

HENLEAZE CONCERT SOCIETY – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 August 2020

1 Attendance

Present: Roger Huckle (Chair), Penny Rawlings, Sue Paterson, Roger Caldwell, Armelle Young
Apologies: Steve Rawlings

The meeting was declared to be quorate. Due to the pandemic, the AGM was held virtually and members were not invited, but they were offered the opportunity to ask questions or to submit agenda items in advance. None had been received.

2 Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM on 3 September 2019 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's report

The Chair reported that the first four concerts had gone really well, with a vibrant atmosphere. The remaining two concerts had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

It had been hoped that it might be possible to put on two shorter concerts in October and November but this was looking less likely, as most venues (including Trinity-Henleaze) were still closed and issues around social distancing and cleaning would have to be resolved.

The Committee agreed to make a final decision about whether or not the proposed concerts could go ahead within the week following the AGM and to notify members and season ticket holders accordingly.

Despite the cancellation of the last two concerts, no member or season ticket holder had asked for a refund and only one individual ticket holder had done so (and agreed to accept a replacement ticket for a future concert). In the event that the proposed concerts could not go ahead, some refunds might be requested and if so would be granted, although it was hoped that many members and season ticket holders would be willing to treat the overpayment as a donation, or to accept a reduction on their future subscription rather than an immediate reimbursement.

4 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer tabled provisional draft accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2020. Some information was still not available.

Income from ticket sales was down because only four concerts had taken place. A refund would be due for the cancelled venue bookings, but expenditure on the concerts appeared to be higher than for last year. Publicity and printing costs were also higher.

The Treasurer had received notification from local solicitors of a legacy to the Society of an amount to be confirmed. A grant from the Paragon Music Society was expected, but had not yet been received.

Gift Aid had been successfully claimed on all eligible individual and cash donations for the four years up to 30 June 2019 (£931.32) and for the year to date (£161.90).

The final balance was £7,969.14, including cash in hand.

The draft accounts were approved in principle, subject to checking some figures and adding the missing information when available. Amended accounts were subsequently circulated and approved by email. These showed a final balance of £8,832.14.

5 Membership Secretary's report

In the year 2019/20, 99 season tickets and 20 memberships were sold. Figures for 2018/19 were 95 and 27 respectively. The ability to purchase tickets on line had improved individual ticket sales and was starting to bring in a new audience.

6 Publicity

Publicity costs continue to be high but it was agreed that effective publicity was crucial to the success of the Society. Advertising in the Bristol magazine was expensive and cheaper options such as the BS6, 8 and 9 magazines might be considered. The number of printed fliers could be reduced.

7 Bar Manager's report

The costs for interval drinks had been fully covered by voluntary donations. There was sufficient wine in stock for up to two more concerts (once serving refreshments is possible) but some fruit juices would pass their use by date and would have to be discarded.

8 Election of Officers

As all the current Officers were willing to continue and there had been no other nominations, no changes to the Committee were proposed.

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

The Chair thanked the Committee members and called the meeting to a close.

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed