

New Tyneside Orchestra

Minutes of AGM of 1st October 2018

Meeting began 8.45pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Rachel Barnes, Katie Lodge
2. **Minutes of Previous AGM:** Corrections: spelling of Mr Sheard's surname, addition of Simon Styles' Christian name, Richard Stent is doing ticketing not membership.

Acceptance of the minutes from AGM October 2017: Proposed by Kirsty McDowell Seconded by Philip Sheard

3. **Reports**

3.1 **Chairman's Report:** Nick Pears

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

Nick felt this had been an astonishing year for the orchestra with 2 huge events: the Martin Luther King Concert and the Zurich exchange. Nick is stepping down from his role as Chairman after 15 years.

Thanks were expressed to:

Kirsty Pearson for continuing her work as treasurer
Annette Nicolle for her work as secretary
Katie Lodge for her hard work and efficiency in the role of librarian
Bob Taylor for helping Katie and production of practice copies
Kirsty McDowell for her work in marketing the orchestra including developing e-ticketing
Brian Tanner for his work on the GDPR regulations
The other committee members this year – Andrew Martin, Simon Hirst, Jenny Williams
Dawn Allen for leading the orchestra and her commitment to the role
Monica Buckland for her musical leadership, and the time and effort she puts in to the orchestra

Kirsty McDowell expressed thanks to Nick on behalf of the orchestra for his work as Chairman for 15 years. During that time the orchestra has had 2 trips abroad, has found a new rehearsal venue, has had 2 new websites and a new orchestra leader. Nick has been heavily involved in fundraising including sponsorship for concerts, buying new timpani and cymbals, plus putting the Orchestra catalogue into electronic format.

Nick's leadership was particularly important in guiding the committee and members through the process of finding a new conductor after Stephen's death.

Kirsty presented Nick with a gift from the Orchestra – a set of bass drum sticks inscribed with "Nick's Sticks"

Nick responded with his thanks. He said he had been blessed with a good committee throughout his time as chairman and he would continue to support the orchestra.

3.2 **Treasurer's Report:** Kirsty Pearson

Accounts for the year were presented.

The orchestra performed 3 main concerts during the last season. The November concert had sponsorship from the Robinson Trust. It made a £846 profit. The March concert made a loss of £483. The July concert made a loss of £1,351. The costs of the soloists for the July concert were split with Ars Cantata. The July concert includes transportation costs for the instruments. The Sage concert is not included in the accounts because the orchestra costs were paid by the Sage.

The orchestra ended the year with a surplus of £754

The annual subscription will be raised to £90. Subscriptions for this year are due. Members paying by direct debit are asked to amend the amount with their bank.

Kirsty explained how the orchestra's company, "NTO Concerts Ltd" allows the orchestra to claim tax relief on pre-performance costs such as music hire and rehearsal hall rental.

Thanks to Malcolm Stronach for independently examining the accounts.

Richard Bergman asked why the coffee income had halved. Dennis Grieve responded that the year before had had additional players at rehearsals. Matt Chase asked about the accounts for NTO Concerts limited. Kirsty Pearson explained the accounts

for this company need to be done in a specific format before the tax return is due. Once they have been submitted to HMRC, Kirsty will make the information readily available to the Orchestra.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report - Proposed: Pippa Carroll Seconded: Robert Taylor

3.3 Musical Director's Report: Monica Buckland

Monica felt that the concerts in the past year have been interesting and challenging from a musical point of view, with new areas of repertoire for the orchestra including the Martin Luther King pieces, the Honegger and a big choral piece. She expressed thanks to the orchestra for "coming with me". She said preparing the Dvorak had been the most challenging time and had felt a bit pressured but was still enjoyable. She was pleased the Zurich exchange had gone so well. The middle term concert at the Sage was definitely another highlight, with 2 very exciting pieces of 21st Century music.

Monica feels the mini-sectionals are working well. This year's projects are, on the face of it, more conventional, but she hopes the orchestra will find the programmes exciting. She expressed thanks to Nick for his support over the time they have been working together and also expressed thanks to the committee, section leaders and all the players. She said all contributions are valued and "thank you for pulling together".

4. Elections of Officers and Committee Members

Position	Member Proposed	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	No nomination		
Secretary	Annette Nicolle	Katherine Raine	Alison Gibbings
Treasurer	Kirsty Pearson	Ellen Arkless	Marian Mather
Librarian	Katie Lodge	Mary France	Tony Cross
Ordinary Member	Andrew Martin	Kirsty Pearson	Annette Nicolle
Ordinary Member	Simon Hirst	Ian Murdoch	Phil Rutherford
Ordinary Member	Brian Tanner	Kirsty Pearson	Annette Nicolle
Ordinary Member	Kirsty McDowell	Annette Nicolle	Dawn Allen
Ordinary Member	Rachael Leisk	Chris Clinch	Mary Walker

No other nominations were received.

The positions of Treasurer and Secretary were duly elected

6 nominations were received for ordinary members of the committee. These were duly elected.

There were no nominations for the post of chairman. Nick Pears spoke to say that while this is disappointing, the elected committee is very strong and works together well. Annette Nicolle said that the constitution did not contain any recommendations what to do in the event of no nominations for chair, but that if there was anybody interested, the process would be to re-open nominations and hold an extra-ordinary general meeting for the election. Matt Chase asked what happens to the status of the orchestra as a charity if there is no chair. Brian Tanner explained that the charity commission needs the name of the secretary and the trustees but not a chairman.

5. Any Other Business

Brian Tanner has been given the orchestra archive which was kept by Stephen Pettitt. It contains programmes, posters and press clippings from 1970 to 2014. He asked if anyone would be interested in updating and keeping this archive for the orchestra.

Phil Sheard asked about music selection for programmes in the next few years. He felt it is hard to persuade friends to come to concerts when the pieces are unfamiliar. Andrew Martin explained that the selection for the next year happens towards the end of the Autumn term and the programme sub-committee are happy to accept any suggestions.

There was a question from the floor about further trips abroad. Nick said none were planned at the moment.

Nick Pears expressed thanks to Dennis Grieve for refreshments at rehearsals and apologised for missing him out earlier.

Meeting closed: 9:25 pm