

# **BRISTOL CONCERT ORCHESTRA**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Ashton Park School  
at 8.45 pm on Monday 2 October 2006

Present: the Conductor, the Chairman and the Treasurer and 26 members of the Orchestra.

Apologies were received from Phil Ellwood, Linda Bearpark, Helen Hook, Sophie Cottrell, Melanie Arnot, Hugh Barnes, Mary Ingram, Christine Davies, Gabriel Laszlo, Rosemary Lambley and Geraldine Roberts.

The Chairman, Wendy Lewis, opened the meeting by introducing the members of the committee, giving a brief explanation of their current duties. She also warmly thanked Mike Parks, a co-opted member of the committee, for the 9 years' hard work he had put in as Librarian, from which duties he was now retiring.

### **1/06 Minutes of AGM on 3 October 2005**

These were considered and accepted as a correct record of the proceedings. A proposal to this effect was made by Kate Brown, seconded by Terry Evans, put to a vote & unanimously agreed.

### **2/06 Matters Arising - not already on the agenda**

(i) The Chairman read out a letter from Matthew Bird confirming that he had audited the accounts, and thanked him on behalf of the orchestra.

(ii) Using the main hall at Ashton Park School seemed still to be satisfactory, aided by two extremely helpful caretakers, and the fact that we now migrate to Red Maids' School for the summer term.

(iii) The Prize draw for ticket sales by members had been going well, though it is hard to tell if it acts as an incentive!

(iv) Kate's audience survey received 90 replies (out of about 450 seats sold) – there were few surprises, except that only 19 came because they had seen the concert in the St George's brochure.

(v) Retrieval of orchestra parts after the concerts had revealed fewer losses this year.

### **3/06 Treasurer's Report for 2005-2006**

Copies of the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Account and Concert Breakdown were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Treasurer said that the accounts looked pretty healthy – the orchestra had made a small profit on the concerts over the year (a healthy profit on the Christmas concert being balanced by the loss on the summer concert), but that the profit over the year was £1,852.29, largely due to the increase in subscriptions. He felt that this figure, coupled with a deposit account balance of £7,766.40, meant that he saw no need to increase subscriptions for this year.

### **4/06 Subscriptions for 2006-2007**

Andrew Stephen (seconded by Jane Hickson) proposed a £1 increase in subscription per term - this motion was defeated by a show of hands, and so the subscription will remain the same as last year.

### **5/06 Elections to the Committee for 2006-2007**

To save time, and because only one nomination had been received for each post, the Chairman, Secretary and 3 committee members were re-elected en bloc.

Chairman: Wendy Lewis - Prop. Sophie Cottrell, Sec. Melanie Arnot

Secretary: Phil Elwood - Prop. Richard Parkes, Sec. Joan Heaney

Treasurer: Tim Barrett - Prop. Hilary Ross, Sec. Jo Walker

Committee: Mary Ingram - Prop. Stephen Mooney, Sec. Robert Watson

Committee: Ida Miller - Prop. Wendy Bertram, Sec. Robert Watson

Committee: Mike Organ - Prop. Nigel Boosey, Sec. Peter Rayner

The chairman added some warm words of thanks for all the hard work done by the members of the committee, and was particularly appreciative of that done by the Secretary (and Webmaster) and the Treasurer.

## **6/06 Librarian**

Wendy pointed out that Mike Parks' retirement from the post left the orchestra without a librarian, and without music we cannot function! Wendy outlined the duties of the librarian - it would be possible to share the job and Mike had offered a helping hand to a new recruit. Hugh Barnes had said he was willing to do some of the work - Andrew suggested appealing to the whole orchestra at the next rehearsal, with a job description. *Post-meeting note: announcement made on 9 Oct.*

## **7/06 Conductor's Report**

*The Chairman prefaced this by thanking Stefan for his musical leadership, enthusiasm and inspiration week by week, a comment warmly endorsed by those present.*

The season had been an interesting one – in the Christmas concert it had been a very good idea and exciting to play a new, commissioned piece, though a little more rehearsal time would have been nice - Julian Phillips had almost been following the classical tradition of providing orchestral parts with the ink still wet!

The Spring concert was Stefan's favourite of the year – the violin soloist in the Sibelius was splendid and he felt the orchestra had really come together musically in that and the Brahms symphony.

The summer concert had perhaps the most interesting programme, though the smallest audience - it was a pity that the number of string players who could manage the concert date was smaller than usual, but after a few last minute panics the concert went surprisingly well.

Stefan would like to see more violinists changing places between first and second violin sections, perhaps for a term at a time, and also more changing of desks within the string sections. As usual, he pointed out that note practice at home makes it more possible to explore musical ideas at rehearsal.

## **8/06 Any Other Business**

1. The three charities we collected for at the end of our concerts were: Macmillan Cancer Relief, the Bristol Cancer Help Centre and SHIPS, (supporting head-injured pupils in schools) which raised £726, £524, and £361 respectively.
2. It is hoped to hold this year's party on Monday 11 December at Micawber's. *[Confirmed]*.
3. The orchestra has nominated Julian Phillips for the Making Music (British Composer) award; the winner will be announced on 24 November.
4. Howard Knight was pleased with the farewell card sent to him by the orchestra.

As there was no more business, the meeting closed at 9.35.