

ADMS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.45pm Monday 19 September 2011

The Manor Preparatory School, Faringdon Road, Abingdon

Present: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Musical Director, Committee Members and about 35 other Society members

Apologies for absence had been received from about 10 members

1) Minutes of the 2010 AGM

It was noted that papers for the meeting, including minutes of the 2010 AGM, had been made available on the ADMS web page, however there were complaints from the floor that not every one had access to the internet and hard copies should have been made available at the door.

The Minutes of the 2010 AGM were approved by the meeting.

2) Matters arising from 2010 AGM

Ref: Action on the Vice-Chairman at item (7): The Treasurer advised the meeting that the four Officers of the Society were regarded as Trustees. The Chairman said they would only be liable for losses if this had been due to some misdemeanour on their parts.

3) Chairman / Vice-Chairman's review

The Chairman reported that the last year had been very enjoyable and there had been some excellent concerts. It was disappointing that the Christmas Charity concert had to be cancelled because of the very heavy snow fall. There had been last minute difficulties at with the June concert with Alex Walker being taken ill only the day before. The Society had been very lucky to get an excellent substitute conductor.

The choir had found some of the music very challenging, particularly the Bach and the Elgar for which the number of singers had been disappointingly low. The lack of a regular substitute conductor had made choir members uncomfortable but the Society were now pleased to welcome James McKelvey as Associate Conductor. James would stand-in whenever possible to conduct the choir when Alex was unavailable and would, in any case, be conducting the choir for a number of rehearsals throughout the year.

The Vice-Chairman expressed his appreciation to the regular members of the orchestra plus the occasional players for their hard work during the season.

The Chairmen gave his thanks to the Concert Manager, Phil Stopford, who had put in many long hours to ensure that all was in place to provide for the smooth running of the concerts. He had also been ably assisted by Mr Thomas in helping to move furniture etc as required on the day. Thanks were also due to the providers and servers of interval refreshments, to other helpers and particularly to John Oxlade for his excellent programme notes.

4) Musical Director's review

The Musical Director had circulated his note for the meeting. He made some additional points:

- He felt that the music chosen for the choir in their spring concert had been too difficult
- The orchestral concert featuring the winner of the Abingdon Music Festival Concerto Competition and been very well received and the young violinist had given a superb performance of the Mendelssohn violin concerto.

- The Society had been very lucky to get a stand-in conductor for the June Concert when he had been taken suddenly ill.
- The orchestra were looking for new young string players and the choir for more members generally.
- He thanked Kate Bailey (orchestra leader) and John Oxlade (choir accompanist) for their valuable work with the Society.

5) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had circulated her note for the meeting. She drew attention to the very disappointing overall loss of just over £1400, this was in spite of a very generous £1000 donation. Expenditure had been slightly higher compared to the previous year, due to putting on 4 concerts as compared to the 3 of the previous year. Unfortunately the total income from these 4 concerts had been less than the 3 concerts of the previous year. Obviously the Society needed to attract bigger audiences.

There was a suggestion from the floor that each society members should be given at least 2 tickets and required to sell them. There was also a suggestion that the Society should try to get sponsorship from local companies for individual concerts.

The Treasurer suggested that the Society needed a higher basic income as provided by members' subscriptions. She was reluctant to propose a large increase in subscription rates lest this deter new members, as increased membership would better for the Society. The Committee had therefore agreed to propose a £5 increase in subscription rates for the coming year meaning that the normal full year subscription would increase from £95 to £100.

There was a proposal from the floor that the increase should be greater than this e.g. the new normal rate should be £110. After some discussion the proposal for a £10 increase was put to the meeting and agreed by a majority vote. The normal full year subscription for 2011-12 would therefore be £105. The proposal to remove the £15 reduction for new members was rejected.

The Treasurer pointed out the importance of Gift Aid and urged all members to make sure they had signed up for this. There were observations from the floor that not everyone had been told about this. It was requested that the Gift Aid form should be made available on the ADMS web page. The Treasurer agreed to see that this was done. **Action 1**

6) Future Programmes and Operation of the Society

The following suggestions were made regarding future programmes:

- Programmes were needed which would be more attractive to potential audiences.
- There should be more light-hearted music. e.g. many members possessed books of Opera Choruses which had been purchased a few years ago. The Musical Director agreed to consider this.
- Dates should be arranged to avoid the clash with other local concerts. The difficulty of arranging suitable dates that did not clash with others was noted.
- There was a problem with poor sighting in St Helens Church, which made it an unattractive venue. It was noted that there was difficulty finding a suitable alternative venue for large Choral/Orchestra concerts.

- It was suggested that the major concert of the year should be held in the spring rather than in June. It was noted however that there were many other competing events taking place in the spring.

With regard to the operation of the Society, Musical Director suggested that the 'Friends' scheme should be developed to attract more participants and to make them feel more a part of the Society. e.g. Provide them with regular Newsletters and perhaps invite them to rehearsals.

6) Selection of Charity for Christmas Concert

The 'CLIC Sargent' charity was proposed by Geoffrey Bushell. This charity gives help and support to children with cancer and to their families. One of the ways in which it helps is to provide homes for families of children who must be treated in hospitals many miles away from their own homes. This enables the families to be there with their children for the time they have to be away, which can sometimes be many months. He said that the 'Sargent' in the charity name was actually Sit Malcolm Sargent showing that the charity had a musical connection. The meeting agreed to adopt the 'CLIC Sargent' charity to benefit from the proceeds of the Christmas Concert. Geoff Bushell would approach a representative from the charity to talk about its work at the concert. **Action 2**

7) Election of Officers

Marcus Gover said that he had wished to step down from his position as Chairman for the coming year but no-one else had agreed to take over so he was willing to stand for one more year. Marcus's re-appointment as Chairman was agreed by the meeting.

Eileen Page had already stepped down as Secretary. Emma Blackie, a member from the orchestra, was agreeable to take on the position but was not happy about doing minutes of meetings. It was agreed that other committee members could do minutes. On this condition Emma was prepared to stand. She was proposed for the position by Peter Smith, seconded by Lesley Lovell and by agreed the meeting.

It had been proposed that the Society should appoint two Vice-Chairmen, instead of one as at present, and that the positions should be filled by one member from the orchestra and one member from the choir. Tony Bradley from the orchestra was willing to stand for another year as Vice-Chairman. Tony's re-appointment as Vice-Chairman (orchestra) was agreed by the meeting. Debbie Clark had agreed to stand as Vice-Chairman (choir). Debbie was proposed for the position by Pat Field, seconded by Geoff Bushell and agreed by the meeting.

Marion Simpson was willing to stand for another year as Treasurer. Marion's re-appointment as Treasurer was agreed by the meeting.

The five main officers for the coming year would therefore be.

Marcus Gover – Chairman
 Tony Bradley – Vice Chairman (Orchestra)
 Debbie Clark – Vice-Chairman (Choir)
 Marion Simpson – Treasurer
 Emma Blackie – Secretary

The Treasurer would arrange for the new officers to become signatories to the Society bank account. **Action 3**

8) A.O.B.

There being no other business the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.