

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Registered Charity No. 296632

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting held at the Jubilee Theatre, Holmewood House School, Langton Green, Kent, TN3 0EB on 29th June 2018 at 7.30pm. (Subject to approval at the 2019 AGM).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Muir and Jane Taunton.
2. The Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting had been posted previously on the www.rtwso.org website. The Minutes, 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, and had complied with all its obligations. The Friends' organisation is "alive and kicking" and continues to support the Orchestra. JI thanked the Orchestra, including players, supporters and volunteers for another excellent season, with ever-improving performance standards. As the Treasurer's report details, the Friends had a small outflow in funds, which was more than made up for by further appreciation in its investments. JI appealed for more members and also reminded the Friends that any legacies would be very much appreciated. JI noted that Jerry Matthews was stepping down from the Committee at this AGM and thanked him for his tremendous commitment and contribution to the Friends and the Orchestra. JI also asked that if anyone wished to be considered as a new Trustee, they should contact him. Ralph Hebditch asked whether a one-off mailshot to Orchestra subscribers could lead to any new Friends. JI and Neil Cumming welcomed the idea, although the constrictions of the new data protection rules (GDPR) may restrict what is allowed.
4. The Treasurer, Tom MacGibbon (TMG), presented his report on the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2018. Total annual income edged up over the year from £14,731 to £15,226, with Gift Aid receipts (which can be variable) rising from £3,847 to £4,145. Total expenditure for the year rose slightly from £17,855 to £18,111. The main outgoings were donations to the Orchestra of £17,500 (the same as in the year to 30th April 2017). This resulted in an operating deficit of £2,885 (2017: £3,124 deficit). However, further gains by the Friends' Charifund investment meant that the Total Funds rose from £217,476 to £220,293 over the year, with no investment realisations being required. The Friends held cash of £10,921 at 30th April 2018 (2017: £13,937). The Friends have donated around £378,000 to the Orchestra since its launch and have contributed almost £188,000 in the last ten years. TMG concluded that the Friends organisation was in a healthy financial state at present. However, he did note that the proposed

new council-sponsored performance venue in Tunbridge Wells, replacing the Assembly Hall, may lead to new challenges for the Orchestra. As ever, the Friends would stand ready to help the Orchestra meet its ambitions and targets. 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 2019, was proposed by TMG and carried *nem con.*
6. Election of the Committee. John Isaac, Neil Cumming, Tom MacGibbon, Andrew Muir and Jane Taunton 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.* Jerry Matthews did not stand for re-election and has stepped down from the Committee with effect from this AGM. There were no new nominations. Giles Clarke is Chairman of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra and attends Committee meetings 'ex-officio'.
7. A.O.B. John Isaac thanked Maureen Greenhouse and her team for the refreshments to be provided after the AGM and to the ensemble of 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.