**THE WAGNER SOCIETY**

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 6:30PM ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT 15 GIBSON SQUARE LONDON N1 0RD**

**Present: Alan Ridgewell, Chairman (“AR”)**

**Richard Miles, Secretary (“RM”)**

**Neil King, Treasurer (“NGK”)**

**Izzy Pitman (“IP”)**

1. **Quorum**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:30pm and declared that a quorum was present there being at least one-third of the committee membership and at least one officer at the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Tom Brown

Meli Hatzihrysidis

Henry Kennedy

1. **Approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2020 having been circulated in advance were approved without dissent.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was agreed that all matters arising from these minutes were on the current agenda and would be discussed within the relevant items on the agenda.

1. **Chairman’s report**

RWVI, Venice Congress

AR had circulated the minutes and financial reports from the Congress to the committee previously. These, particularly the financial report, were briefly discussed.

AR also recommended that committee members visited the improved RWVI website as an example of the ype of improvements that we are seeking.

Arcola Theatre/Grimeborn

AR had enjoyed a constructive meeting with the Arcola Theatre ahead of their planned performances of Die Walküre in the summer. Having previously agreed to a donation of £1,000, we had also agreed to improvement this level if there were more opportunities that benefit Wagner Society members: i. an event associated with the performances for members, perhaps a pre-performance event, and ii. mutual advertising. He is waiting for further responses from them before we can make further decisions.

1. **Secretary’s report**

Elektra

The Bournemouth Symphony orchestra’s performances of Elektra starring our honorary member, Catherine Foster, were highlighted by the Secretary and it was agreed that we would circulate these details to members by email.

AGM

The Secretary reminded officers and Committee members that their nomination papers (for those choosing to or required to stand again) were due by 22nd April when the agenda would then be compiled and circulated.

1. **Treasurer’s report**

January financial performance

The management accounts for January had been previously circulated, there were no comments.

November and December 2020 results

The results for these two months were not yet available; NGK apologised for this and stated that they would be uploaded to the website asap. A surplus had been generated in each month.

Online payments

All online payments made since the last meeting were handed to AR for approval and countersignature.

Bank mandate changes and debit cards

NGK noted that the process of getting the appropriate signatures on these forms was ongoing.

Annual Financial Statements

The Treasurer presented the 2019 Annual Financial Statements of the Wagner Society to the committee

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2020 accounts and the Committee **AUTHORISED** the Chairman and Treasurer to sign the accounts and circulated them to the members.

1. **Events Report**

Future events

HK took the meeting through all events planned for the remainder of this season, the plans for which were now largely completed although it had been necessary to postpone the Kennaway event on Tristan by a fortnight or so due to the speaker’s unavailability on the original date.

There was a short discussion on autumn 2020 events including the date of the Eva Turner Memorial Lecture, which was dependent on the speaker’s book publication date.

Semyon Bychkov Event

The opportunity to have Semyon Bychkov speak to the society whilst he was in London to conduct Tristan had been seized despite the only convenient date (for him) being a Saturday evening. The final format of this event had not yet been arranged.

1. **Joint Music Societies’ Recital Dinner**

The final financial performance of this event (a very modest loss to the society) had been previously circulated. Members of the committee reiterated their desire that we withdraw from this event in future years.

1. **Annual Dinner and Goodall Award**

Current position

Ticket sales have been adequate to ensure that there are no significant losses to the society from staging this event. We are still hoping for more sales from a final publicity push for the dinner. Final numbers are not needed by the caterers until a week before the event.

John Tomlinson has agreed to present the award and he and Lady Tomlinson will attend as guests of the society.

NB travel and accommodation requirements

We have made grants to Norman Baily and members of his family to cover all NB costs as well as contributing about half the costs of his sons accompanying him. We are not covering any accommodation costs.

It was further noted that we are giving four tickets to members of the Bailey family and that an additional six tickets will be purchased by them to allow them to take a table for the dinner and support NB.

RG Contribution

Ray Godson, a former committee member, made a cash donation to these travel costs of £1,000 on which we can also claim Gift Aid. He has also taken a table for ten at the dinner. The committee thanked him for his generosity.

1. **Wagner News**

AR noted that the next edition of Wagner News would be published in late-March/April.

1. **Membership report**

Current membership to end-December 2019

NGK circulated the membership numbers to end-January 2020. It was gratifying to see that membership has continued to increase in the current year but NGK warned that the year-end resignations would not be fully reflected in the numbers until end-March as we give a grace period for renewals.

