

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Jan Modelski Orchestra
held on 21 February 2015 at 10.30 am at Barrow Village Hall

Apologies

Sarah Beazley, Andy Baker, Geoff Kitching, John Chilton; Tim, Sue and Rebecca Pilcher and Helen Asante- Siaw

39 members were present

Minutes of the last meeting were passed as a true record

Proposed David Ashton, Seconded Rosemary Pearson

Matters Arising

None

Amended Constitution

This is now on the website. There were no questions from the floor. The amended constitution was accepted. Proposed; Judy Chadwick Seconded James Arkell

Treasurer's report

Allan thanked all members who have helped out on the registration desk and Anna Tiplady for organising the rota. Collection of fees is easier under this system and attendance information is essential in case of forced evacuation of the hall.

Thanks were given to John Maguire for advising Allan in the role of treasurer. John examined 2014 accounts and signed them off as accurate.

The cash balance on 1 January 2014 was £2998.42. Cash balance on 31 December 2014 was £3965.69. Details of income and expenditure are shown in the **Statement of Accounts (attached)**, which were distributed

The Standing Order payment system was introduced in September 2014. Initially 29 members signed up, now grown to 45. Any player who attends more than 3 out of 4 rehearsals should consider paying this way as it works out cheaper than paying weekly. He clarified that SO payments are payable monthly in advance, over 12 calendar months.

Rehearsals continue to be well attended. Since September 2014 there has been an average of 63 players weekly, spread across the three orchestras. Of those players each rehearsal sees an approximate 50/50 split between PAYG and SO.

A step into the financial unknown was holding our Summer concert and Christmas Concerts away from Barrow Village Hall. In the past virtually all concert proceeds have been profit. However costs for outside venues have been roughly £350 per event, with an obvious impact on takings.

However Allan reported that it is not the aim to build up large cash reserves but reminded the AGM that it had been agreed that the orchestra should hold a reserve of £1500 in case the photocopier needs replacing. He advised that it would be sensible to also hold enough cash to ensure that the orchestra can continue to operate in the event that weekly income falls dramatically or there is an increase in hire fees for the hall.

If registration of the orchestra as a charity by the Charities Commission takes place Allan will be able to apply to HMRC to collect Gift Aid reimbursement, which should add roughly 20% to all Gift Aided donations. Members will be asked to complete a form once approval has been given.

There are now three Friends of the Orchestra and Allan would welcome more.

In conclusion, the orchestra is in good shape financially. Now that the treasury system is up and running, Allan would like to develop extra income from grants, donations or sponsorship. He would welcome information on likely sources.

Chair's report

Roanne thanked Allan for his report. In particular thank you for setting up the standing order payment scheme and Friends of the orchestra scheme.

Roanne welcomed the increase of members, noting that some of this is due to the new Beginning Orchestra which has really taken off. Thank you very much to Andy Baker for initiating, setting up and running this. She congratulated the new players on their performance at the concert in St Marys Centre. It has also provided a great opportunity for Innis Hallam and Hannah Rose to learn to conduct. The three orchestras are giving much musical opportunity to the community.

We are also now experiencing a great range of music, some quite challenging which we enjoy. (Thank you to Keith Stent for broadening our horizons). At the same time there are different instruments in the orchestra, for example the bass clarinet and the timps (we are very grateful to have the opportunity to use the timps) which together with an increase in string players, make a big difference to the sound we make.

Over the year the orchestras have played in two concerts for charity, two annual concerts and one by invitation for Chester Music Society. The new venues of St Mary's without-the-walls, St Marys Centre, Hoole United Reform Church and Whitby Sports and Social Club have been a challenge that the orchestras have risen to. Sadly because of the increase in numbers Barrow Village Hall has become too small for performances.

Dates for concerts in 2015 include:

July 19 Annual Summer Concert at Whitby (afternoon)

October 17 A charity concert by invitation at Caldby Valley Church, Chester

December 12 Annual Christmas concert

Roanne reported the sad loss of Tom Walker, violinist and keen player with the orchestra for many years. The orchestra sends thoughts to Tom's widow, Brenda.

As the orchestra gets bigger, changes have been necessary. A Health and Safety Policy is being developed. Up to date membership details are being collected so contact information is up to date. Safeguarding training has been attended by some officers of the orchestra. Membership of the organisation Making Music has been very valuable in helping us manage the necessary changes.

Roanne thanked all committee members for their work over the year. Thank you to Alison Revill for her service as secretary for many years. So many members help in so many ways much thanks is given to them, We could not function without their willing help. Too many to mention but those with specific roles were named; concert managers Geoff Kitching and Tony Stanley, Rosemary Pearson, librarian, Judy Newton for legal advice and Mags Kearns for publicity; also John Maguire who retired as membership secretary and Becky Chan leader of the fundraising team. Special thanks were given to Kyra de Groome and Tracey Phillips for their hard work and support since they joined the orchestra in 2010. However the biggest thank you goes to John Modelski for his dedication, inspiration and increasing hard work.

The future holds more of the same and hopefully more social events. Some members had been on a walk in Llangollen and it is hoped that more will be arranged.

Committee

Present members;

Chair: Roanne Paul,

Vice Chair: Tracey Phillips who has offered her resignation

Secretary: Alison Revill who has offered her resignation

Treasurer: Allan Wright.

Sarah Beazley: Charity Commission

Cathryn Dutton and Mie Steward; Membership secretaries.

Irena Emberson; Librarian.

Co-opted members:

Edward Jones

Anna Tiplady Registration Rota

Nominations for officers;

John Hopkins Vicechair.; Proposer, Roanne Paul, Seconder Allan Wright

Sarah Beazley Secretary; Proposer Roanne Paul; Seconder Allan wright

Nominations for committee members

Edward Jones, Tony Stanley, Anna Tiplady and Pam Toft.

Proposer Allan Wright, Seconder Alison Revill

No election was necessary. The membership accepted the new members

Non-committee members

Mags Kearns will take over the website

Zena Phillippou will produce fliers and programmes

Alison Revill will administer facebook

AOB

Dave Ashton pointed out that while he appreciated there is a cost to hiring a new venue, it is important to have a rehearsal in the venue for say 2 hours before a concert the night or week before the concert. It is important that players can experience the different acoustics and challenges of a new venue before actually performing.

Dave also drew attention to the timing of rehearsals which are getting later starting and finishing and pointed out that this was unfair on the conductor as well as players.

Roanne thanked Dave for his comments and will address the concerns expressed at the next committee meeting.

End of meeting/ Alison Revill 1.3.2015