

## **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY**

**WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017 18.30 – 21:00**

15 Gibson Square, London N1 0RD

**ATTENDEES:**           **Richard Miles (Chair)**  
                              **Cormac Cawley (Secretary)**  
                              **Neil King (Treasurer)**  
                              **Katie Clay**  
                              **Helen Beardsley**  
                              **Jan Leigh**  
                              **Katie Clay**  
                              **Geoffrey Griffiths**

**APOLOGIES**           **Ray Godson, Harry Clarke**

**GUESTS**               **Alan Ridgewell**

The meeting opened at 18:30 and was declared quorate, there being present at least one officer and other committee members constituting at least one third of the total committee membership.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Alan Ridgewell, who had expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

### **Item 1: Apologies for absence**

As above.

### **Item 2: Minutes of Meeting on 19.06.2017.**

The draft minutes of the meeting on 19.06.2017 were proposed and agreed by all, subject to a few minor points and typos.

The meeting clarified that since the withdrawal of the resignation (on 29.05.2017) of HB had been accepted, there had not been any need to co-opt HB to the committee as the meeting on 19.06.2017. In any event HB had been elected as a Committee member at the AGM on 21.06.2017.

### **Item 3 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that Dame Anne Evans and her husband, John Lucas were joining us after the business of the Agenda had been concluded.

RM explained that he had asked AB to clarify what had happened to the physical records and documents which she held from her time as a Committee member and Secretary as no such documents had been handed over to him on his recent visit to her home.

An e-mail had been sent by AB to RM clarifying the position. It appears that all of the records were kept electronically and had been sent to committee members where appropriate. These records had been kept by AB on her work computer and they had been lost or deleted when she retired. RM will provide a copy of AB's e-mail to CTC.

#### **Item 4 Treasurer's Report**

NK advised that he had still not received any bank statements and so he could not report. He will do the June and July Management Accounts when he gets the bank statements.

Our finances are still way behind budget – we had lost £1,200 on the President's Masterclass despite the support from the President who covered the cost of sandwiches after the event.

So far 32 tickets had been sold for the SC.

#### **Item 6 - Written Resolution/Decision Bye-laws**

Draft Written Resolution/Decision Bye-laws based on the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 had been circulated to committee members by CTC on 02.06.2017.

Cormac Cawley proposed that the Bye-laws be adopted as they would make the management of the Society's affairs by the Committee more efficient.

JL seconded the proposal and the proposal was carried unanimously.

#### **Item 6 - "Wagner 1900" Grant Application**

This application was discussed, and NK reported that we were still waiting to hear from RWVI as to the level of any contribution they would make.

After some discussion, it was agreed that (provided the RWVI made a matching contribution) we might consider making a contribution along the following lines:

- (a) Payment of £2,000;
- (b) 30% reduction on tickets to be offered to our members;
- (c) RWVI to also pay a sum of £2,000;
- (d) We advertise free in any publications/programmes produced by the promoters of the event.

CTC will write to Stoll-Knecht telling her that this is how we are thinking of approaching her application and invite her comments.

#### **Item 6 – Bayreuth Ballot**

So far €270 is still owing for the Chairman's second TUI ticket for 12.08.2017. NK would check receipts and confirm position to CTC once he received up-to-date bank statements.

#### **Item 7 - Bayreuth Bursaries/Mastersinger co-operation**

This would be considered with DAE when the Committee met her after our meeting.

## **Item 8 - Events Officers' Reports**

JL reported.

CTC agreed to do the Introduction for the Bayreuth Bursary event.

JL provided an update on the Dr Carnegie event which will now take place on 10.03.2018.

JL had contacted Antonio Pappano's secretary who said that she would speak AP (when he comes back to London on 14.08.2017) about coming to speak to doing an event for us.

JL also mentioned Richard Boyle

JL also thought that Eva Rieger might be an interesting speaker as she had written an article in The Wagner Journal called "Kundry's Kiss and the Fear of Female Desire".

JL also mentioned the possibility of a Masterclass with a male singer

JL had identified the Swedenborg Hall as a reasonably priced alternative venue which was centrally based near Holborn.

As to the RAF Club JL had established that they charge £22.50 per head for food.

JL also pointed out that someone needs to follow up with Klaus Florian Vogt's agent about getting him to come and speak to us while he was in London for Lohengrin in June 2018.

We also need to work out when the Dinner in 2018 will take place and who will get the Goodall Award.

HB reported that she was following up on: -

- (i) Michael Volle will be in town in September for the Sicilian Vespers and Salome – perhaps he could come and talk to us.
- (ii) Nina Stemme is also around in September as she is taking part in the Last Night of the Proms.
- (iii) Possible "Dames in Conversation" evening

HB is dealing with the copy for the advert in the Last Night of the Proms Programme.

## **Item 9 - Media, Advertising, Twitter & Facebook**

Nothing discussed on this item.

## **Item 10 - Membership Report**

NK reported that we needed to appeal more to students and this should be stressed in the advert which we are placing in programme for the Last Night of the Proms. NK said that there had been several resignations since AGM potentially based on the issues surrounding spurious 2012 accounting allegations.

### **Item 11 - Website Report**

No report as HC had given apologies.

### **Item 12 - Wagner News**

KC reported and presented a copy of the latest WN, which everyone agreed was superb and looked really impressive.

The deadline for the October copy was mid-August

CTC suggested that we approach Ms Stoll-Knecht of the "Wagner 1900" about writing an article for us.

### **Item 13 - Return of Society's Records by former officers**

RM had already reported on the e-mail which he had received from AB.

### **Item 15 – Jorge Rodriguez's CDs**

It was agreed that CTC would e-mail members and invite offer for the CDs.

### **Item 14 – AOB**

**The meeting closed at 21:11**

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Wednesday 16 August

Wednesday 18 October

Wednesday 15 November

### **2018**

Wednesday 17 January

Wednesday 21 February

Wednesday 21 March

Wednesday 18 April

AGM 16 May 2018 (proposed)