

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

**Annual General Meeting 11:15am on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006 held at St Matthew's Church Hall, Wood Lane, Chapel Allerton, Leeds**

## **1. Apologies**

Richander Birkinshaw, Dudley and Sue Hanson, Pam and Alan Radford, Anna Shuttleworth.

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

The minutes were approved with one correction – it's Gill, not Jill, Knowles - and signed by the Chairman, Jillian Johnson.

## **3. Matters arising**

No progress has been made on setting up an early music camping weekend. Gill Knowles asked the meeting how many present would be interested in such an event. There was a good show of hands. Gill said that she would have another go at making it happen. A subcommittee consisting of Gill, Elisabeth Hedges and Thomas Green was proposed and accepted.

Someone asked what progress had been made with the Forum's under-18s policy. Jillian said that it was established and reported in the newsletter.

## **4. Officer's Reports**

### **Chairman:**

Jillian said that NEEMF was operating well, though we have had one major loss from the committee; Richard Lee, our enthusiastic and hard-working Development Officer, has left the UK for France with his wife. A replacement is needed, to serve for at least two years, to liaise with the Arts Council. The Residential Weekend made a loss this year despite increased charges, but another 4-5 attendees would have seen us break even. The Committee thinks that this event should continue.

### **Secretary:**

John Murdie had no report.

### **Membership Secretary:**

Marion Bolton reported that the Forum membership has dropped from 212 to 209 members, but that 30 members are behind with their subscription, more than last year at this time.

Marion thinks that the publicity at The Sage, Gateshead, was bad, and she has complained to them. The meeting discussed the need for the Forum to renew its local publicity throughout our region, particularly with public libraries.

### **Treasurer:**

Bill Hunt summarised the finances. The bottom line figures were alarming – a £1700 loss from workshops largely because of a £880 loss at the Residential Weekend and a £630 loss from the workshop at The Sage. A loss in other quarters had been compensated for by £1200 from the Arts Council. Gift Aid, previously suspended for a year while we adjusted our application, had brought in £370 from the Inland Revenue. Peter Gallant asked if the music studied at an event have a discernable influence on a workshop's finances – the workshop at The Sage had been well-attended. Bill said that the large fees requested by the directors had been the problem there. Jillian said that it is accepted that the Forum will run some smaller workshops with the expectation of financial loss. We exist to promote early music.

Bill said that our expenditure on insurance was £60 for public liability and £60 for the NEEMF lute. Gill Knowles said that we charge a hire fee of £15 a quarter for the lute.

The meeting felt that members' loyalty should be rewarded with lower workshop fees – someone even asked whether there was any point in being a member any more, now that event fees were the same for members and non-members, and with all the event publicity being on the website. Jillian said that that the requirements of Gift Aid made differential

workshop charges impossible. Someone asked if NEEMF members could have priority booking for workshops. Jillian said that we take care that the paper booking form sent only to members appears before the entry on the website.

Bill said that there was felt to be no need to raise the membership fees this year. The motion was proposed and seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Events Coordinator:**

Thomas Green said that his role was not only to coordinate the events, but to take suggestions for them from the membership. Jillian Johnson exhorted the membership to suggest ideas. A young persons' day was suggested, as was another choral day.

#### **Newsletter Editor:**

Alison Down said that she would like to encourage letters to the editor – in addition to the reports we ask people to write after they have attended a workshop. We also need an assistant in Leeds to pick up the newsletters from the printers and to fill the envelopes and apply the printed labels sent by the Membership Secretary. We do this four times a year, and all expenses will be paid. Lian French volunteered for the job, with congratulations from the Committee and the membership.

#### **Webmaster:**

Thomas Green reported that he has remade the website – it is now suitable for more of the different web browser programs. The Forum still has an online discussion group. He is trying to arrange an online shared calendar system. Jillian thanked Thomas on behalf of the Forum for his work.

### **5. Election of Officers**

As mentioned in the report from the Chair, an Arts Council Liaison Officer is required. Elizabeth Hedges said that she believed that she had the experience to take on this post. She was proposed by Gill Knowles and seconded by Pauline Duncan-Austwick. There is also a vacancy on the NEEMF Committee for an officer without portfolio. Ann Christys was proposed by Jo Green and seconded by Alison Down. Both new Committee members were elected by show of hands unopposed. The existing members of the committee were similarly re-elected en bloc.

### **6. Past and future events**

John Murdie pointed out that the list of past events was contained in the financial report.

There was some discussion of the past year's workshops.

Jillian asked for a show of hands to indicate interest in the Residential Weekend.

Approximately 6/7 of the meeting raised a hand. Someone asked how the date was set at the beginning of September. Jillian said that this was constrained by the use of academic premises – earlier in the summer is taken by academic conferences, and later would run into the start of University term. Another show of hands was asked for to see if this event was approved of in principle, and the result was a unanimous 'Yes'. The Committee exhorted the members present to come and try it for themselves – people have a good time there!

### **7. Date of the next meeting**

This year's AGM has been held somewhat later than is normal, which we will correct next year. The next AGM is expected to be held by early October 2007 at the latest. We hope to combine it with a part-day workshop for singers and instrumentalists, directed by the ever-popular John Bryan. (He is a previous Chair of the Forum.)

### **8. Any other business**

None.

The meeting closed at 12:40.