



The Plainsong and Medieval Music Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Victoria Rooms, University of Bristol on Saturday 26 April 2008 at 5.00 pm

Present

Giuliano Di Bacco, Bonnie Blackburn, John Caldwell, Lisa Colton, Helen Deeming, Christopher Edge, Barbara Eichner, John Harper (treasurer), Emma Hornby, Leofranc Holford-Strevens, Elizabeth Eva Leach (chair), Christian Leitmeir, Louise McInnes, Mary O'Neill, Owen Rees (secretary), Bruno Turner

In attendance

Anna Burson (Administrator)

1. Apologies

Nicolas Bell, Margaret Bent, Jane Flynn, William Flynn, David Mateer, Thomas Schmidt-Beste, Ron Woodley

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the last AGM were received. Two alterations to the wording of minute 4 were approved:

p.1: 'but also his close personal involvement in every aspect of its appearance and production to ensure the highest standards of typography, paper and binding.'

p.2, item 4: deletion of 'the'.

The minutes were approved by the meeting, and signed.

The minutes from the extraordinary general meeting held on 17 July 2006 were also presented. There was one amendment: the deletion of Bonnie Blackburn's name from item 1 (Apologies). These minutes were then approved.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

None

4. Chairman's Report for the period 1 November 2006 to 31 December 2007

The chairman introduced the report. She highlighted the continuing success of day conferences organised by the society and drew attention to next year's conference in Huddersfield. The chairman reported that James Borders will replace Joseph Dyer as co-editor of *PMM*. With regard to membership of PMMS, the chairman suggested that it would be beneficial for a member of Council to have specific responsibility for overseeing recruitment and membership, and invited volunteers for this role.

The chairman thanked those who had served on Council over the past year (and in particular those now stepping down), as well as the society's administrator.

5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts: 1 November 2006 to 31 December 2007

The treasurer summarised the society's financial position over the past 10 years. The increase in income from subscriptions and from the sale of publications has enabled the society to undertake new activities, including the annual conference, subventions for new publications and other grants (e.g. to support the Salisbury Cathedral 750th Anniversary Latin liturgy this year). The sales income from the new edition of *Compline* is particularly welcome, and the society is encouraged to consider other publication projects which would prove similarly 'evergreen'. The treasurer also underlined the benefits of the closer relationship between PMMS and CUP.

The treasurer reported that the accounts for the period 1 November 2006 to 31 December 2007 have been examined by Miss Alison Armstrong (Deputy Finance Manager, College of Arts and Humanities, Bangor University) in lieu of (and with the approval of) the honorary auditor, Julia Harrison Place. Although the accounts showed a deficit, the sum expended in grants and publication subventions accounted for this, and reflected the policy of Council to use the accumulated balance to further the purposes of the society.

It was noted that the following matters would be taken forward by the Council, following the recommendations of the examiner, Alison Armstrong:

- i. redemption of the War Bond
- ii. detailed review and reconciliation of the subscription list
- iii. change of current bank account to a less expensive arrangement
- iv. checking of the society's liabilities resulting from the payment of any honorarium.

The treasurer's report was received, and the accounts were approved.

6. Changes to Customary

The meeting considered two changes to the Customary. The following changes were approved, and these texts will replace those in the present edition of the Customary.

Paragraph 10.1: The financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December.

Proposed: Leofranc Holford-Strevens, seconded by Bonnie Blackburn.

Paragraph 10.6: Once at least in every year the accounts of the society shall be examined and the correctness of the income and expenditure accounts and the balance sheet ascertained by one or more competent person or persons appointed by the society in the AGM. Where either the income or expenditure of the society in any one year exceeds the threshold set by the Charity Commission this shall include a person qualified to audit the accounts.

Proposed: John Caldwell, seconded by Leofranc Holford-Strevens.

It was noted that the current threshold for income or expenditure set by the Charity Commission is £10,000 in any one year.

7. Election of president, vice-presidents, trustees and officers

The chairman reported that the following members of Council are standing down: Helen Deeming, John Harper, David Mateer, and Owen Rees.

The society has been without a president for several years. The Council, acknowledging Bruno Turner's long service to PMMS, had nominated him as president. The chairman expressed the hope that his election would offer new opportunities for reaching out in particular to members and potential members who are performers and those active outside scholarly circles.

The chairman reported that there are current two vice-presidents: Prof. Michel Huglo and Prof. David Hiley. The Council had therefore nominated two additional vice-presidents: Dr Margaret Bent and Prof. John Harper.

The meeting proceeded to the following elections (a–f), which were approved *nem. con.*:

a. President: Mr Bruno Turner

b. Vice-Presidents

i. Dr Margaret Bent

ii. Prof. John Harper

c. Re-election of trustees

Nicolas Bell, Lisa Colton, Jane Flynn, William Flynn, and Mary O'Neill

d. New executive trustees

i. Dr Christian Leitmeir

ii. Prof. Thomas Schmidt-Beste

e. New advisory trustees

i. Prof. John Caldwell

ii. Prof. Susan Rankin

f. Officers:

i. Chairman: Dr Elizabeth Eva Leach

ii. Secretary: Prof. Thomas Schmidt-Beste

iii. Treasurer: Dr Christian Leitmeir

8. Appointment of honorary examiners and honorary legal advisor

The chairman returned to item 5 (the treasurer's report) and noted that examiners (rather than an auditor) need to be appointed for next year's accounts.

The following were appointed:

i. John Harper as internal examiner

ii. Alison Armstrong as honorary independent examiner

iii. Barry Williams as honorary legal advisor.

9. Conference 2010

The chairman invited proposals for a theme and location for the conference in 2010. The possibility that this might be linked to one of the AHRC-funded workshops on medieval liturgy was noted.

10. Allocation of duties among the executive trustees

The chairman expressed her wish to identify an executive trustee who would liaise with the society's president over the production of flyers or bulletins for the society. She also noted two further vacancies with regard to the roles of executive trustees: one to oversee the organisation of the 2010 conference and another to concentrate on recruiting new members to the society. It was agreed that this matter should be taken forward by the Council.

11. Any other business

Thanks having already been expressed to Lisa Colton and Emma Hornby for the organisation of the day's events, and the hospitality of the University of Bristol, the chairman expressed particular thanks to John Harper and Owen Rees for all their contributions to the society over more than a decade.

Lisa Colton encouraged the submission of proposals for next year's conference 'Nothing New? Understanding newness in medieval and contemporary music' at the Centre for Research in New Music, University of Huddersfield (25–26 April). She also introduced Louise McInnes and Christopher Edge who will be assisting with its organisation.

12. Date of next meeting

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 25 April 2009 during the society's conference at the University of Huddersfield.