Membership Drive

MH confirmed that this was now underway and so far that ten new paying members had joined and that these had been introduced by eight existing members.

1. **Archive and library**

Wagner News

An advert in the recent Wagner News had produced some offers of surplus copies to fill the gaps in the society’s collection. The final position is not yet known.

AR also agreed to contact RG when appropriate to obtain the further copies that he had retained since it was possible that we could either form a complete second set or donate a full set to Bayreuth.

Books

The only remaining books are the larger sets including Newman lives, Cosima diaries, prose works and so on. These will be advertised in Wagner News in future but will be disposed of thereafter if no members wish to take them.

CDs

We still retain a substantial stock of commercial recordings of Wagner and other composers’ works. These will continue to be offered at events and must be pushed to members as these represent a substantial asset on the balance sheet that could be converted thus into cash.

It was suggested that we accept no further donations of such items although this was not voted upon.

1. **Social media & marketing report**

MH continues to ‘boost’ events via Facebook although it is difficult to be certain of the benefit that this was creating; he reiterated the need to more co-ordination across all social media platforms

1. **Bayreuth issues**

RWVI Annual Report

NGK stated that no further communication had been received on the time-line for the submission of our annual report although it appeared that this could now be done online and probably simply in the format that we already use.

Wahnfried

AR had previously agreed to wait for acknowledgement of the gift of books before enquiring what was needed and/or appropriate regarding further donations although currently up to €1,000 had been ear-marked for this.

1. **Bayreuth Bursary (IP)**

The six bursaries have now been awarded and IP agreed to circulate the names so that a formal announcement could be made to members. Some of the recipients have also requested their travel grants so that travel plans might be made.

1. **Website development**

Two or more companies had been identified as potential recipients of an RfP from the society. The sub-committee agreed at the last meeting had not yet been formally assembled.

1. **Miscellaneous matters**

LFO programme advertisement

As agreed last month. The advertising space in the LFO programme has now been booked.

Further advertising in programmes was again discussed, particularly the programme for the LPO Ring Cycle in January/February 2021 and it was agreed that this was something we should consider in due course.

1. **Any Other Business**

One additional item of business was raised:

Singing Competition winners’ concert

This item was held over from last month and was again discussed but it was felt that whilst the society might well make a modest grant to this event, it might be disingenuous to describe it as the winners’ concert and an alternative event was suggested. No agreement was reached.

1. **Date of next meeting and schedule for future meetings and events**

The next meeting will at 6:30pm on 17th March 2020 at 15, Gibson Square London N1 0RD.

**There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:45pm.**

**WAGNER SOCIETY - SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED MEETINGS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Current or Proposed date** | **Notes** |
|  |  |  |
| **Young Lecturers’ Competition** | **21st January 2020** | **IP, NGK, AR available** |
| **Joint Music Societies’ Dinner** | **28th January 2020** | **IP, TB, NGK attending** |
| Kupfer Ring | 25th February 2020 |  |
| Committee | 26th February 2020 |  |
| Goodall Film | 10th March 2020 |  |
| Committee | 17th March 2020 |  |
| Annual Dinner | 18th March 2020 |  |
| Negus Walküre | 21st April 2020 |  |
| Committee | 22nd April 2020 |  |
| Kennaway - Tristan | 28th April 2020 |  |
| Bruckner and Wagner | 12th May 2020 |  |
| Committee | 13th May 2020 |  |
| **Annual General Meeting** | **20th May 2020** |  |
| Holden – Ring recordings | 16th June 2020 |  |
| Committee | 17th June 2020 |  |
| Committee | 8th July 2020 |  |
| Summer Party | TBC July 2020 |  |
| Committee | 16th September 2020 |  |
| Committee | 21st October 2020 |  |
| Committee | 18th November 2020 |  |
| Christmas Party | 10th December 2020 |  |
| Committee | 20th January 2021 |  |
| Committee | 17th February 2021 |  |
| Committee | 17th March 2021 |  |
| *Annual Dinner* | *18th March 2021* | *Provisional* |
| Committee | 21st April 2020 |  |
| Committee | 17th May 2020 |  |
| **Annual General Meeting** | **19th May 2021** |  |
| Committee | 16th June 2021 |  |
| Committee | 14th July 2021 |  |
| Summer Party | TBC July 2021 |  |