

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY

Wednesday 25 March 2015 19:00

15 Gibson Square, N1 0RD

ATTENDEES: **Richard Miles (Chair)**
 Andrea Buchanan (Secretary)
 Neil King (Treasurer)
 Geoffrey Griffiths
 Edward Hewitt

APOLOGIES **Roger Lee**
 Charlie Furness-Smith
 Margaret Murphy
 Cameron Burns

The meeting opened at 19:00 and was declared quorate.

Item 1: Apologies for absence

These were received from RL, CFS, MM and CB.

Item 2: Approval of minutes 25 February

The minutes of 25 February were approved without further comment.

Item 3: Chair's Report

RM noted how pleased he was that Gillian Wyn-Thomas (GWT) would be joining the Committee as Events Secretary. He also commented that the Iain Paterson event had been really good. He informed the meeting that he was in communication with Dr. Harriet Boyd Bennett (who had given the Stravinsky lecture in February) regarding our search for a student webmaster.

The Committee then voted on the motion, proposed by RM and seconded by GG, that GWT be co-opted to the Committee from today. All present were in favour.

Item 4: Membership / New Members for Approval/Donations

The Membership Secretary presented a list of 5 new members who had joined since the last meeting. These were approved unanimously. The comment was made that a rate of joining of 5 per month was healthy.

Item 5: Budget update and Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts for 2014 had now been converted into the annual accounts format and had been sent to the examining accountants. It was estimated that these would be signed and ready in time for posting to the website at least 20 days prior to the AGM.

The Chair would write a separate report for the AGM that would be posted to the website. This should be completed by April 12 at the latest.

The Treasurer explained a few changes to his analysis of current performance versus budget. He noted that membership subscriptions were falling behind those budgeted, although few major items of expenditure had yet been disbursed. This meant that we were almost breaking even to date, although we could likely fall behind. A healthy surplus had been made on the Iain Paterson event.

The Treasurer then proposed the following motion with regard to underpayment of membership subscriptions:

- Regardless of location, the only valid membership amounts would henceforth be 15 (students), 30 (individuals) and 40 (joint)
- Any amounts in excess of this to be treated as a donation
- Any amounts under these amounts to be treated as a donation and the member in question to be immediately removed from the membership list and to receive no further publications or mailings
- A note to this effect to be placed on the website and in the July Wagner News.
- No further reminders would be sent to these former members but, should they get in touch, they could repay the shortfall and be reinstated. (Margaret to notify us of any members doing this so the Treasurer can keep the accounts correct.)
- A significant shift from waived subscriptions, ROW and European subscriptions as well as from individual subscriptions will therefore be moved to donations - this will be about 2,200

This was put to the vote, with four voting in favour and one abstaining. The motion was therefore carried.

It was agreed that the Treasurer would sort out payment to the Mastersingers upon receipt of the invoice. [This was since in hand.]

The Treasurer ended by confirming that he would institute a petty cash fund for payment of event expenses e.g. food, taxis etc. that could be claimed from the Ticket Secretary.

Item 6: Website

AB reported that she had spoken to AFS the previous evening. He was building a new platform for the website and would implement the requested changes once this had been completed. The Treasurer would welcome the opportunity to meet with AFS.

Item 7 AGM

AB had circulated a draft agenda for the AGM, that was, with a slight amendment to the wording, deemed acceptable. Nominators would be sought for GG, CB and GWT.

It was hoped that this would be a simple and straightforward event. Committee members were urged to attend. This was really important and an effort should be made.

Item 8 – Events

AB did not have anything to report on events. GWT would take these over after Easter. AB reminded the Treasurer of his noble offer to organise an event-free get-together in December for members.

Item 9: AOB

1. The meeting agreed that more diversity of content in Wagner News would be welcome. It was felt that there were too many articles about too few events.
2. GG informed the meeting that he had a pre-war Bayreuth Yearbook in old German script.
3. The committee would go out for dinner following the April meeting.

The meeting ended shortly before 9pm.