

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Registered Charity No. 296632

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held at the Jubilee Theatre, Holmewood House School, Langton Green, Kent, TN3 0EB on 9th June 2017 at 7.30pm.

1. There were no Apologies for absence received.
2. The Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting, which had been considered earlier by the Committee members, were tabled and approved nem con.
3. The Chairman, John Isaac ('JI'), reported that the Friends' committee had met twice last year, as required by its Constitution. Stock markets have remained at very high levels and this has enabled the Friends to take some profits, thus ensuring there are significant cash resources available to donate to the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra (the "Orchestra"), if required. He also noted that the Orchestra's finances had improved in 2016/17 resulting in a much smaller donation from the Friends than in the previous season. JI praised the Orchestra saying that " We should give thanks to all those players, administrators and volunteers who have contributed to the last season which was perhaps the best ever in terms of quality, both musically on stage and administratively behind the scenes with a challenging programme that was such that we finished the season with a standing ovation. The conductors, director and Chairman deserve a medal. Thanks too are due to all Friends and their continued support." Finally, JI noted that the new Constitution confirms that the Friends is a fully compliant Equal Opportunities organisation and invited anyone interested in becoming a Trustee to contact him. The report was accepted nem. con. by the Meeting.
4. The Treasurer, Tom MacGibbon (TMG), presented his report on the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2017. Income was reasonably steady at £14,731 (2016: £15,282). Total expenditure fell from £38,194 to £17,855, reflecting lower donations to the Orchestra of £17,500 (2016: £37,500). This resulted in an operating deficit of £3,124 ((2016: £38,194 deficit). However, a strong performance by the Friends' Charifund investment meant that the Total Funds rose from £201,312 to £217,476 over the year. TMG concluded that the Friends was in a healthy financial state at present. The acceptance of the accounts was agreed nem con. by the Meeting.
5. The Chairman and Treasurer noted that Mark Gower-Smith, the Independent Examiner continues to provide an excellent service at an extremely reasonable cost. His re-appointment, for the year to 30th April 2018, was proposed by TMG and carried nem con.

6. Election of the Committee. John Isaac, Neil Cumming, Tom MacGibbon, Andrew Muir, Jane Taunton and Jerry Matthews all agreed to stand for re-election and the proposal that all be elected to serve as full members for the coming year was agreed by the meeting nem con. There were no new nominations. Giles Clarke is Chairman of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra and attends Committee meetings 'ex-officio'. The proposal was passed nem. con.
7. A.O.B. *John Isaac conveyed the sad news that his wife, Olive, had recently passed away. *Neil Cumming confirmed that the revised and updated Constitution, approved at last year's AGM, had been successfully lodged at the Charity Commission. *A Friend, Sharon Thomas, raised the issue of Concert programming. Her view was that some concerts were challenging for what she described as 'amateur' listeners. It was agreed that this issue should be dealt with more fully at the ensuing Orchestra AGM, but it was acknowledged that devising a programme of concerts that met the expectations of a large and diverse audience was taxing. *Ralph Hebditch questioned whether the Report & Accounts should contain more detail on the date of adoption of our Constitution and the various dates of amendment down the years. *John Isaac thanked Maureen Greenhouse and her team for the refreshments to be provided after the AGM and to Rod Dunk and the RTWSO players, in advance, for their post-meeting musical entertainment.

There being no further formal business the Chairman expressed his thanks to all those present and declared the Meeting closed at 7.52pm.