

## **HENLEAZE CONCERT SOCIETY – Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 September 2024**

### **1 Attendance and apologies**

Committee: Roger Huckle (Chair), Simon Kodurand, Sue Paterson, Armelle Young, Roger Caldwell  
In attendance: John Searle (prospective Committee member and Trustee)  
Apologies: Penny and Steve Rawlings (Committee), Roger Woolley (Member)

### **2 Minutes and matters arising**

Minutes of the last AGM on 21 September 2023 were approved. There were no matters arising.

### **3 Chairman's report**

The Chair reported another successful season of concerts, with good attendance figures (the Einaudi concert was sold out). This will be the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the Henleaze Concert Society.

Steve Clarke's pre-concert talks continue to be popular, although the new sound system is still presenting some challenges. A training session has been requested.

During the year there were some issues with the Church over rental arrangements but these were largely resolved at a constructive meeting and the relationship is back on a proper footing. There remains some concern over double booking of the venue, including at the forthcoming June concert, but the Chair has been assured that this will not happen again.

Despite the legacy from the Walter Finley estate, the Committee will need to consider the financial situation. Another application to the Paragon Music Trust should cover the costs of one concert

### **4 Treasurer's report**

In the Treasurer's absence, the Secretary tabled the report and draft accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. These showed a significant loss for the last season, which was masked by the legacy. Over the past two years, outgoings have increased by about £10,000, including higher costs for publicity, printing, programmes, music hire and orchestra fees. There was an operating loss of nearly £6,000 for the year. The balance at Lloyds Bank as at 30 June 2024 was £17,449. If losses continue at this level, the legacy will last for no more than three years.

The Treasurer had invited the Committee to consider the following suggestions:

- (a) Set an annual budget including orchestra costs – Agreed.
- (b) Simplify brochures – The Committee did not wish to reduce the size, content or quality of the brochures, but agreed to reduce the print run from 2,500 to 1,500.
- (c) Reduce cost of programmes by omitting programme notes and restricting content to a single folded A4 page – Agreed.
- (d) Review publicity – The Committee had already decided to stop advertising with Bristol 24/7 and the Bristol Ensemble will include HCS events in its own publicity and social media. The Committee agreed to continue with the advertisements and free listings in the BS6, 8 and 9 magazines (annual cost £857) and on the Visit Bristol website (free of charge).
- (e) Increase ticket prices – Agreed in principle, to be discussed at a future Committee meeting.
- (f) Decide how to spend the legacy – The Committee agreed that, with better budgeting, losses should be kept to a minimum, so that although the legacy would still be available to cover losses, it would last for several more years and provide a buffer against unexpected events. The Committee was committed to ensuring that the Society continues to operate and provide an important social function by bringing people together to listen to classical music, for many years to come.

The balance at Lloyds Bank as at the date of the meeting was £19,436, with cheques to the value of £2,897 still to be paid in and a cash float of £102 in hand.

## **5 Approval of accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024**

The draft accounts were unanimously approved, with thanks to the Treasurer.

## **6 Membership Secretary's report**

The Society sold 59 season tickets and 27 memberships, slightly down from 62 season tickets and 37 memberships last year. As at the date of the AGM, 62 season tickets and 6 memberships had been sold for the new season.

People continue to be generous with donations, although drinks donations are down, perhaps due to the numbers buying online for just one concert at a time and to the fact that fewer people now carry cash. Drinks donations were £431 and individual donations £189, total £620, on which Gift Aid will be about £150. A grant of £450 was received from the Paragon Trust.

Our online sales provider has changed from Eventbrite to Ticket Tailor, which is cheaper and transfers money to the bank immediately for each transaction rather than only after each event. Last year 480 tickets were sold online (up from 239 in the previous year) with the highest number of sales for the Einaudi concert, which was sold out. At the date of the AGM, 57 tickets had been sold online for the new season, of which 50 were for the Einaudi concert on 12 October.

Tickets will no longer be sold through Henleaze Post Office, but with the improvement in online sales and the ability to take card payments on the door, this should not have adverse consequences.

## **7 Publicity**

In addition to advertising in BS6, 8 and 9 and Visit Bristol (see Treasurer's report above), the possibility of putting up posters or banners was discussed and will be followed up.

## **8 Bar Manager's report**

Wine and soft drink supplies have been stocked up for the next two or three concerts. Average bottle spend is now £5, but costs are amply covered by donations.

## **9 Succession Planning and Election of Officers**

All the Officers were willing to continue in their current roles and were re-elected.

Chair:	Roger Huckle	Treasurer:	Penny Rawlings
Vice Chair:	Simon Kodurand	Bar Manager:	Roger Caldwell
Secretary:	Sue Paterson	Publicity:	Armelle Young

To cover the possibility of any Committee members wishing to retire next year, it was agreed to seek volunteers from the audience to take part in the running of the Society. Meanwhile, John Searle was unanimously elected to the Committee and will also become a Trustee.

## **10 Other business**

There was no other business. The Chair thanked all the Committee members for their contribution to the Society and called the meeting to a close.

**Next Committee meeting: January 2025 (date and time to be agreed)**