

Ealing Chamber Music Club

Minutes

of Annual General Meeting held on 14th November 2016 at 9 p.m.

1. **Present** - 18 members had stayed on from the concert. David Smith took the Chair in the absence of the President.
Apologies from Hugh Mather (President) and Toby Louw (Webmaster).
2. **Minutes** of the 2015 AGM were approved. (Proposed Vernon Wood, seconded Liz Sharma)
3. **Treasurer's Report.** (David Smith) See p.3 for Accounts.
The number of members and the level of expenses were about the same as last year, and the apparent loss is due to the £400 charitable donations agreed in 2015. (These went to Benslow, Help Musicians, Questors Young Musicians Club and Youth Music.) The finances are healthy and there is no need to increase subscriptions.
4. **Secretary's Report.** (Hilary Potts)
After our pleas at last year's AGM, it is excellent that we now have a Membership Secretary; John Heffernan, who also organises concerts. Members are asked to contact him direct for member information. We have admitted the occasional piano solo along the lines that we suggested last year, and there has been the occasional piano item. What we seem not to hear enough from are the strings; however, the present AGM had just been preceded by two splendid items involving strings. Even so, it seemed a long time since we had a string trio or quartet.
Vernon Wood reminded anyone sending emails to the whole membership to send them as blind copies. This maintained privacy and kept down the length for the recipient.
5. **Website Report** (Hilary Potts read the Report from Toby Louw)

OVERVIEW

We have a website at <http://www.ecmc.org.uk>, where we have details about the club's activities and how to join, and we also repeat the newsletter contents and have the programmes available for download. Unsurprisingly, it's not the most popular website on the Internet. Since the beginning of the year we've only had about 250 unique users accessing the site, mostly from the UK, and they only look at one or two pages before leaving. Few visitors come back. In fact, Google says we only had 11 returning visitors this year. Ideas for improvements are welcome!

COST REDUCTION:

Running the website is now extremely low-cost. Previously we had two costs associated with it: renting the name "[ecmc.org.uk](http://www.ecmc.org.uk)", and paying for hosting the files that make up the website so that the public can see them. This year we managed to get rid of the second cost by moving to something called "Github Pages", which is free to use since we're running the site as open source (the code for it is visible to anyone at <https://github.com/ealingchambermusic/ealingchambermusic.github.io>). Now we only need to pay for the use of the name "[ecmc.org.uk](http://www.ecmc.org.uk)", which we do from a registrar company called 123-reg, and this costs £8.38 incl. VAT every 2 years.

MEMBERS' ADDRESS DETAILS LEAK:

In January a new member pointed out that his address details were publicly available on the ECMC website and coming up in Google searches. When we investigated, we found that we'd been including the new member details at the bottom of the programmes which are available for download on the website, and it turns out that Google was dutifully indexing these. We've gone through the website carefully and removed this and any other addresses that may have slipped in, and we're quite confident that we got them all. Apologies if you were affected. Note that if you're mentioned by name in a programme or in the monthly newsletter, your name may also appear on the website, but we try to keep other sensitive information to a minimum now.

PICTURES: The website is always more interesting with some photos. If you have any ECMC-related photos, please do send them on to Toby for inclusion on the website.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

We have Facebook and Twitter accounts for ECMC, and have previously found some new members through social networking sites. Sadly we aren't active on these anymore (Toby hardly uses Facebook or Twitter). If you use Facebook or Twitter and think you might be interested in making an occasional tweet or post on behalf of ECMC, please get in touch with Toby and he can share the account details with you.

Discussion – Some members felt that 250 visits to such a specialised website were quite a good number, were impressed by how economically it was run, and praised the layout and ease of use. The Secretary urged members to use the Anthea Sharma Library catalogue, which was in the Website. As regards social media, Liz Sharma was active on Twitter and regularly mentioned the Club's activities. Lewis asked about putting music performances on the website. This would require care to observe copyright restrictions, but extracts of one or two minutes in length would be acceptable. John Heffernan had done some recording in the past, e.g. for Anthea Sharma's Memorial concert, but it took some time and effort to set up, so was unlikely to become routine.

