

TONBRIDGE MUSIC CLUB
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 7pm
Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Tonbridge
MINUTES

TMC Trustees present: Rachel Davies, Madeline Gammie, Roger Golland, Ken Morgan.

Members present: Charles & Fiona Rosenmeyer, Jane Heydecker, Jennifer Hughes, Alison Aries, Marion Eastmond, Maggie Piazza, Wendy Wooster

Apologies: Dudley Aries, Dilys Benson, Kathryn Elwick, Pat & Peter Gane, Jan Trayner.

1 Welcome & Apologies

Roger Golland, TMC Treasurer, welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting the unavoidable absence of several trustees, including the Chair, Pat Gane.

2 Minutes of the 2023 AGM

These were accepted without amendment. Their approval was proposed by Ken Morgan and seconded by Madeline Gammie. There were no matters arising.

3 Annual Report 2023/24

This was presented by Roger Golland in Pat Gane's absence. The main issues were –

The need to find new Trustees

TMC's financial position. A loss of around £6,000 had been incurred on the 2023/24 Season which was sustainable this year due to our level of reserves. But, the ongoing trend was that, since Covid, the costs of putting on a concert, especially an evening one, were rising significantly. Though it was still possible to make a profit on 'big' names, like Jeneba Kanneh Mason, we needed to look at the structure of our programme very carefully going forward. For example, we had decided not offer a Toddlers' concert in the 2024/5 Season as, though these events had been popular, they were simply too costly to run.

Tonbridge School

Using the school as a venue had become much more expensive. This could really only be considered if the event seemed likely to be profitable.

A children's concert, Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants, had taken place in the E M Forster Theatre. It had not made a profit, but the experience of working with the theatre staff had been useful.

4 Financial Statement

The Treasurer said that, overall, revenue had held up but costs had increased considerably. It would be especially good to get membership each Season to over 50 people. Madeline Gammie, who organised the refreshments at TMC events, was congratulated for the revenue she contributed to the Club.

On the Coffee Concerts, which took place at Somerhill School on Sunday mornings, one member commented that they were almost impossible to reach without a car.

5 Auditor's Accounts

The Treasurer thanked Liz Whimperley-Dixon for continuing to carry out this function for TMC free of charge. Charles Rosenmayer asked whether TMC's reserves covered a year's costs for the club. The answer was that they did.

6 Members' Comments

On the TMC Awards Scheme, the Treasurer said that it cost the Club about £2,000. He had tried to involve as many local schools as possible and hoped for diversity among those applying. Tonbridge Rotary Club was to become involved as a sponsor of the scheme. The Club also tried to involve local musicians as judges.

Jane Heydecker asked whether trustees should undertake some sort of relevant training before taking up their posts. Ken Morgan said that the then Treasurer, Marion Eastmond, had carried out some checks on him when he became a trustee.

7 Election of Trustees, 2024/25

Marion Eastmond proposed, and Jennifer Hughes seconded, a motion that all current trustees be re-elected for a further year. This was passed unanimously.

8 Proposed continuation of Ms Whimperley-Dixon as External Auditor

This was agreed unanimously.

9 Any Other Business

The Treasurer invited anyone with thoughts about the future of the Club to let him, or another trustee, know.

Maggie Piazza (Member) thanked Pat Gane and Dilys Benson for the effort and work they put in to ensuring wonderful Concert Seasons.

Ken Morgan (Trustee) noted how much costs had risen post-Covid and felt that ticket prices at their current level were unsustainable.

Roger Golland (Treasurer) felt that the Club might need to take a serious look at the length and structure of its concerts and consider some different formats, eg one-hour concerts with no interval.

There being no further points, the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Rachel Davies