

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY

Wednesday 21 October 2015 19:00

15 Gibson Square, N1 0RD

ATTENDEES: **Richard Miles (Chair)**
 Andrea Buchanan (Secretary)
 Neil King (Treasurer)
 Simon Empson

APOLOGIES **Gilly Wyn-Thomas**
 Roger Lee
 Edward Hewitt
 Geoffrey Griffiths
 Margaret Murphy
 Charlie Furness Smith

The meeting opened at 19:00 and was declared quorate, there being over one-third of the total committee membership present.

Item 1: Apologies for absence

These were noted as per the above list.

Item 2: Approval of minutes 9 September

The minutes of 9 September were approved without further comment.

Item 3: Chair's Report

The Chair had nothing of substance to report since the last meeting.

Item 4: New Members for Approval

The membership Secretary had reported that there was one new member who had joined by contacting her directly. It appeared that there had been some issues with the reporting of payments of 7 new members who joined online in September. This was currently being investigated and would be resolved. Discussion followed regarding membership sign-up processes and how best to optimise these.

Item 5: Budget Update

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the management accounts for September were in preparation. The Society was still in credit by a modest surplus. Income remained behind budget, as did expenditure.

The Treasurer requested that all Committee members submit their expenditure forecasts for the coming year to him as soon as possible, with particular emphasis on events, the Singing Competition, Wagner News etc.

Item 6: Website

A long and detailed discussion was held on the website. The paper on the topic that had been submitted to the Committee by member John Crowther was carefully considered and the various issues raised would be addressed.

Various recommendations for the future of the website were put forward and these would be communicated to members in due course.

Item 7: Events

No applications for the post of Events Secretary had been received, to the regret of the Committee. In the interim, it was agreed that future events would be handled by different Committee members:

- Christmas party – The Treasurer was organising this event. There were still some spaces available. It was noted that only pre-paid entrance tickets would be accepted for this event.
- The joint societies' dinner – this was being organised by the Alkan Society. Input from the WS had already been handled by GWT so there should not be any further work to do on this. It was not clear whether anyone from the Committee would attend.
- Inter Society Quiz – this was being organised by the Mahler Society and had been publicised by members by GWT. It would likely be an event limited to the WS team, due to space constraints. Prospective team members would reply to GWT.
- Talk by Professor Derek Hughes – RM agreed to organise this event.
- Mastersingers – Serving the Reich – MS were organising this and a venue had been booked.
- Tannhäuser Study Day – AB would assist with the organisation for this event.
- AGM – AB would organise this.
- Dame Gwyneth Masterclass – a volunteer organiser from the Committee was yet to be decided.
- Singing Competition 2016 – AB would continue to organise this.

Item 8: AOB

1. In recognition of the assistance provided by Tom Empson, who had done the ticket sales for the Rehearsal Orchestra event and who gave invaluable assistance with the Singing Competition, it was decided to accord him honorary membership for 2016.
2. The Secretary announced that she would retire from being an Officer of the Society at the beginning of the forthcoming AGM. A replacement as Secretary would therefore be sought. The Secretary would remain on the Committee with responsibility only for the Singing Competition.
3. The Prize money for the Singing Competition was decided at £1500.

The meeting ended at 21:00