

SOUTH WEST EARLY MUSIC FORUM

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 4 June 2011

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Heather Gibbard, Mary Thomas and Paula Biss. Those of the committee present were Peter Leech (Chairman), Madeline Hayward (Secretary), Richard Smith (Treasurer), Jacqui Smith, Sue Young, Stella Worrall, Simon Pickard, Dick Little and Sylvia Davies, together with three SWEMF non-committee members.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Stella Worrall proposed and Sue Young seconded approval of minutes of previous AGM on Saturday 21 May 2010.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Item 6. David Adams has attempted to arrange a workshop with David Allinson in February/March 2012. However David Allinson has accepted the post of Teaching Fellow at Bristol University and the workshop will have to take place outside term time. Thus a new date will have to be arranged.

Simon Pickard has not yet succeeded in arranging a workshop with David Hatcher who has proved to be elusive.

4. Chairman's Report

Peter Leech said that it had been a good year for the variety of events which had taken place. He thanked the committee for their hard work. Paula Biss had asked for more workshops for recorders and voices and had voiced her concern that SWEMF was in danger of becoming elitist. Peter Leech had found this distressing since, as chairman, he was responsible for the programme of events. However there was general agreement that it was difficult to cater adequately for all interests in the workshops, particularly since SWEMF covers a very large geographical area. Recorder players have The Society of Recorder Players available for playing opportunities in local areas. Stella Worrall stressed that instrumental groups for workshops should not be pre-selected but applicants should be accepted to be part of a balanced group. The organiser and tutor would make the final decision. This would avoid any concerns about elitism.

The National Early Music Association has produced a document entitled 'Vision & Strategy'. A copy is to be found on the SWEMF website. The document raises various points; many of these had been made by Peter Leech. It is not clear what NEMA's aims are. In any case the various Fora are in charge of their own affairs and NEMA is not involved directly. Peter Leech will continue to liaise with NEMA but will not be too involved with it.

He has enjoyed the past year as chairman but, with his wife expecting a baby, he wishes to cut back on his activities and to retire from the chairmanship in May 2012. He will have been chairman for four years and has succeeded in some of his aims but not all. He wishes to concentrate on the academic and performance aspects of his career. The year ahead should be used to plan for a new chairman to take over in 2012. At the next AGM in May 2012 a new chairman should be ready to take over.

Peter Leech congratulated Dick Little on the quality of the SWEMF website which compares very favourably with some of the other Early Music Fora websites.

5. Treasurer's Report

There was an increase in the number of members during 2010-2011 so the figure for subscriptions was higher. The charges made by tutors have increased as have other expenses. The overall profit was £521 with a profit of £582 from workshops. The subscriptions defray the cost of administration. Richard Smith proposed to repay the reserve account to bring it back to £4500 and it was agreed that this should be done.

There have been more workshops than in the previous year. The one at Exeter (Bach's B Minor Mass) was very successful with 70 people attending. In spite of a fee of £450 to each of the tutors, a profit of £134 was made. Thanks should go to Heather Gibbard and Mary Thomas for this success.

6. Forthcoming Events

The next workshop will be in Nailsea on 2 July 2011. Sylvia Davies was concerned that so far no tenors had applied.

Other future events are to be held on 10 September (Thorverton), 8 October (West Bay), 29 October (Thorverton), 26 November (Westbury), 11 February 2012 (Cornwall) and 19 May 2012 (Edington). It is likely that as usual there will be a workshop in Glastonbury in January 2012.

Simon Pickard said that there is a mediaeval workshop in the pipeline depending on a similar one happening elsewhere.

The workshop in May 2012 will be for loud wind and voices.

Peter Syrus, tutor on 4 June, will be very welcome to return to the area for another workshop.

7. Election of officers and committee

Heather Gibbard has said she wishes to give up as diary editor and so someone else should be found to take on the post. Edward James stressed the importance of the link with Bristol University as regards the printing which is of a very high standard and done at a reasonable cost.

Peter Leech proposed and Edward James seconded that the committee remains the same since no member is standing down.

8. **Any other business**

Jacqui Smith said that 70 people had not renewed their membership. These are mainly members who have previously paid by standing order but have omitted to fill in a new form issued because of the new banking arrangements. The December 2010 diary said an amended form was included for members to complete but it appears that this form was omitted. Jacqui Smith said that she will send new standing order forms to the relevant members who have not renewed their subscriptions. She asked the Web editor to put a notice on the website reminding members that many of them had not renewed their membership and inviting them to download the new Standing Order, also to ask them to provide her with a current email address. When this year's subscriptions have all been collected it may perhaps be a good time to consider an increase in the subscription rate.

Dick Little, website editor, said that it is his policy not to list other FORA events on the SWEMF website although these are included in the diary and users are directed to links for their websites. This policy was agreed by the meeting.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next AGM will be held on 19 May 2012 in Edington. The next committee meeting will be held on 29 October 2011 in Thorverton. Simon Pickard offered to take the minutes at that meeting since Madeline Hayward will be absent.