

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Registered Charity No. 296632

Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting held at the Jubilee Theatre, Holmewood House School, Langton Green, Kent, TN3 0EB on 28th June 2019 at 7.30pm. (Subject to approval at the 2020 AGM).

1. Apologies for absence from the Friends and Orchestra AGMs were received from Yvonne Smith, Ralph and Ann Hebditch, John and Delia Venables, Muriel Parker, Philip Le Bas and Sue Cumming.
2. The Minutes of the 2018 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. It had been another satisfactory year, with the Friends income sufficient to cover donations made to the RTWSO. He thanked Giles Clarke, the Orchestra Chairman, for his reports to the Friends concerning Orchestra matters, as well as for expressing the Orchestra's gratitude for the donations received. JI thanked the Friends, as individuals, for their support, both financially and through attending the concerts.
4. The Treasurer, Tom MacGibbon (TMG), presented his report on the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 30th April 2019. Income through Donations fell slightly from £5,523 in the last financial year to £5,329. However, an increase in Dividends received meant that Total Income edged up from £15,226 to £15,644. Expenditure fell from £18,111 last year to £15,375, due mainly to donations to the RTWSO being £2,500 lower this year, at £15,000. Whilst no units in the M&G Charifund were sold during the period, there was an Unrealised investment loss of £3,205 as against a gain of £5,702 last year. Thus the Net Deficit for the year was £2,936 (2018: £2,817 surplus), leaving Total Funds at £217,357 (30th April 2018: £220,293). He noted that the Friends had, since inception, donated almost £400,000 to the Orchestra. There are 106 members currently, as against 107 a year ago. Within this small move there have been a number of new Friends joining, balanced by some departures. 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 2020, was carried *nem con.*

6. Election of the Committee. The Chairman John Isaac announced that he was not standing for re-election. Giles Clarke thanked him on behalf of the Orchestra for all his efforts and support whilst in office. Neil Cumming thanked him on behalf of the Friends and his fellow Trustees, noting that in his 16 years as a Trustee (11 of them as Chairman), the Friends had donated almost £275,000 to the Orchestra. There followed a round of applause in recognition of his service. Neil Cumming, Tom MacGibbon, and Andrew Muir all agreed to stand for re-election. Barry Richardson, having been co-opted during the year, offered himself for election. There were no new nominations. The proposal that all be elected to serve as full members for the coming year was agreed by the meeting *nem con*. 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 players, in advance, for their post-meeting musical entertainment.

There being no further formal business, the Committee expressed its thanks to all those present and the Meeting was declared closed at 7.42pm.