**Wagner Society Committee Meeting 10 October 2018 - Draft**

In attendance: Richard Miles (RM), Neil King (NK), Anthony Spooner (AS), Alan Ridgewell (AR), Isabella Pitman (IP)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Geoffrey Griffiths, Meli Hatzihrysidis, Ray Godson, Henry Kennedy

**2. Minutes 19.9.18**

Approved

**3. Matters arising**

None

**4. Introduction of Tom Brown**

Tom Brown was introduced to the meeting. He is a barrister with a Degree in Music and a strong interest in music generally & Wagner specifically. It had been agreed at the last meeting that we should make every effort to bring the Committee to full strength in order to share the workload more equitably. Tom expressed an interest in the work of the Society (possibly social media?) and it was agreed to co-opt him on to the Committee.

**5. Chairman’s & Treasurer’s Reports**

The Chairman had nothing significant to report, but welcomed Anthony Spooner, the new Secretary, was to his first Committee meeting.

NK reported that he had not yet finished the accounts for September: at this stage we are showing a modest loss, largely due to Gift Aid not being reclaimed yet. The impact of individual events can be quite significant if attendance is not high.

**6. Events**

HK was absent but reported that there was not much to comment about this month: attendance at the Stefan Vinke event had been OK but impacted by the clash with an MSC event with Keith Warner and possibly the timing (Saturday). He requested that we should try to have at least 3 members of the committee at every meeting. 1 for the door, 1 for serving drinks, 1 for catering, etc.

**7. Annual Dinner & Goodall Award**

RM reported that we could go ahead with announcing the Grahams as winners. Their preferred citation would be ‘Martin & Lizzie Graham **and** Longborough Festival Opera’. Publicity to be coordinated through the Social Media WhatsApp group, and then to be announced on the website & in the December edition of Wagner News.

NK reported that he had booked the Royal Overseas League for the dinner on 20 March. Capacity is 95-100, with 70 the break- even. Tickets will be £95, with round tables available for 8, 10 or 12and oblong for fourteen. It was agreed that we would offer a discount for a table of 12 (£1000 vs £1140), and a limited number of concessionary student tickets at £25? The Committee agreed this would be sensible.

Lee Bisset had agreed to perform at the dinner and to present the Award. AR to word the announcement for MailChimp and website?

**8. Wagner News**

AR was warmly applauded for the quality and content of the latest Wagner News. He reported that the next edition will be out in the 1st or 2nd week of December & will incorporate the Goodall Award announcement.

It had been intended to publish a transcript of the Dame Eva Turner Memorial Lecture delivered on 5 October, but Professor Deathridge is unable to provide one, so it will be reviewed by AR instead. We have c30 J Deathridge books still available and these will be advertised.

AR has conducted surveys after both the Deathridge & Vinke events. To the question ‘How did you hear about the event?’, the overwhelming response was email or Wagner News. The flyers seem to have had little impact on attendance (but may have led to an increase in membership). AR will investigate further.

**9. Secretary’s Emails / Weekly or Bi-weekly Newsletter**

AR has been doing MailChimp messages to members but requested a volunteer to take over. He will continue chimping for now and this will be discussed further (regular mails vs ‘ad hoc’ approach)

**10. Proposal on** **Further Prizes for some Singing Competition Finalists**

Last month’s decision on prizes of £500 to Adam Music & Michelle Alexander to be followed up with letters to both, and donations from Committee members as agreed, to cover the additional prizes. To be written up in Wagner News.

**11. Report of the Singing Competition sub-committee**

No sub-Committee meetings have been held since the last Committee meeting (they will be bi-monthly, with the next due on 15 November). A further report will be provided at the next meeting. Dame Anne Evans has already assembled an excellent panel of judges, comprising (mainly UK-based) performers, critics, administrators and agents, consistent with the idea of developing home-grown talent in the UK.

It was reported that the Wigmore Hall would be available on Saturday 23 November, at a very reasonable cost of £500 + VAT. Tickets have to be sold via the WH website, and they take 18% of ticket sales. Catering should be possible via their own restaurant and kitchens etc. at additional cost.

**12. Update on Disposal of the libraries and further bequests**

NK reported that he was still sounding out libraries about taking some of the material (the London Library was still interested in some items). Other possibilities include the Goethe Institute & Wahnfried. Gary Kahn & Ray Godson are working on an alternative solution and will report back during November.

**13. Selection of Bayreuth Bursary Candidates for 2019**

Candidates have to be proposed then accepted by Bayreuth. Max per society is 7. RM to consult Chairman of the NYWS on their policy (they send 5 candidates annually) & report back to the next meeting.

4 people to be sent and Dame Anne Evans and Malcolm Rivers to nominate singers who might wish to attend the Bayreuth Festival - or advertise for other categories? AR to [co-ordinate](http://soordinate.ro).

**14. RWVI Matters / Bayreuth Ballot**

2019 Congress in Venice will be held from 28 November to 2 December 2019. Several Committee members expressed an interest in attending. The future composition of the RWVI Committee, and our representative on it, are matters of great interest and should be monitored.

Bayreuth ballot: application form has now been received by Cormac Cawley & will be forwarded to NK. Closing date for applications is 12th November. As in previous years, we should apply for the maximum allocation (demand from members was several times our allocation last year – a total of 86 tickets). However, GdF applications were severely scaled back last year and we should anticipate this again this year. We have not yet had any details of the RWVI allocations.

It was agreed that we should allocate a proportion (10%?) of the available tickets to students / under 30s at half price or less. We would not want to exclude deserving candidates who were not studying or allocate tickets to those with no real interest or who could afford to pay full price. Candidates should therefore be asked to state why they were applying, & applications should be vetted (e.g. by IP?)

**15. AOB**

It was reported that GG has been taken ill and is in a nursing home. HK is in contact with his nephew and should be able to tell us where he is so that RM can organise some flowers.

**16. Date of next meeting and draft schedule of future meetings**

* Wednesday 21st November 2018
* Christmas Party – Thursday 13th December 2018
* Wednesday 16th January 2019
* Wednesday 27th February 2019
* Annual Dinner – Wednesday 20th March 2018
* Wednesday 27th March 2019
* Wednesday 10th April 2019
* Wednesday 15th May 2019
* Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 22nd May 2019
* Wednesday 19th June 2019
* Wednesday 10th July 2019

The meeting closed at 8.40pm