**Item 11: Item for Discussion – President’s Masterclass**

“I, the President of the Wagner Society, wish to clarify to the Members, exactly why the Annual Event “The President’s Award for a Public Masterclass”, which was announced by the Society as one of their Singing Competition 2017 prizes, to which my husband Adrian Müller and I always donate our services, will not take place.”

(Requested by Dame Gwyneth Jones, President of the Society)

Reading from a paper which had not been submitted to the committee for circulation to the membership, the President gave a detailed account of her view of the circumstances surrounding the 2017 Singing Competition and explained why the masterclasses awarded to winners would not take place.  The Chairman stated that the version of events presented was not recognised by the Committee but declined to enter into a detailed rebuttal of the President’s account, instead reminding members of the Committee’s fiduciary obligation to act in all matters - including financial - in the best interests of the membership as a whole.  He also expressed regret that a somewhat lurid version of events had been reported in the Press.

A lengthy discussion ensued, with some contributions from the floor supporting the Committee’s stance, and others supporting the President’s line that that the masterclass was promised to 2017 Singing Competition competitors and must to take place. Michael Hamilton proposed that a vote should be taken on this issue but this was rejected by the Chairman since it had not been included on the agenda of the meeting. Some suggestions made by the President in the course of her address possibly offered a way forward and will be pursued by the Committee.

[A full copy of the text of the speech made by the President at the meeting is attached to these minutes as an addendum.]