



Leicester Music Society

Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting

at Clarendon Park Congregational Church, Leicester on 13th June 2023 at 7:30 pm

Attendance 14

1. Apologies John Brooks, Wendy Brooks, Pat and Peter Carr, Paul Griffiths, Glennys Walker

2. Minutes of the previous AGM in 2022 Acceptance proposed by Alan Herringshaw and seconded by Bryan Lewis.

3. Matters Arising Bryan Lewis (BL) asked to be reminded what 'GDPR' stood for. David Saunders (DS) replied it is the General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union. Although the UK is no longer an EU member, GDPR is retained within UK law. Ron Mitchell (RM) noted that it means we must after one year delete the personal records of those whose membership has lapsed. By consequence our mailing list is now much shorter than it used to be.

BL asked about Portable Appliance Testing ('PAT') of our electrical equipment. DS said that an investigation at his workplace had found that it was no longer necessary to do this. It was not an insurance risk to the Society.

4. Hon Treasurer's Report Copies were distributed to those present. The Treasurer (DS) observed as follows. Our balance carried forward is a healthy £1,445; this largely thanks to the generous donations of Bryan Lewis, Neil Roberts, Neil Crutchley and David Fisher. Temporary member income was down, perhaps the continuing effects of Covid. Room rent the same as previous years. We had benefited from speakers who did not take a fee, in particular from Kate Taylor and her four singing colleagues. He drew attention to the new item, 'Website Running Costs' showing zero for this year. Ron Mitchell has been paying this as a donation to the Society. But the cost is rising and since retiring Ron felt unable to fund it unaided, so a cost will figure in accounts from 1st May this year. In all, though, there was no need to change the current membership rates. The Report had been signed off by an auditor. Sibyl Fry proposed and Neil Roberts seconded the acceptance of the Report. BL said that we owe thanks to Chairman David Fisher (DF) for supplying refreshments throughout the year at no charge to the Society. Carole Thompson asked whether we should try to distribute our brochure in libraries, and there was discussion about this and other places that might benefit us. Neil Crutchley (NC) suggested the Bishop Street Methodist Church, where we will be holding an event in December.

5. Chairman's Report This report also was distributed to those present, and it will be uploaded to the Society's web site along with these minutes. The Chairman commented that much in it was similar to last year's. He felt no need to go through the individual talks, as descriptions and appreciations were available on the website. He thanked members for their attendance, especially when having to come and go in dark and cold winter evenings. He was proud to be Chairman, and proud that what we are doing is so good. Neil Roberts thanked the Chairman for the amount of work he has put into running the Society; it was great to arrive in an evening to find everything so well prepared and organised.

Proposed Change of Venue

Our May meeting was moved to the Keene Room of Christchurch, Clarendon Park Road, after its date was changed to avoid the clash with a Philharmonia concert. The Committee felt that the Christchurch space might be an improvement on the Congregational Church and recommended the change to members. Members present generally agreed. Bryan Lewis preferred the sound quality at Christchurch and asked what the rental might be. DS replied that although we had been charged only £33 for May, it could be £40-45 next year, which is affordable. RM read out an email from Paul Griffiths (not present) opposing the proposed move because he felt we were better ventilated at Springfield Road. Other members recalled how we'd been let down more than once by the heating at the Congregational Church.

Proposed Change to Afternoon Meetings

A survey had been sent to members. The Secretary (RM) did not have the detailed results to hand but said that most members had replied saying that meeting in the afternoon would make no difference to their ability to attend, and expressed no preference as to whether the change should be made. The full survey results, including two responses received on 15th June after the AGM, are

Afternoons would make it	Count	Should we change?	Count
Easier to attend	5	No preference	15
More difficult to attend	3	Yes	5
No difference	12	No	0
Total	20	Total	20

In view of (i) the likely impossibility of parking in the afternoon at both venues and (ii) that both venues were unavailable for an afternoon meeting on our regular Tuesday dates, the Committee recommended that we continue meeting in the evening. Neil Roberts concurred, commenting that he had always felt that the Society was a contribution to the musical culture of the city, and its evening meetings one of the city's musical events. He felt that this 'cachet' would be lost if we met during the day.

DS then proposed the motion that we continue with evening meetings. It was passed unanimously.

DF proposed that the Society meet in future at Christchurch. This was also passed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers and Committee Members All of the Officers and all of the Committee were willing to continue in post. Alan Herringshaw (AH) had been coopted to the Committee and wished to serve as a Committee member. DF welcomed Mary Whittaker's renewed participation in Committee meetings, and reported the formation of a subcommittee of RM and AH to consider a revision of the Society's constitution in the light of changing circumstances. Bryan Lewis proposed the election of the Committee as stated, Sibyl Fry seconded and the Committee was duly elected.

7. Any Other Business DF read out the schedule of talks for next season, as listed below. Mary Whittaker confirmed that the Committee had carefully checked dates against the forthcoming Philharmonia concert programme.

NC recalled our joint meeting with the Federation last November, which had been a very successful evening, despite the low attendance for reasons beyond our control and some other difficulties. He praised the hard work of those who had organised it over several years spanning the pandemic, and noted it was the first time ever that Leicester had hosted this event. DF added that besides himself, DS, RM, and Derek Mear had worked on this event.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Programme 2023–2024

10 Oct	Michael Lessiter	Famous Operatic Trials
14 Nov	Andrew Keener	Jacqueline Du Pré, A Life And Legacy
12 Dec	Victorian Society	A Victorian Evening
9 Jan	Roger Wheeler	Jazz Since WWII, Including Personal Recollections
13 Feb	Nigel Simeone	Vaughan Williams and Adrian Boult: A Musical Friendship
12 Mar	John Brooks	45 Years In The Business
9 Apr	Chris Morley	Did Mozart Burn Himself Out?
14 May	Paul Spicer	Samuel Barber
11 Jun		AGM and Quiz