

## HARBORNE ORCHESTRA

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at the Martineau Centre

Around 20 members were present.

#### 1. Chairman's Report

Richard began his summary of the year's activities by thanking Pat for making it enjoyable and successful. The year's three concerts had been memorable in different ways.

The Christmas concert at St Mary's Harborne had been very well attended due to the collaboration with the Station Road School Choir, which would be good to repeat. The performance of The Night Before Christmas with narration and acting was memorable, and the Three Bears had gone very well despite its difficulty.

The main piece at the Spring Concert, at St Mary's again, was Mendelssohn's violin concerto, and it was a privilege to be able to perform such a great piece with such a talented soloist. Pat assured us that Eleanor (Robson) had enjoyed herself too, and we hope she will return.

The Summer Concert saw us at St Mary's Bearwood. Despite being a more difficult venue to fit into, they were keen to have us and it raised our profile outside Harborne. The main piece was Schubert's Unfinished, which is such fine music it is a pleasure to play.

Richard noted that the number of concerts played per year had been a topic for discussion at committee meetings, and invited feedback later on.

He expressed the orchestra's thanks to all the extra players who had helped us out by plugging gaps on concert nights. He welcomed Tom's enthusiasm on percussion and hoped he would continue to enjoy playing with us.

He thanked Michael for his work on the attractive website, which helps to raise our profile and bring in new members.

He commented that membership seemed reasonably healthy, with a few new faces already, though not all of last year's new members had stayed on. Advertising would need consideration again, though a feature in the Harborne Society newsletter had been helpful.

#### 2. Conductor's Comments

Pat had again enjoyed the year very much, everyone had played really well. He felt the orchestra had risen well to the challenge of some of the more difficult pieces, and expressed his wish to continue to push us on. He reiterated the need for practice!

### 3. Financial Report

Marjorie's summarised her report (link), which had been included with the Agenda. Income from concerts had risen, that from subscriptions remaining static due to the static membership of around 30. The rehearsal room rent had risen by £150, and we were paying Pat (a little) more. Overall there was a deficit of £141 on the year, but we were still able to carry £357 forward.

Marjorie and Richard had discussed the wisdom of a rise in subscriptions and felt that after three years this was not unreasonable. A termly subscription of £33 (full), £22 (student, retired, unwaged) was proposed, seconded and accepted by a unanimous vote. A new member's first term will remain at £10.

### 4. Open Session for Members' Comments

Members seemed to have enjoyed the year. There seemed to be some agreement that three concerts was a struggle, the Spring one being the most difficult. Barbara commented that the viola section could be a bit mundane, and sympathy was expressed for her and violists the world over. A mixture of short pieces and longer symphonic movements was felt to be good, and overtures were suggested as useful in this respect. Pat commented that we must consider our audience, who were unlikely to want complete symphonies. There was general agreement that involving the children's choir was a good way of increasing income.

### 5. Re-election of Committee, Election of Librarian

Richard, Caroline and Marjorie were willing to continue in their respective roles and were re-elected unopposed. Angela had resigned from the post of Librarian and was again thanked for her efforts. Theresa LeJeune and Catriona Beattie had both expressed willingness to take on the challenge, and it was felt sensible to take advantage of their enthusiasm by electing them to share the post. This was done unanimously.

### 6. Dates of next term

Term had started on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Half Term would be on 28<sup>th</sup> October (no rehearsal, but practice!) and the Christmas concert on the last day of term, 9<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary's Harborne (to be confirmed).

### 7. Other business

There was none.