

# **North East Early Music Forum (registered charity No. 326282)**

**Annual General Meeting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011 held at St Paul's Hall, University of Huddersfield, HD1 3DH**

**Chair:** Graham Coatman; **Secretary:** John A. Murdie.

## **1. Apologies**

Edna Coop (Treasurer), Erasmus and Ruth Harland, David Young.

## **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted without amendment. Proposed: Glenis Ridy, Seconded: Jo Rowling.

## **3. Matters arising**

None.

## **4. Officers' Reports**

### **Chair:**

Graham gave a summary of his written report which had been circulated to all members. He has now served as Chairman for four years. NEEMF continues amid a period of quite radical financial change for both arts and education. We are concerned about Wakefield Council's proposal to close the Yorkshire Music and Drama lending library (which is financed by 12 authorities) and have made representations to them. There has been a stay of execution. Our costs are rising with inflation and the introduction of the 20% VAT rate, yet our membership and standard workshop fees have not been increased in a long time. We have nevertheless presented workshops with more specialist appeal and others which have been popular. NEEMF's residential summer school as been launched in a new format under the name Historically Informed Summer School (HISS). The first presentation proved to be a tremendous success. Our membership remains steady, but it is clear that we must continue with our efforts to recruit more younger members. Our recruitment of student ambassadors in the universities in our region has been fruitful.

### **Secretary:**

John Murdie had nothing special to report.

### **Treasurer:**

Jo Rowling handed out copies of the accounts on behalf of Edna Coop who could not be present. We had a small deficit (£291) for the year ended the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011, compared with the small surplus (£488) of the previous year. Printing and postage costs have increased.

### **Membership Secretary:**

Marion Bolton said that we had 211 paid-up members and 24 who had not renewed their subscriptions this year.

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Joanna Rowling thanked everyone who had contributed to the newsletter, and asked for feedback – in particular, some letters to the Editor would be gratefully received. Our efforts to increase advertising revenue continue.

### **Webmaster:**

Thomas Green summarised his written IT report. The main NEEMF website continues to operate well. Google, who provide the facilities for the electronic mail list 'neemf-discussion' (to which any member can contribute), now require that a new member should accept the Committee's invitation to join it before they can participate. Several members have yet to do this. Thomas is hoping to pass on his job to a new person soon, and asked the members present to consider whether they would be interested.

## **5. Proposed Constitutional change**

The Committee proposed that Constitution item '4b) Committee' be changed to read 'The administrative officers of the Society shall be: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and up to four others with their title agreed or changed at an Annual General Meeting'. This was proposed to allow us to correct the title of Webmaster to 'IT Officer', being a more apt description of the work now involved. Gill Humphreys said that she would like to propose the motion on behalf of the membership, and this was seconded by Jo Green. The membership voted unanimously for the adoption of the motion.

## **6. Election of officers**

No nominations for election of new members having been received, nor any resignations. The Secretary said that there were up to three unfilled 'non-portfolio' posts available on the Committee – in addition to the one held by Alan Radford. Alan said that he was willing to continue in his post. Lian French proposed the re-election of the Committee en bloc. Lisa Colton seconded this, and the meeting voted unanimously for the adoption of the motion.

## **7. Subscriptions**

There was discussion of whether it was necessary to increase the subscription rates, which have not changed in at least five years. The large financial loss of the Historically Informed Summer School will fall into next year's accounts. There was brief mention of the possibility of discontinuing our use of Gift Aid so that non-members could be charged more for admittance. Alice Metherell alerted the meeting that the regulations for Gift Aid were to change from this September. She also observed that there was no mention of Gift Aid in the accounts. Graham Coatman (Chair) said that this was an omission by our accountants that would have to be corrected. Jo Rowling said that any proposal to increase the subscriptions would have to require that an annual review be made of the rates. Graham suggested that we increase the ordinary subscription from the current £12 to £15 and the family membership from £18 to £20, because we had not increased these in many years; future annual releases could perhaps be less. Institutional and student subscriptions would remain at £6 and £20, respectively. He called for a proposer from the membership. Rodney Hughes proposed the motion and Vincent Walsh seconded it. There motion was carried with no votes against it, but with four abstentions. Graham said that the subscriptions were officially due from the 1<sup>st</sup> November or this meeting if after that. Jo said, on behalf of the Treasurer, that subscriptions paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> January would be rewarded with the usual 25% workshop discount voucher, now £3.75.

## **8. Past and future events**

Graham read the list of events in the past year and invited comments. Thomas Green said that the 2012 'NEEMF Day Out' was to be held on the first Sunday after Easter, i.e. the 15<sup>th</sup> April. Graham said that NEEMF was still rather Leeds-York-centric and invited suggestions for venues in other areas. Rodney Hughes suggested The Sage, Gateshead - which NEEMF had used, not entirely successfully, some years ago, but Les Brunton thought that a preferential rate might be obtained. Lian French suggested Sandsend Church, and said that she had enjoyed NEEMF's use of the Methodist Church above Swaledale.

Graham summarised the workshops currently planned. Thomas Green said that he had organised a repeat presentation in December for the Sheffield Carols concert cancelled last year because of bad weather.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will coincide as usual with a workshop whose date is yet to be announced.

## **10. Any other business**

There was no 'other business'.

The meeting closed at 14:21.

Signed as an accurate record of the meeting:

Graham Coatman, Chair