**FEDERATION OF RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETIES**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on Saturday 4 November 2023.

**1.** Chairman Allan Child welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for participating. He ascertained from the Secretary that the meeting was quorate, 14 affiliate societies being represented.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from the following affiliates: Cromer Society, Hereford Music Circle, Ramsbottom RMS, Waltham Forest Music Society and York RMS.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM** held in Leicester in 2022 had been circulated to all affiliates. They were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING.** Under item 10 in last year’s minutes, it had been reported that Northwood Classical Music Group had expressed an interest in becoming an affiliate society. At today’s meeting, the Secretary reported that this had not been pursued. However, a check after the meeting confirmed that they had in fact submitted an application for affiliation and this had been duly accepted.

**5. CHAIRMAN’S REVIEW.** Allan Child (Wollaton RMS) commented that this would be his last review as Chairman. Looking back over the ten years of his Chairmanship, there had been interesting times, particularly during the Covid months, but things were now picking up again. The past year had seen everything starting to return to normal. It had been a pity that attendance at the Leicester AGM last year had been low and it seems that, as people become more competent in handling technology to host and attend meetings, they are becoming less inclined to travel long distances. Societies that survived the Covid pandemic are now beginning to meet more frequently and membership is starting to increase. The music weekend scheduled for 2023 did not take place, partly because of late publicity. However, a survey conducted after the event indicated that there is not much interest in organising another weekend, so this will not happen for the foreseeable future (this is, though, open to review). The Chairman thanked the committee and all affiliate societies for their support. He apologised that he hadn’t been able to visit as many societies recently because of various ties and he thanked those who had written to him to express their best wishes and gratitude.

David Wherrell (Letchworth RMS) proposed a vote of thanks to Allan for his contribution to the FRMS as Chairman and this was unanimously agreed.

**6. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER’S REPORT.** Paul Corfield Godfrey (Cardiff RMS) referred to the papers that had been circulated in advance and reported that he had received no queries. In addition to his report, he informed participants that there had been some recent closures where he had been informed at a very late stage and when PRS/PPL and insurance payments had already been made. This meant that costs were incurred by the Federation and he urged societies to inform us as soon as a closure looks possible. He also informed members that the Federation had always paid the VAT that was charged on fees and insurance as it would be difficult to apportion this per society. If there was any future national increase in VAT, then the Federation would have to consider increasing its subscription. In response to a query about charitable status, it was agreed that this was not an appropriate route for the Federation.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report – and he, in turn, thanked the Secretary for her support in carrying out his duties. The Chairman recommended that the report be accepted and this was agreed unanimously.

**7. SECRETARY’S REPORT.** Adele Wills (Street and Glastonbury RMG) thanked everyone for attending this Zoom AGM. Following last year’s AGM in Leicester, she had conducted a survey to ascertain preferences for the AGM and there was a strong majority in favour of online meetings in future. Coupled with the demise of the music weekend, this meant there would be no longer be any live events. The committee for 2023/24 now consists of only six members. She expressed her thanks to Allan Child for his many years of dedicated service – through stormy times as well as more pleasant times. The committee will miss his wisdom and experience and we wish him well in his retirement. She also expressed her thanks to Simon Rawlings (Weston-super-Mare Music Appreciation Society) who was also standing down. Simon has picked up the Bulletin and, from it, created a new newsletter which has become an important channel of communication. With a smaller committee, it will be difficult to manage this and the committee will consider the future of the Newsletter at its next meeting.

Allan Child at this point proposed a vote of thanks to Simon and this was unanimously agreed.

The Secretary reported that all the duly signed nomination forms for 2023/24 had been received. While no new members had joined the committee, she reported that Tony Sanderson (Northampton RMS) had been nominated for the officer post of Chairman and would therefore replace Allan Child. The Federation as a whole is now more stable with 75 affiliate societies, most of them healthy in terms of numbers. There have been five closures this year which compares with 23 during Covid and 10 in the following year. Those societies who survived the pandemic seem to be doing well. As there are no longer any live Federation events, it has been agreed that the Torbay Music Weekend will be promoted and David Wherrell (Letchworth RMS) gave an update on this. She finally thanked everyone again for their attendance.

**8. CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE AS PER COMMITTEE LIST 2023/24.** Nominations had been received as follows:

* Tony Sanderson (Northampton RMS) – Chairman
* George Steele (Rochdale GS) – Vice-Chairman
* Adele Wills (Street and Glastonbury RMG) – Honorary Secretary
* Paul Corfield Godfrey (Cardiff RMS and Committee Nomination) – Honorary Treasurer
* Ron Mitchell (Leicester Music Society) – Website Manager and Committee
* David Wherrell (Letchworth RMS) – Committee

The committee for 2023/24 was unanimously approved.

Tony Sanderson took over the Chairman role at this point.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS.** The Treasurer reported that Ruth Williams and David Brook were willing to serve and suitably qualified. Their reappointment was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer reminded members that he was still seeking a replacement for the Treasurer post. In addition to heavy work commitments, he has also experienced some health problems this year which could prevent him from continuing with the role in the near future. As yet, no-one had expressed any interest.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Ian Bailey (Orpington RMS) updated members on problems within his society which could necessitate their closure. A meeting is scheduled shortly to discuss this and he would confirm the decision in due course. He also gave a further update on the Torbay Music Weekend.

b. Paul Astell (Oswestry RMS and Vice President) asked for advice on keeping and maintaining CDs over time. He also added his thanks to Allan Child and the rest of the committee for their work.

c. It was reported that Allan Child had been offered the vacant position of the second Vice President role and he had accepted.

**11.** The new Chairman thanked everyone for attending and hoped to see everyone at next year’s AGM. He advised that the next ordinary committee meeting would take place on 9th December at 12 noon in Derby in order to say farewell to Allan Child. He declared the meeting closed at 2.45 pm.