

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

**MONDAY 14 May 2018 18.30 – 21:00**

15 Gibson Square, London N1 0RD

**ATTENDEES:** Neil King (Treasurer) (“NGK”) (In the Chair)  
Cormac Cawley (Secretary) (“CTC”)  
Geoffrey Griffiths (“GG”)  
Ray Godson (“RG”)  
Alan Ridgewell (“AR”)  
Henry Kennedy (“HK”)

**APOLOGIES** Richard Miles (Chair) (“RM”), Isabelle Pitman (“IP”), Meli Hatzihrysidis (“MH”) & Nick Kohn (“NNK”)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Shirley Cully (“SC”)

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. In the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Treasurer. The Treasurer welcomed Shirley Cully to the meeting and she was co-opted as a member of the committee by unanimous vote.

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

Apologies were received from RM, IP, MH & NNK.

### **Item 2: Approval of minutes of meeting on 17 April 2018**

The minutes of the meeting on 17.04.2018 were approved, subject to a correction by RG to record that he had told PD in their meeting that he would check with the committee what commitments had been given to the prize-winners.

On matters arising HK asked if RM had written to the Spectator, but the meeting did not have any information about that.

RG raised the question of the numbers who were attending the strategy meeting, which had been confirmed at the last meeting. SC said that she would not be able to join the meeting.

### **Item 3: Chairman’s Report**

In light of his absence there was no report from the Chairman.

#### **Item 4: Treasurers Report, Budget & Annual Accounts**

NGK reported and said that he will be sending out the management accounts for last month shortly. The position was not so bad as we have sold all of the Bayreuth tickets and we are back to normal but slightly behind budget.

RG asked about Gift Aid. NGK said that he was trying to update the membership records in anticipation of GDPR coming into force on 25 May 2018. So far, he has got to October 2016 with the Gift Aid claims. He explained that we had another 18 months of grace on the four-year limitation period for making Gift Aid claims. HMRC will pay interest at a higher rate than we would get if we invested the monies ourselves.

#### **Item 5: Wagner News including cost of advertising**

AR reported.

The next edition of WN will be delayed until the beginning of June.

The Bayreuth edition will be published in September.

He is planning a ROH Ring Cycle edition for November/December.

He would like (i) an item about the Bayreuth Ballot for Wagner News and (ii) clarification of dates for future events from HK.

#### **Item 6: Events Officer's Report**

HK reported as follows.

The Dame Anne Evans event on 10 May had been a resounding success. Someone pointed out that the "Pioneer" logo on the screen saver at Swedenborg Hall needed to be changed.

There was a brief discussion about events being videoed/recorded and it was agreed that this should not happen as it might discourage members from attending events.

AR mentioned that a number of students had reserved tickets but had not turned up. It was therefore agreed that we would charge students £5 for events with effect from September.

The KFV event on 15.05.18 is selling well. CTC, NGK and HK will take KFV to dinner afterwards.

HK reported that he was planning to bring back the Dame Eva Turner Lecture and to perhaps make it a free event for members in the autumn. It was agreed that the committee would make proposals for nominees to give the lecture at the next meeting.

It was also agreed that we would have nominations for the Goodall Award at the next meeting.

### **Item 7: Singing Competition**

HK agreed to get on with organising the Singing Competition. We were now on friendly terms with Mastersingers and they and DAE will help with the auditions. DAE might be prepared to chair the judges if we agree to give prizes by way of tuition fees rather than simple cash sums.

It was agreed to form a Singing Competition Sub-committee comprised of CTC, NGK and HK.

### **Item 8: Bayreuth Bursary Application Forms & Rules**

CTC agreed to draft these forms.

### **Item 9: Bayreuth Ballot Draw**

CTC reported that we had received nearly all of the monies from the winners. There were six tickets which had been rejected and these will be offered to members on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

### **Item 10 Media, Advertising, Twitter and Facebook**

It was agreed to postpone any discussion of these items.

### **Item 11 Written Decision Bye Laws Update**

CTC reported that no Written Decisions had been made since the last meeting.

### **Item 12: Membership Report**

NGK reported that the number of members was now 1066.

### **Item 13: General Data Protection Regulation**

Agreement had still not been reached about how to approach the issue of the GDPR, particularly whether we needed all members to give written consent to us continuing to process their data.

NGK told the meeting that he would like to write to "expired" members and offer them two years for the price of one as an incentive to re-join when writing about GDPR anyway.

### **Item 14: Society's Libraries of Recordings & Books and Donations**

The meeting considered how we would advertise items (such as books, memorabilia, DVDs or CDs) which were being offered for sale. It was agreed that we would advertise items belonging to members for free but that we would ask non-members for a donation.

The meeting reaffirmed the decision to sell the Audio and DVD library.

As to the Book Library, RG expressed the view that we should find a home for it within 50 miles of London.

### **Item 15: Archive Catalogue from GG**

The meeting agreed that we needed to define what should be comprised in our archive, for example, items such as Wagner News, Minutes of Meetings, Written Resolutions and the like. GG will make a longer list. He would like to pass on the archive sooner rather than later.

### **Item 15: AOB**

1. SC agreed to act as Catering Secretary for the Society.
2. HK mentioned the possibility of having specific roles for NNK and IP.
3. It was agreed to discuss IP's proposal at the next meeting which she attends.
4. It was agreed that the June committee meeting would take place on 20 June since the Opolais event had been cancelled.

### **THE MEETING ENDED AT 21:43**

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

AGM 16 May 2018

Wednesday 20 June

Tuesday 17 July

Wednesday 19 September

Wednesday 17 October

Wednesday 21 November

### **2019**

Wednesday 16 January

Wednesday 20 February

Wednesday 20 March

Wednesday 17 April

**AGM - Wednesday 22 May**