



**MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY
7pm Thursday 19th May 2021**

Zoom Online Conference

ATTENDEES:

The following, Officers and Committee Members were present:

Alan Ridgewell (AR) - Chairman
Neil King (NGK) - Treasurer
Richard Miles (RM) - Secretary

Tom Brown (TB)
Jo Cousins (JC)
Meli Hatzihrysidis (MH)
Henry Kennedy (HK)
Izzie Pitman (IP)

The meeting opened at 19:00. AR took the chair and welcomed everyone.

1: Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2: Approval of Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (which had been held on 25 June 2020) were put to the meeting and comments were invited from the floor. There were none.

Richard Miles proposed the approval of the Minutes, Patrick Shaw seconded the proposal and the Minutes were duly approved without dissent.

3: Approval of the Chairman's Report

AR invited comments on his report containing in the 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Society. There were none.

Patrick Shaw proposed the approval of the Chairman's Report, Philip Harrison seconded the proposal and the Chairman's Report was duly approved without dissent.

4: Treasurers Report & Annual Accounts for 2020

The Chairman invited comments on the Treasurer's Report and 2019 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Society.

Jonathan Perrett asked about the Investments shown on the Society's balance sheet. The Treasurer explained that surplus finds are placed in the Charifund Investment Fund, which typically returned 4% (vs virtually 0 for funds deposited with the bank).

Philip Harrison proposed that the Treasurer's Report and 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Society be adopted, Susan Vincent seconded the proposal and the Accounts were duly approved without dissent.

5: Election of the Officers of the Society to serve until the 2020 AGM

Christopher Cook had proposed AR as Chairman and Richard France had seconded the proposal. Being the only nominee for the office of Chairman, Alan Ridgewell was elected as Chairman unopposed.

Dame Anne Evans had proposed NGK as Treasurer and Dr Helen Watson had seconded the proposal. Being the only nominee for the office of Treasurer, Neil King was elected unopposed.

Christopher Jack had proposed RM as Secretary and Mrs Stephanie Sfakianos had seconded the proposal. Being the only nominee for the office of Secretary, Richard Miles was elected unopposed.

6: Election of Committee Members to serve for a three-year term

The meeting then dealt with the election of the following members of the Committee whose nominations had been proposed and seconded as follows: -

Tom Brown, proposed by Alan Ridgewell and seconded by Joseph Bedford

Jo Cousins, proposed by Marcus Fender and seconded by Sarah Cousins

Izzie Pitman, proposed by Gordon Strang and seconded by Jonathan Pitman

Being the only nominees for less than the available vacancies on the Committee these members were elected as members of the Society's Committee unopposed.

7: Election of Cannon Moorcroft as the Society's Independent Examiner until the 2022 AGM

NGK proposed that Canon Moorcroft be appointed Examiners for the Society and the proposal was seconded by Richard Miles. Cannon Moorcroft were duly appointed as the Society's Examiners.

8: Any Other Business

No submissions had been received in advance.

- i. Kirk Davis commented that he was pleased that the Society's events were being recorded and asked how & when these would be made available to members. AR referred to the new website, which would include an Events section as a first priority, followed by a section for Wagner News & recordings of events – however, this would take some time.
- ii. Catherine Dobson commented that the Society's programme of events had 'kept members going' during a difficult time, and expressed her appreciation for this.
- iii. Kirk Davis asked what a typical number of attendees for Zoom events would be. AR quoted a number of 60-70 as an average, with a low of around 30. The most popular events (Grace Bumbry, Lise Davidsen..) had reached c. 120.
- iv. Patrick Shaw expressed his thanks the 'magnificent' programme of events the Society had put on during lockdown and asked about plans for live events at the Royal Over-Seas League. AR said that plans for future Awards events, and other live events, were still under consideration pending clarification about the ending of lockdown.
- v. Ray Godson commented that the Grace Bumbry interview had been the best event he had attended since joining the Society. He also asked about plans for a Singing Competition in 2021. AR confirmed that there would be no Singing Competition in 2021, but we hoped to stage one in 2022.
- vi. Susan Vincent also expressed her thanks for the events programme and requested that we maintain Zoom events in future for the benefit of those living outside London. AR confirmed that the Society intended to maintain a programme of Zoom events alongside live events, when these could be resumed.
- vii. Kirk Davis asked about the Society's policy regarding young members. AR replied that the Society offers free membership to students / under-30s and

referred to the young lecturers competition and to the Bayreuth Bursary (including sponsorship of 2 places for students from Eastern Europe)

- viii. Susan Vincent mentioned that she had attended meetings of the Manchester Society and asked about plans to stage events with other Societies. AR commented that Zoom events made it very easy for members to join other Societies' events and that we regularly welcomed members from other Societies in the UK, Europe, North America and elsewhere (with some practical limitations imposed by different time zones).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting ended at 19:40 and thanked the members for attending.