim basis, assisted by Steve Rawlings.

**8 Election of Officers**

The following appointments were proposed by Roger Woolley, seconded by Steve Rawlings, and unanimously approved:

Chair:	Roger Huckle	Bar Manager:	Roger Caldwell
Secretary:	Sue Paterson	Publicity:	Armelle Young
Treasurer:	Penny Rawlings	Committee:	Steve Rawlings

The Chair thanked all the Committee members for their support and hard work over the year and called the meeting to a close.

**Date of next meeting: To be confirmed**