

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Registered Charity No. 296632

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting, held at Holmewood House School, Langton Green, on 12th July 2024, starting at 8.10pm. (Draft, subject to approval at the 2025 AGM.)

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting had been reviewed previously by the Committee and posted on the orchestra's website (www.rtwso.org). There were no matters arising. The Minutes were accepted *nem con*.
3. The Chairman, Neil Cumming (NC), presented his report. He noted that the 2023-24 season had again been very successful and enjoyable. He commented that Tunbridge Wells was lucky to have the Orchestra and thanked everyone involved for their hard work. This year's prize draw had been won by a long-time Friend, Kate Norton. Her prize was a signed copy of Sir Stephen Hough's autobiography, which he presented to her after his performance with the orchestra at the April concert. Kate was delighted and NC thanked Richard Watson and Frances Armstrong for all their assistance with arranging the prize.

Ahead of the RTWSO's Centenary season in 2021-22 it adopted a new logo. The Friends have now created their own logo, echoing the 'diamonds' imagery used by the RTWSO and hopefully this will become familiar to all.

Since the last AGM Tom MacGibbon has stepped down as Treasurer, but we are delighted that he is staying on as a valued Trustee. (A bottle of wine was then presented to Tom as a 'thank you' for all his efforts over the years.) The new Treasurer is Jon Cann, who was co-opted during the year and is already known to many as one of the local Friday night rehearsal players. NC noted that the £10,000 donation made to the RTWSO in the 2023-24 year to the Orchestra was being used towards the costs of identifying a new Musical Director to succeed Rod Dunk. This donation means that since the Friends charity was set up in 1988, it has donated some £465,000 to the Orchestra.

4. The Treasurer, Jon Cann, presented the accounts for the year to 30th April 2024. He noted that total income was £18,310, slightly up on the previous year's £16,983. Expenditure was £10,495 (2023: £15,450), comprising the donation to the Orchestra of £10,000 and the Examiner's Fee of £495. This resulted in a surplus of £7,815 (2023: £1,533). Once unrealised changes in the value of the M&G Charifund investment were accounted for, the net surplus for the year was £8,299 (2023: £7,051 deficit). Consequently, the total funds were £218,138 (30th April 2023: £209,839). The accounts were accepted *nem con*.
5. The Chairman thanked Mark Gower-Smith, the Independent Examiner, who is willing to carry on his role. His reappointment, for the year to 30th April 2024, was carried *nem con*.

6. Election of the Committee. Neil Cumming, Tom MacGibbon, Barry Richardson and Andrew Muir all agreed to stand for re-election. There were no new nominations. These committee members were duly re-elected *nem con*. Jon Cann who had been co-opted during the year and offered himself for election. He was duly elected *nem con*. The Chair of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra, currently Frances Armstrong, attends the Friends' Committee meetings 'ex-officio'. It was also noted that the Treasurer of the RTWSO (currently Alexandra Woollard) attends these meetings by invitation. NC thanked them both for attending the Friends' committee meetings, especially when they already spend so much time on Orchestra matters.
7. A.O.B: There was no other business.

There being no further formal business, the Meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm.

Neil Cumming
Chairman
July 2024