

CHESTER MUSIC SOCIETY
CELEBRITY CONCERTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the AGM held via Zoom on 23 September 2020

PRESENT: David Woods, Chair, Berkeley Ranby, Secretary, Jon Penn, Treasurer; Mick & Penny Clarke, Ray & Mary Pulsford, Tom Miller, Colin & Jenni Waker, Claire Hallet-Rourke.

1. Apologies for absence: Audrey Wooldridge, Yvonne Coleby-Davies, Barbara Price, Sue Jones.

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM

These were accepted as correct; proposed by Jon Penn and seconded by Penny Clarke.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

We again promoted six concerts last season in St Mary's Centre.

Membership was 94 (98 last year). Friends were 41, down from 45 last season. Our average attendances declined from 149 to 126. Total seats sold for the season were 746 against 891 the previous season.

It is worth noting that we had sell outs the previous season and this year we feel we lost audience numbers at the latter part of the season due to the emerging Covid Virus. We very fortunate that our last concert of the series, Ben Goldscheider on French Horn went ahead just few days before the lockdown.

Attendance at individual concerts was as follows.

	Artist	Attendance
Oct 19	Piers Lane	134
Nov 19	Jennifer Pike	142
Dec 19	Pentagon Brass	122
Jan 20	Elizabeth Karani	102
Feb 20	Jubilee String Quartet	141
Mar 20	Ben Goldscheider	115
TOTAL	Average 126 (149 last season)	746 cf 891

We continue to use Ticketsource for all on line sales as well as our telephone booking service and the VIC for a small number of face-to-face sales.

We are very grateful for numerous additional donations and the support of friends of Celebrity Concerts. In particular, our anonymous benefactor again made a big difference to the money available for artists last season.

We had another splendid buffet at the December concert, and again it was kindly co-ordinated by Margaret Walmsley, with help from Lorna Wishlade, Penny Clarke and Jenny Waker.

The Society funded one schools' workshop this year, managed by our section. This was Chris Barratt, Tuba Player from Pentagon Brass. Chris ran a master class at Abbeygate College for 8 Students. He was quite inspirational; he talked to them about the realities of life as a professional musician and some really interesting approaches to practice and rehearsal. He also worked with 3 brass players individually on specific pieces. I was pleased to attend the workshop and could see the improvement in the players in such a short space of time. We were due to hold another workshop in a school at Easter but this was cancelled, again to the Covid virus.

There are a large number of people who have made these concerts possible and our thanks are due to them: Berkeley Ranby our secretary, Mick Clarke who books our artists, Colin Waker who produces our posters and programmes and manages our social media. Thanks to Penny Clarke for CD sales as well as numerous other jobs. David Hart looked after the box office on concert nights and Claire Hallett-Rorke, Mary Ranby and Tom Miller worked on the sales tables with Sandy Boyne and Brian Walmsley on welcoming. We thank Jon Penn for his management of the finances, Chris Williams for looking after the interval wine (supported by John Williams, Alan and Vera Jackson). Yvonne Coleby-Davies has fed and looked after our artists on arrival and at the interval; Phillipa and Richard Allis for serving the tea and coffee in the interval. We are very grateful to the Wigleys, Elizabeth Morgan and Chris Williams for providing accommodation for artists. Mention must also be made of additional help from Vera Jackson and John Williams on First Aid. Off-committee support is always welcome and again thanks to our resident cake-maker Yvonne Coleby-Davies, resident vintner Sandy Young and the many contributors to raffle prizes.

We took a decision in March, just after Lockdown to postpone the entire 20/21 season. We did not think the situation would improve very quickly and we believe our judgment was right. We would have had significant contractual obligations to meet had we left it any later to postpone the season. We are pleased to confirm that the 21/22 season will run exactly as it would have run in 2021/22. All our booked artistes agreed to a postponement. We are currently running a series of virtual concerts alongside the Showcase section of CMS.

Mick Clarke proposed and Colin Waker seconded that the Chairman's report be accepted.

5. Financial Report

The Treasurer Jon Penn spoke to his Income and Expenditure account which had been circulated via the CMS website. He thanked John Ierston and Berkeley Ranby for their help in coming to terms with the society accounting system.

1 The overall deficit was £2,166 compared with a budget deficit of £3,710 and a small surplus of £133 in 2018-19.

2 Income was £571 above budget but still £2,442 less than last year, mainly due to lower casual ticket sales (we had 3 sell-out concerts in 2018-19 and none in the current year).

3 Expenses were £963 less than budget and £144 less than last year, mainly as a result of lower commission on casual ticket sales. Fund raising expenditure was reduced to £152 from £419 in the previous year.

4 The deficit of £2,166 will be covered by a generous gift held in Reserves.

Individual Concert Deficits/Surpluses:

Artist	Actual £	Budget £
Piers Lane	- 915	- 1,217
Jennifer Pike	- 1,375	- 1,667
Pentagon Brass	- 52	- 103
Elizabeth Karani	+ 806	+ 696
Jubilee Quartet	- 369	- 895
Ben Goldscheider	- 262	- 524
Total	- 2,166	- 3,710

There were no questions. The Chairman thanked Jon for these accounts, which were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Mick Clarke and seconded by Berkeley Ranby.

David Woods highlighted that the deficit was better than budget. He added that next season will be the Society's 76th season but it will be celebrated as the 75th year of live performance.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

According to the constitution, one third of the committee of nine retires at each AGM. Claire Hallet-Rorke and Mick Clarke retire by rotation and are available for re-election and the Committee has recommended Richard and Philippa Alliss for election. The meeting elected the candidates en bloc.

7. Any Other Relevant Business – None.

8. Date and Venue of the 2021 AGM – Wednesday 22 September 2021, venue to be confirmed.