

Andover Music Club – Annual General Meeting
held on 9th May 2019, at The Lights Theatre, Andover

Minutes

The meeting opened at 20.15 hours with the Chairman, Robert Eggar, presiding and 87 members in attendance, as well as 7 visitors. Lutenist Matthew Nisbet gave an interesting lecture recital before and after the formal proceedings.

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**: Betty Armstrong, Dave and Jenny Linnell, Mr and Mrs Roland Taylor, Roland and Margaret-Anne Treby, Gordon Verity, Mr & Mrs Bill Rowley, Steve and Pauline Davis, and Pamela Woolgrove.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM**: Acceptance proposed by Diana Goodwin, seconded by Alan Stiles and carried unanimously.
3. **Chairman's Report**: Robert thanked Club Members for their continued understanding and support throughout the year. Providing a wide variety of artists, all experts in their own fields, continues to be a pleasure that the whole Committee enjoys.

He summarised the Season's very varied programme: excellent concerts by the Brodsky Quartet, Marylebone Wind Trio and Tim Kliphuis Trio before Christmas; and, since the New Year, a narrated piano recital by pianist Reiko Fujisawa and actor Crawford Logan to mark the bi-centenary of Clara Schumann's birth, the vocal fireworks of baritone Michel de Sousa accompanied by Emma Abbate, a vibrant performance of the Mozart Clarinet Quintet and Schubert Octet by the Temple Ensemble and, on either side of the AGM, a fine recital by local lutenist Matthew Nisbet. He hoped that Members would agree that we had again enjoyed very high quality performances throughout the season.

He thanked his fellow-Trustees and Officers of the Club: he continued to welcome Treasurer Kathy Percival's advice and guidance, informed by her long experience on the Committee, and the whole Club benefitted from the common-sense with which she managed our finances; and Secretary Judy Eggar continued to record the Committee's activities accurately and succinctly and helped to keep our meetings focused and brief.

Robert thanked each of the other members of the Committee: Mark Bunce, who had organised Sponsorship and the monthly raffle which this year generated £265, a slight dip from last year; Karen Coffin, the Membership Secretary, who makes members and occasional visitors welcome; Booking Secretary Judy Humphreys, who was already hard at work seeking options for the 74th and, most importantly, 75th Seasons; Webmaster Dave Patterson who had continued to lead on the production our electronic and printed materials and programmes and in ensuring that we comply with the new Data Protection regulations; Roland Treby, our Operations Manager, who ensured that our artists are looked after properly throughout their visits, maintaining our reputation as a friendly and hospitable Club; and Renate West, who was always willing to help out when new requirements arose or other Committee members were unavailable. He thanked them all for making the administration of the Club relatively painless, and invited Members to experience this by joining the Committee.

He particularly thanked Avril Stevens, the Club's Publicity Officer, who had served on the Committee for three seasons and had done much to make us known to an audience within 20 miles of Andover that might otherwise have remained unaware of our existence. Avril was standing down from the Committee to concentrate on her many other interests and commitments, and he took the opportunity to thank her publicly for all that she had done for the Club in the past three years; and he asked members to consider whether Club Publicity was a task that they might like to take on.

Robert thanked other Members who assisted without being on the Committee: 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 thanked the salaried and volunteer staff at The Lights for their support. 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.

Robert briefly summarised the exciting programme that the Committee had arranged for the 73rd Season – very mixed in musical styles but not in quality. The Galliard Ensemble would open the Season for us, returning after a 9-year gap in which they have continued to build a strong international reputation. And there would be some even bigger hitters, too; in January the Frith Piano Quintet would give a programme that included Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet; and the pianist Martin Roscoe, booked for March, would be known to many Club members from his radio performances. The other concerts would feature equally talented performers, and he encouraged members to spread the word – he remained challenged to think of anywhere else where you could hear musicians of this calibre for considerably less than £10 a concert. He encouraged members to display the Whole Season posters, available in the foyer, 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 72nd Season, we had an excess of expenditure over income of £369.92. Considering that the budget for the year had anticipated excess expenditure of £1,800, this was a positive figure, achieved partly by artist's costs being less than the budgeted £10,500.

During the year the Committee had agreed to transfer £2,000 to the Newbury Building Society account, which now stood at £14,610.50. The Lloyds Bank accounts held a total of £3,165.02 which meant that, with Petty Cash totalling £59.70, the Club's total assets at the end of March stood at £17,835.22.

The Committee proposed to increase subscriptions for the 73rd Season to offset continuing increases in hall rental, publicity, printing and hospitality costs. The subscription for the new season would therefore be £60, reduced to £57 if paid before 31st May. With 7 concerts in the season this still equates to less than £10 per concert, remarkable value for money. 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 2018/19 tax year we had received £136.07 in Gift Aid. The total of donations, raffle and gift aid had again amounted to more than £1,000, a great help. Gift Aid records for HMRC would be updated during the summer and Kathy asked members to inform her if their tax circumstances had changed.

This year we had also received £250 through the Leckford Farm Shop Green Token scheme and we would be applying again in the coming year. With the approval of the scheme's organisers £160 of this was used to subsidise the Club's Christmas meal for volunteers and this is shown separately on the accounts.

Kathy drew Members' attention to the budget for the 73rd Season, included in the AGM papers. The Committee planned to increase artistes' fees to £11,200, 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 £2,720 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 73rd Season.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Richard Ryder, seconded by Renate West 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 John Cooper, seconded by Frank Saunders 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 Bruce Randall and carried unanimously.

7. **Date and Venue of the 2020 AGM.** 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 23rd April 2020 in The Lights Theatre, Andover.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting closed at 20.47 hours.