6. Outreach. (Liz Sharma)

a) Schools

There were two performances of 'Wind Dragon' at Berrymede at the beginning of April, involving about 400 children singing songs, a 60-strong recorder orchestra and about 20 of us in the adult orchestra. On July 4th & 5th, children from 8 schools (including members of Berrymede recorder orchestra) performed 'Rainbow Island' conducted by Lee Marchant, and attended on the 5th by Master of the Queen's Music, Judith Weir, who was very impressed. Many thanks to those members who gave up two days & evenings to play in the orchestra.

In 2017 a new work 'Images of Earth' will have to be shelved because Ealing Music Service wants to perform 'Zoo Tales' with younger children in venues all over the borough for a week in the Summer. Therefore Berrymede will perform Zoo Tales at the end of March. Members will be invited to volunteer for this, and then for the Summer event, to opt in for any of the afternoons during the week that they are available.

b) London composers Forum concerts – there has been a lot of increased activity this year, and more plans for the future. Nine ECMC members have offered to be put on the list of possible performers. More members were invited to join the list, which did not oblige anyone to play on any particular occasion.

7. Election of officers and Committee members

The following were proposed and seconded by Catherine Holmes and Lizbet Fairley, and re-elected.

Hugh Mather	President
Hilary Potts	Secretary
David Smith	Treasurer & Concert Organiser
John Heffernan	Membership Secretary and Concert Organiser.
Liz Sharma:	Outreach, resident composer & Concert Organiser
Lewis Lev	Piano Co-ordinator & Concert Organiser
Saori Howse	Concert Organiser
Andrew Lewandowski	Concert Organiser
Toby Louw	Website Manager

8. Any other business.

Liz Sharma announced the programme for the Christmas Play-in, and hoped that the invited singers (ESO's Vocal Section) would also bring their instruments. Rainer Hersch would conduct. She recommended a talk to be given by Laura Rossi on 7th December at Berrymead about writing for film. (Laura being the composer of background music for the film "Battle of the Somme"). Tickets £15.

Lewis Lev suggested that the ECMC should give a public concert once a year, with selected players only. Several members thought this sounded rather elitist and perhaps contrary to the ethos of the Club. It was not clear what the purpose of such a concert would be. Chris Crocker suggested we could sometimes give a charity concert. (In fact, the Anthea Sharma memorial concert was a charity concert, raising over £500.) The Secretary pointed out that we are already public in the sense that non-members can get our programmes from our website or from the Friends of St Mary's mailouts, and are welcomed with a free drink if they come.

Vernon Wood thanked the Committee for their work and the meeting ended at 9.30

Ealing Chamber Music Club

Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 31st August 2016

Receipts and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2016			
	This Year £		Last Year £
Total Receipts	780.00		1,415.30
Total Payments	1,076.88		1,562.34
Net Receipts	-296.88		-147.04
Account balance b/forward	1,878.11		2,025.15
Account balance c/forward	1,581.23		1,878.11
Receipts for the year			
Subscriptions	780.00		830.00
Charities (donations received)	0.00		585.30
Donations	0.00		0.00
Total Receipts	780.00		1,415.30
Payments for the year			
Hire of St Mary's / other venues	405.00		525.00
Ealing Arts and Leisure	65.00		65.00
Charities (payments made)	400.00		685.30
Website / phone	8.38		30.10
Secretarial / printing / copying	0.00		60.18
Refreshments / flowers	198.50		196.76
Total Payments	1,076.88		1,562.34
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 August 2016			
Monetary Assets:			
Bank Current Account	1,601.23		1,878.11
Cash	0.00		0.00
Total Monetary Assets	1,601.23		1,878.11
Liabilities:			
Uncashed Cheques	9.50		0.00
Subscriptions received in advance	20.00		65.00
Net Assets	1,571.73		1,813.11

The material differences from 2015 to 2016 were:

- We donated £400 to various musical charities – to Benslow, Help Musicians, Questors Young Musicians Club and Youth Music
- The previous year we collected £585 for the Stroke Association

Club funds remain healthy and so there is no need to increase subscriptions for 2015-16.

David Smith, September 2016