

**WPO Annual General Meeting
3rd May 2026**

1. Minutes of the previous meeting on 27th April 2025 and matters arising

The minutes of the AGM held on 27th April 2025 were approved (Debbie/Fran). No matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman Adrian Wheeler referred to the Chairman's report, circulated earlier with details of the programme and concerts for 2024/25.

He thanked those who played in the extra concerts with Islington Choral Society – the income from that has helped keep down the subs for everyone.

He thanked the Committee and all those who work hard to make things happen behind the scenes. Special thanks to Belinda as Secretary, Dug for tea and coffee, Christian for his excellent leading and Jonathan for the fantastic programmes. Thank you too to Steve for doing the new website. We are sorry to be losing Alexia as Membership Secretary.

He asked that we please help clear up after the concerts; in particular at St Johns, the heavy altar needs to be moved back after everything else has been put away. Derek added a request that all extra or spare music is returned on the day of the concert, as even a few days later can add to the cost.

3. Election of officers and committee members

The following retired from office and stood for re-election, being proposed and seconded:

Adrian Wheeler	Chairman (Jemma/Gabby)
Nathan Blackwell	Treasurer (Dug/Meg)

The following stood for re-election, with a block vote (Jess/Grace)

Derek Holland	Co-Librarian
Meg Storer	Co-Librarian
Geraldine Marshall	House Manager
Belinda Kembery	Secretary
Dominic Nudd	Programmes
Anna Saprykina	Marketing
Dug Warn	Publicity
Steve Freeman	Webmaster

Alexia Constantine resigned as Membership Secretary and Jess Prew was elected (Jemma/Kate)

Amanda Frost was elected as Friends Administrator (Fran/Kate)

4. Accounts

The Treasurer Nathan Blackwell referred to the orchestra's financial report for the year ended 31 August 2025, circulated beforehand.

It was a strong year, partly due to the paid collaboration with the Islington Choir, leaving us £3000 better off than the previous year, with around £16,000 in the bank. Orchestra Tax Relief and Gift Aid really help as well. However we are making less on tickets, due to a shift to online advance tickets; if we could increase the prices to £18 on the door, £15 in advance and £12 concessions including a programme, this could raise another £1000 per year. Jemma asked when we last increased the ticket price – 12-15 years ago! Christian suggested we could offer a



season ticket, as some orchestras do and it was agreed to discuss this in the committee.

The report and accounts, including the proposal to increase ticket prices, were adopted by the orchestra (Gill/Jemma)

5. Membership Subscription for 2026/27

The Chairman confirmed that it was proposed to keep the annual subscription rate for 2026/27 at the same rates and discounts as currently. (Debbie/Jemma)

Gill commented that Lambeth Orchestra has a system of a monthly direct debit for subs and it was agreed that the committee would discuss this.

6. Schedule for 2026/27

There were no comments or objections to the draft concert schedule for 2026/27, circulated beforehand. Adrian explained that a poll of the orchestra had shown that we wanted to retain the usual concerts for next year, which will all be at St Johns Waterloo, so we have squeezed in an additional concert in Croydon. Jonathan Butcher explained that there will therefore be 6 concerts in total next year. The Croydon one will be in a church near him which has had an expensive new organ installed, the "Rolls Royce of organs". The programme for this will include the premiere of a newly commissioned organ concerto by David Hackbridge Johnson and the Saint-Saens Organ Symphony.

Jonathan emphasised that the WPO is a success story but requires everyone to put the rehearsal dates in their diaries and be reliable about attendance. It's been good to have larger sections of strings in the recent concerts.

7 Members' resolutions

No resolutions were proposed.

8 Any Other Business

No other business.