

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on the 10th May 2012

At Keystone Hall, East Street, Andover

Apologies for absence: Pauline & Steve Davis, Margaret Henstock, Ann Hopwood, Jackie Lessware, David Read, Mr & Mrs Swayne, Pam & Eric Woolgrove,

Minutes of the AGM of the 12th May 2011: Acceptance proposed by Brian Hutchins, seconded by Frank Saunders and carried unanimously.

Matters arising: None.

Chairman's Report: David started by commenting that, like many other organisations, the Club was finding the current financial climate difficult – evidenced with only 49 being present tonight – down from last year – which, itself was down from 2010 and that these declining numbers for the AGM were extremely concerning to the Committee.

He then commented briefly upon the Club's finances noting that the deliberate overspend on artiste fees for the Season had been offset by a surplus from the previous year and with a planned underspend for the next year.

David then summarised the Committee's 'selection' process – aimed at providing a 'mix' for the benefit of as many of our members as possible. He then reviewed each of the six concerts with the first provided by the Pentatonic string quartet - chosen following very good reports of a performance at Enham. The second concert was Lucy Parham's presentation of 'Odyssey of Love' – the story of Franz Liszt – with actors Joanna David and Martin Jarvis, being, probably, a departure for the Club with this interactive format. The third concert honoured Gladys New, the Club's founder, with Natasha Youll (Soprano) and Janet Shell (Mezzo-soprano) - being accompanied by the accomplished young harpist, Mary Reid. The fourth concert featured playing of a very high standard indeed by Thomas Carroll (Cello) and Anthony Hewitt (Piano). The next concert was a performance by the Plane Dukes Rahman trio (Clarinet, Viola and Piano) – engaged following reports of the Trio's exceptionally high standards of musicianship. The final concert gave us a colourful and stimulating evening courtesy of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals – ending months of uncertainty – with the Ministry of Defence having to finalise the composition of their musical resources.

David commented on the perceptions of some (members included) who thought that Bands (whether Military or Brass) were unable to provide good classical but noted that this was entirely belied by the construction of their programme with this ranging from Mozart to Tchaikowsky. An additional benefit was that a collection resulted in nearly £600 for 'Help for Heroes'.

He concluded his review of the Season's concerts by commenting that the Committee's aim had been to provide quality music for the pleasure of the Club's members and that he thought this had been successfully achieved – very largely thanks to the efforts of each Committee member – describing the varied roles of Anne Lee, Dave Patterson, Mark Bunce, Jacky Hutchins, Roland Treby, Alan Macarthur, Kathy Percival and his wife, Sarah. He also thanked Barrie Johnson for his support in dealing with the Signals' Band Master. He also gave thanks to Margaret Anne Treby for her hard work in providing the catering for each of the concerts – being helped by Jan Cooper for the herculean efforts in feeding the Band. He then thanked June Saunders for the wonderful floral displays she had provided for the concerts.

His final thanks were for the Members, without whose interest in, and support of, the Club would make Andover a poorer place.

Treasurer's Report:

Kathy commenced her Report by thanking Derek Roberts for once again carrying out the Independent Examination of the Annual Accounts required of the Trustees of the Club, to meet with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 - enabling her to present the Financial Statements duly signed by Derek as Examiner.

With regard to the income of the Club, she reported that the membership had again been generous with donations enabling another claim on HMRC, under their 'Gift Aid' provisions, achieving a refund of almost £200. Given

that the Committee is again ‘freezing’ the subscriptions, she encouraged members who are renewing for the current year to consider a donation on top of their subscription in order that we can benefit our concert fund both from the donation and from the gift aid we can reclaim.

She noted that income from the sale of individual tickets this year has not been as good as the previous year and she urged Members to bring friends along to be able to sell tickets on an ad hoc basis.

Whilst, this year, there had been no income from sponsorship some income has been gained from the selling of advertising space in the individual programmes. This will continue to be offered and if a Member has connections with anyone who may be interested in advertising, they should contact a committee member.

With regards to ‘expenditure’, for advertising, she noted that this has been limited to costs for the Club’s website which, as well as ‘advertising’, is proving to be an excellent way of communicating with Members. Additional costs for the printing of programmes is due to the inclusion of the adverts but have been more than covered by the additional revenue. Provision for artiste fees now include the cost of Piano tuning, as being distinct from other concert expenses better reflecting the cost of the hospitality, flowers etc.

She then noted that the ‘Making Music’ costs have decreased substantially – but still including insurance premiums as well as the Performing Rights fees. Unfortunately the price of postage has risen yet again, and the Committee has again mitigated this with advance purchases at the old price. She noted that the Club’s administration costs were primarily for postage with a small amount of expenses toward copying and printing. She thanked the members of the committee for not only giving freely of their time, but also any incurred costs of telephone calls and for travel.

Members were formally presented with a copy of the Accounts for 2011-12 with these showing a healthy balance – despite the planned excess of Expenditure over Income for the year. The presented Budget for 2012-13 indicates a modest Excess of Income over Expenditure – thus maintaining the Club’s healthy balance.

The acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by John Payne, seconded by John Cooper and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers and Committee: The following were proposed, seconded and unanimously elected:

Chairman:	David Eagles	Proposed by Frank Saunders, Seconded by Brian Hutchins
Secretary:	Alan Macarthur	Proposed by Les Hawkins, Seconded by Clive Bagwell
Treasurer:	Kathy Percival	Roland Treby, Seconded by John Cooper

Committee: The following were proposed for re-election by Derek Roberts, seconded by Les Hawkins and unanimously elected: Mark Bunce, Sarah Eagles, Jacky Hutchins, Anne Lee, Dave Patterson and Roland Treby.

Format for the 2013, and future, AGMs

Alan Macarthur outlined the Committee’s thoughts on how they could make the AGM more ‘inclusive’ with members, currently, perhaps, being deterred from attending with the expense of an almost obligatory dinner. The proposal is that the AGM would be held in the Arena of The Lights together with a shortened concert (for which there would be no charge). Afterwards, those members who wished to do so, could choose from an ‘economical’ menu offered by The Lights and conclude the evening with a meal. It is also the intention of the Committee to hold the AGM on the fourth Thursday of April – following the sequence of concerts being on the fourth Thursday of the month. Whilst it will not be possible to implement this for 2013 due to existing commitments at The Lights, for 2014, the intention is to hold the AGM on the 24th April. These proposals were discussed at some length and members were then asked to indicate their agreement – or opposition – with there being a very substantial majority in favour.

Any other business:

From the floor, John Cooper suggested an ideal being communication via e-Mail. The Committee very much supports this but notes the difficulties in obtaining e-Mail addresses - and keeping them updated. Another suggestion was for advertising through Parish Magazines. To a limited degree, this was already a process but efforts would be made to expand this.

With there being no further business, it was noted that the next AGM would be held on **Thursday the 9th May 2013** in the Arena of The Lights Theatre and the 2012 AGM, which was attended by 45 members and 4 guests was concluded at 2150.