

**Tonbridge Music Club
Annual General Meeting 2025**

Friday 11 July, 2025 at 6.30pm
Held at The Maid of Kent, 83 – 85 High St, Tonbridge

MINUTES

Present: Dilys Benson, Roger Golland (TMC Treasurer), Kathryn Elwick, Jan Trayner, Ken Morgan, Jane Heydecker, Truke & Clive Batson, Sue & Chris Brooks, Jennifer Hughes & Sarah Coles

Apologies: Pat Gane, Marjorie Ayling, David & Rosemary Goodridge & Wendy Wooster

1 Welcome

Roger Golland (TMC Treasurer) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Pat Gane

Roger explained that Pat, TMC Chair, was unable to attend and that he had agreed to chair the AGM in her absence. It was a difficult time for Pat as this was the first anniversary of her husband Peter's death and she also had significant commitments at a music festival she was helping to organise in France the following month. She would be standing down as Chair, but would stay on as a trustee.

3 Minutes of 2024 AGM

These were agreed as proposed by Jan Trayner and seconded by Ken Morgan.

4 Annual Report

Roger noted the following main points –

There had been 10 events at 5 different venues over the 2024/5 Season.

Of these, 5 had been evening concerts; 3 had been 'Coffee Concerts' (ie Sunday morning concerts); one had been a family event at the E M Forster theatre at Tonbridge School; and the final event had been a free concert in memory of Trustee Peter Gane. The Season had offered a wide, eclectic range of music.

Dilys Benson was to step down as Artistic Director after more than 10 years in this demanding role. Roger expressed TMC's thanks to her for all her hard, effective work over the years. Kathryn Elwick was to take her place.

5 Financial Statement & Auditor's Accounts

Roger told the meeting that the 2024/5 Season had almost broken even – which compared favourably with a loss of £6K the previous year. Almost all music clubs were facing declining membership and

ticket sales following the Covid pandemic and TMC was no exception. The death of Peter Gane saw generous donations made at his memorial concert. This was free to attend though donations were suggested. Half of the money raised at this concert went to his beloved National Youth Orchestra, but there was still a significant amount that went to TMC and on which Gift Aid could be collected.

Roger noted that the five evening concerts of the Season had made a small loss or broke even.

6 Members' Comments

Dilys Benson said that, since the Pandemic, many fewer people booked concert tickets in advance. This made estimating the financial outcome of such an event much more difficult than previously.

As to the Awards Scheme for young musicians, Roger noted that a significant number of donations had been received to support it. Dilys Benson added that the Scheme tried to support not only the 'high fliers' but a broad range of ability across young musicians in the Tonbridge area.

Chris Brooks asked if Tonbridge School made any sort of financial support available to TMC. The answer was 'no'.

Jane Heydecker asked if all schools in the Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks area were regularly contacted about TMC events. The answer seemed to be that it depended on TMC's contacts.

7 Trustee Departures and Election of Trustees 2025/26

As proposed by Truke Batson and seconded by Jane Heydecker, all existing trustees standing for re-election (that is all excluding Dilys Benson who was standing down) were approved. Following Pat's decision to step down as Chair, the trustees had decided to see whether they could operate effectively for the time being without one.

8 Proposed continuation of Ms Whimperley-Dixon as External Auditor

Roger Golland thanked her for her very thorough work on TMC's accounts. She would continue to carry out this role for TMC next year.

9 Any Other Business

There was none.

The meeting ended at 6.50pm. Dilys Benson introduced the programme for TMC's 2025/6 Season and leaflets were distributed to all those present who were willing and able to spread the word about this next series of concerts.