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

**Tuesday 15th. March 2016 18:30**

**15 Gibson Square, N1 0RD**

**ATTENDEES Neil King (Treasurer)**

**Margaret Murphy (MM)**

**Cormac Cawley (CC)**

**William Matthams (WM)**

**David Pope (DP)**

**APOLOGIES Richard Miles**

**Andrea Buchanan**

**Geoffrey Griffiths**

**GUESTS Jan Leigh**

The meeting opened at 18:30 and was declared quorate, there being over one-third of the total committee membership present. In the absence of Richard Miles, Neil King assumed the Chair.

Item 1: Welcome to guests

The guest, Jan Leigh was welcomed to the meeting and she was formally co-opted to the Committee by unanimous vote.

Item 2: Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Richard Miles, Andrea Buchanan and Geoffrey Griffiths.

Item 3: Approval of minutes of 24th. February 2016

After some questions from MM regarding the sub-committee structure, NK circulated a document entitled ‘Proposed Committee and Sub-committee Structure. He explained that the website position is a vacancy.

After a brief discussion, the minutes of 24th. February were approved.

Item 4: Chair’s Report

No formal report had been provided from the Richard Miles.

Item 5: Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer began by repeating that the 2015 Annual Accounts were now completed and the Auditors had now received the Chair’s report and they had no queries. The audit should be completed by the end of March. The Accounts would be available to members one month before the AGM, which will take place on 18th. May. The budget for 2016 has not been circulated

The accounts for January and February have been completed, but can’t be closed until the 2015 annual accounts have been signed off in case there are any adjustments which might affect the following year 2016.

The Treasurer noted that the financial situation was still not good and the Committee will need to concentrate on increasing the membership numbers.

Item 6: Events

The following events were listed up until June when AB will relinquish the role.

* Tannhäuser Study Day 23rd. April 2016. Comments were that at £30 it is quite expensive. Might be good to suggest that attendees bring their own lunch. We should ensure that those attending events are also members,
* AGM
* Masterclass – 19th. May
* Stuart Skelton – either 24th. or 31st. May. Subject Tristan. NK said that this must be advertised. It should be held at St. Botolph’s and no fee would be paid. After brief discussion it was decided to go for the 31st. May. We should advertise to the Music Societies who came along to the joint dinner, possibly insert a flyer .
* JL suggested that we could try and get David Nice to present an event.

ACTION Arrange Stuart Skelton for 31st. May or worst case 24th. May. Ticket £15 students £7.50. Time 7pm.

It was noted that Richard might organise a summer party at his house.

We need to have a calendar of Wagner operas in UK (Longborough, Glyndebourne, etc ) over the coming year. There is not a lot of sense in our arranging events in July and August what with all the summer festivals, both home and abroad. ACTION JL will put together such a list.

* Next year’s annual dinner. This has been a joint event but we should like at having a Wagner Society only dinner.
* Plans for next year

A discussion ensued regarding the desirability of attracting new members. It was decided to offer free membership to all students 16 and over. They could come to every event for free upon showing their student pass and this change should be reflected in the Forthcoming Events.

ACTION JL will amend the forthcoming society events sheet to reflect that students attend free upon presentation of student ID. Also remember to include the Wagner Society’s registered Charity number on the first line. .

* DP suggested doing something to celebrate the 40th. anniversary of the Chéreau ring at Bayreuth.

Item 7 Website

The ‘guts’of the site has been put together. NK reported that Sheila Lloyd is working with AB to get the information onto the site. We can log in t the back end as Committee members. Problems exist as Kit is a bit isolated after Simon resigned. There are things for which we need Simon’s input. Stripe and Paypal have been sorted out.

The other major task is checking MM’s paper records with the new database.

The Committee expressed it’s gratitude to Alex Furness-Smith for his on-going involvement. MM mentioned that Simon had recommended that we all go on a course. Finally NK emphasised that we are close to launch but it is vital that we have a working website. There is a possibility that there might be a backlash over the money spent.

Item 8: Roles and Responsibilities

The document prepared by NK referred to in item 3 above was discussed. It reflected the desires and interest of the Committee members and matched most areas of responsibility to the different Committee members. In addition CC expressed interest in the Website area and said that he would help out at events. DP would be interested in ticketing. It was also noted that CC, WM and DP volunteered for proof-reading.

As it is a marketing imperative, we must get more members. DP approached Opera Magazine for advertising space and obtained an offer of £175 for half a A5 page. NK suggested that we might get a discount if we committed to say 12 adverts in a row.

ACTION The advert should be placed by the deadline of 17th. March and replace the Singing competition with the Stuart Skelton event. We should also look at Opera Now and the possibility of inserting flyers in the magazines of other music societies.

The Society’s moribund Facebook site was mentioned. ACTION The committee must get the password for the Facebook site from Henry Kennedy

Item 9: Wagner News

This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting

Item 10: John Crowther’s suggestion for a questionnaire

The Committee noted the document from John Crowther and unanimously thanked him for his work on it. However the Committee will decide the content of any possible questionnaire and if such a questionnaire is sent out at all and when.

The meeting ended at 21:30

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19th. April (not 20th. as originally advised) at 15 Gibson Square