

**Andover Music Club – Annual General Meeting**  
**held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018, at The Lights Theatre, Andover**

**Minutes**

The meeting opened at 20.15 hours with the Chairman, Robert Eggar, presiding and 107 members in attendance, as well as 9 visitors. Pianist Julie Aherne gave an entertaining recital before and after the formal proceedings, culminating in Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition'.

At the start of the meeting the Chairman made clear to non-members in the audience that they were welcome to stay and asked them to abstain from voting. He drew Members' attention to the AGM papers, distributed at the start of the evening, and asked them to identify themselves if they spoke.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** John Collins, Barrie Johnson, Shan and David Middleton, Colin Percival, Bruce and Penny Randall, Richard and Karen Ryder, Rosie and Ian Swayne, Gordon and Jenny Verity
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 AGM:** Acceptance proposed by Brian Hutchins, seconded by Penny Wood and carried unanimously.
3. **Chairman's Report:** Robert thanked Club Members for their understanding and support during his first year as Chairman. It had been an interesting experience, and one that he was beginning to enjoy.

He summarised a very varied programme of concerts: guitarist Craig Ogden, soprano Nazan Fikret and the medieval group Joglearesa before Christmas; and, since the New Year, the Busch Trio, the recorder quartet Palisander (despite the illness of one of their regular members), the harp lecture recital by Claire Iselin and Alicia Griffiths and, on either side of the AGM, an excellent recital by Julie Aherne. He hoped that Members would agree that we had been very fortunate in the quality of our performers this season.

He paid tribute to David Owen-Norris, who had retired in 2017 after 12 years as President. David had been an enthusiastic supporter of the Club throughout his presidency and would be a hard act to follow; suggestions from members for his successor would be welcome.

He thanked his fellow-Trustees and Officers of the Club, Kathy Percival and Judy Eggar, for all their hard work throughout the season: He had been particularly grateful for Kathy's guidance and advice, based on her long experience on the Committee; and for the cheerfulness and skill with which Judy had taken to the role of Secretary; there were benefits to having Chairman and Secretary in the same house and the Treasurer only quarter of a mile away.

He thanked each of the other members of the Committee: Mark Bunce, who had organised Sponsorship and the monthly raffle which this year generated £435; Karen Coffin, the Membership Secretary, often the first person that new members and occasional visitors meet; Booking Secretary Judy Humphreys, who had consolidated an exciting programme for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Season and an equally enthralling programme for 2019/20; Dave Patterson, who was so much more than just the Club's Webmaster, leading on the production of our electronic and printed materials and programmes and in preparing us for the changes to Data Protection regulations of which Members were aware; Avril Stevens, who had coordinated Publicity; Roland Treby, our Operations Manager, whose work to ensure that our artists are looked after properly throughout their visit did so much to maintain our reputation as a friendly and hospitable club; and Renate West, without a specific portfolio but always willing to help out when new requirements arise or other Committee members are unavailable. He thanked them all for making the administration of the Club relatively painless, and invited Members to experience this by joining the Committee.

Some Members already assisted without being on the Committee, and Robert thanked Ron Venables, who had sold programmes throughout the season; Pauline Davis, whose flower arrangements had brightened the stage each month; and Polly Whyte, whose high teas, carefully planned to take account of dietary preferences, were greatly appreciated by our artistes.

Finally, he acknowledged that we could not enjoy such an excellent venue without the support of the salaried and volunteer staff at The Lights. Front of House, Technical staff, Bar, Café, Bright Sparks, he couldn't name them all, but he hoped that Members would agree that the Club was lucky to be able to use such a high-quality theatre for our concerts and to have such enthusiastic support from them all.

Looking to the future, Robert drew Members' attention to the Data Consent form that they had received with their programme and AGM papers and asked them to complete and return it with their application for 72<sup>nd</sup> Season membership; members who had already applied should complete a Data Protection form during the interval and give it to a Committee member before they went home. He encouraged Members to take advantage of the early application discount.

Members would already have seen the four-fold for the new Season and would therefore know of the exciting programme that the Committee had arranged – very mixed in musical styles but not in quality. He was particularly pleased that the season would be opened by the Brodsky Quartet, who were last here in 1984; tickets to hear them at a London venue would cost two or three times our price, and Robert could think of nowhere else where you could hear musicians of their quality for a ticket price of less than £10. The other concerts of the season featured equally talented performers in their own fields, and he encouraged Members to spread the word – to their friends and acquaintances and anyone else they thought might be interested. Whole season posters were available in the foyer and he encouraged members to display them in their local area, and to use their “bring a friend” tickets to allow people to try before they buy. He hoped to see everyone for the first concert of the new season in September.

4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Kathy drew Members’ attention to the accounts for the year, included in the AGM papers that they had received at the start of the concert, and asked that any general or particular questions regarding the Club’s financial situation should be addressed to her after the meeting.

She thanked Member Steve Davis for once again carrying out the Independent Examination of the Annual Accounts to meet the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, as requested by the Trustees.

Referring to the accounts she first identified that, as we reached the end of the 71st Season, we had an excess of income over expenditure of £341.97. The Club’s current assets totalled 17,814.64, composed of a credit balance of £12,496.90 with the Newbury Building Society, credit totalling £5,267.74 in the two Lloyds Bank accounts and a Petty Cash holding of £50.00.

The Committee proposed to keep subscriptions for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Season unchanged at £58.00 (£55.00 if taken out before 31<sup>st</sup> May), equivalent to considerably less than £10 per concert. The Committee still welcomed donations that were added to membership subscriptions, particularly if the Club was also able to claim the Gift Aid refund from HMRC; in the 2017/18 tax year we had received £146.50 in Gift Aid. This year we had also received £200 through the Leckford Farm Shop Green Token scheme and we would be applying again in the coming year. The healthy state of the Club’s finances meant the Committee was still able to engage professional artistes with established reputations for us all to enjoy.

The Committee continued to monitor and seek ways of reducing expenditure. One change that members would have noticed this year had been the absence of the Brochure for the Season that we used to produce; after much discussion we decided that there was enough information in the four-folds and on the website for Members to decide whether the next season was appealing. Kathy thanked Dave Patterson for the considerable time and effort that he spent on keeping the website informative and up-to-date.

Kathy drew Members’ attention to the budget for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Season, included in the AGM papers. The Committee planned to increase artistes’ fees to £10,500, which would allow us to continue to engage artistes of the quality that we have come to expect. The budget identified an excess of expenditure over income of £1,800 which we have the assets to support; nevertheless, the Committee would continue to make every effort to keep restraint on our spending.

Kathy closed her remarks by wishing the Membership an enjoyable 72<sup>nd</sup> Season.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Diana Goodwin, seconded by Mark Bunce and carried unanimously.

#### 5. **Election of Officers and Committee Members.**

**Officers:** The motion “that the current Officers of the Club, Robert Eggar, Kathy Percival and Judy Eggar, be elected for a further year to the post of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary respectively” was proposed by Eleanor Jakeman, seconded by Steve Davis and carried unanimously

**Committee Members:** All other Committee members – Mark Bunce, Karen Coffin, Judy Humphreys, Dave Patterson, Avril Stevens, Roland Treby and Renate West – had offered themselves for re-election. Their re-election was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Brian Hutchins and carried unanimously.

7. **Date and Venue of the 2019 AGM.** 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in The Lights Theatre, Andover.

The 2018 Annual General Meeting closed at 20.43 hours.