



WPO AGM 14 May 2023

1. Minutes of the previous meeting on 24 April 2022 and matters arising

The minutes of the AGM held on 24 April 2022 were approved (Mydie/ John).

2. Chairman's Report

Adrian Wheeler (Chairman) gave the Chairman's report, a summary of which is below:

Chairman's report 2021-22 season

Here's my report on the 2021-22 season which was the first season that we were able to get back to playing a full season after Covid.

Concert 1 was Coleridge Taylor variations on an African air, Ravel piano concerto in G with Ugnius Paulokonis and Dvorak 9

Concert 2 was Walton Portsmouth Point, RVW symphony no. 3 (Janice Watson) and Elgar's Falstaff Concert 3 we tackled Berg Lulu suite and Mahler 4 (Maria Mariya Krywaniuk)

Concert 4 was Tchaik Swan lake, Mendelssohn Violin concerto (Mathilde Milwidsky) and Rachmaninoff symphonic variations.

I'd like to record my thanks to the committee, I think it's often not appreciated how much people do, to keep the WPO running efficiently. I'd like to thank Jemma in particular who has been our secretary for the last few years and is standing down. She has managed the admin in a brilliantly efficient way, making sure that the soloist were booked, and everything needed to keep the WPO running smoothly was in place. So thanks for everything. Megan is going to be taking over from Jemma so thanks to her for stepping up. Also not forgetting Dug and Mydie for looking after refreshments and also helping out on the committee.

In other news, work is in progress by Megan to update the website and you may remember we had some photos taken at the last concert, and some of these will be used to make the site more interesting and up to date.

I also want to mention Nathan who is our treasurer and has taken over from John Seddon. Nathan is not only the treasurer but runs the box office and helps at the bar for concerts, so I'm very grateful to him. Not only that Nathan was able to qualify for a donation to the WPO from his company for his voluntary work on the committee as treasurer and helping out at concerts, so I'd like to record our thanks for that. .

Just a word about the next concert – we have designated it as our 50th celebration and there will be a short reception in the church afterwards. We have invited as many past players as we could to come along, Mary Pilbery – the wife of Joseph Pilbery who set up the WPO, will be there as well as Victoria Rowe – the daughter in Law of Ruth Gipps.

You may remember that we got the new set of parts from The Seattle Phil and their conductor Adam Stern. They have produced a insiders video about bringing the Gipps and some other pieces to performance which I'll ask Alexia to send round.

As you know I was hoping to stand down as chair, but that hasn't worked out this time so I have agreed to stay on for another year – unless of course we have a volunteer to take over. I hope I will be able to this time next year.

In a change to the role of secretary Jemma is standing down and will be replaced by Meg Storer. Meg is really keen to get started in the role and intends to bring forward a number of really important initiatives including updating the website completely, with new pictures and new functionality. I would like to thank the committee for all of their hard work.

Finally thanks to Jonathan for his great direction of the WPO.

Adrian Wheeler
Chair, WPO

3. Election of officers and committee members

The following retired from office and stood for re-election:

Adrian Wheeler	Chairman
Alexia Constantine	Membership Secretary
Dominic Nudd	Programmes
Frank Burgum	Librarian
Derek Holland	House Manager

Meg Storer stood for office as Secretary.

The above were collectively re-elected/ elected (Liga/ Kiran).

4. Accounts

The Treasurer also presented the orchestra's financial report for the year ended 31 August 2022.

See separate Excel spreadsheet

The report and accounts were adopted by the orchestra (Tony/ Barbera).

5. Membership Subscription for 2023/24

The Chairman confirmed that it was proposed to keep the annual subscription rate for 2022/23 in line with the subscription rate for 2016/17 at £40.00 per concert, with reductions to half of this figure for students and those who are retired or not in employment. It was also proposed to bring back the option to make advance payment for the entire season at £160 p.a.

This was approved by the orchestra (Olga/ Belinda)

6. Schedule for 2023/24

The draft concert schedule for 2023/24, circulated beforehand and attached, was explained by the Chairman and Jonathan Butcher. It was noted that the schedule was composed of a mixture of suggestions from the orchestra and from the conductor and that the 23/24 season had an exciting mix of pieces, and Jonathan Butcher said that the next season was looking very good, and thanked Frank Burgum in particular for all of his hard work sourcing music and parts.

Jonathan Butcher also reminded the orchestra of the importance of turning out full sections for the concert at Havering.

The Orchestra agreed the schedule (Alan/ Liga)

7 Members' resolutions

No resolutions were proposed.

8 Any Other Business

There were no other matters to cover and so the Chairman closed the meeting.

Minutes 22 May 2023.