

Annual General Meeting 9.00pm November 18th, 2024

Agenda:

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on October 30th 2023** *[copy appended]*
- 3. Matters arising** *[except where listed specifically below]*
- 4. Chairman's Remarks**
- 5. Musical Director's Remarks**
- 6. Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Adoption of audited accounts for 2023-2024 season
 - b. Ratification of Subscription rates for 2024-2025 season

7. Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and General Secretary

Officers standing for re-election:

Chairman: Michael Selway
Vice Chairman: Clive Steward
General Secretary: Janet Noble

8. Election of other Officers

Officers standing for re-election:

Treasurer:	Ailsa McMahon
Membership Secretary:	Jane Walters
Librarian	Judith Henderson
Making Music representative:	Ailsa McMahon
Minutes Secretary	Janet Noble
Website Manager	Antony Gordon
Concert Secretary	Laura Marshall / Jenny Selway
Publicity Officer	Catherine Palmer

9. Election of Ordinary Committee Members:

In addition to the formal positions above, the Committee is further augmented by ordinary Members who serve for terms of up to three years.

The following candidates have indicated their willingness to stand for election:

Alison Stephenson Pauline Lloyd

Any additional nominations may be notified in advance to the General Secretary, Janet Noble, or may be proposed during the meeting itself.

10. Any other business

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022-2023

Held at St John's on October 30th 2023 at 8.55pm

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Graham and Maggie Hall, Amy Cordani, Sue Cordani and Gavin Grant.

2. Approval of previous Minutes

There being no amendments or corrections, the Minutes were adopted and approved unanimously.

3. Matters arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chairman's remarks

Looking back it has been a wonderful season. We opened with a standing ovation for the Messiah, the first time we had performed the work since 2004. We followed this with a reprise of one of our lockdown pieces, the Charpentier mass, at our Christmas concert at Goudhurst. It was a delight to sing Jenkins, the Peacemakers, in the spring allowing us the opportunity to showcase a contemporary, more spiritual work in the choral repertoire. We rounded off the season with a rousing Gilbert and Sullivan programme held at Holmewood House school theatre, a venue that lent itself to drinks afterwards on the terrace on a warm summer's evening.

We have a phenomenal season in store ahead of us with the Beethoven Mass in C in the spring. This concert, you may recall, had been originally intended to celebrate the composer's 250th anniversary but was forced to be postponed due to the pandemic. We have also the prospect of singing it twice, as we take it on tour to Wiesbaden the following week. We continue with Mendelssohn's Elijah this time next year and we'll shortly be planning the programmes for 2025.

In terms of the administration of the Society, we have increased the frequency of Committee meetings holding them at a regular venue, the Southborough hub. My thanks to all the Committee and Officers for their work and support, you've done an amazing job.

Thanks to you, the members – after all, this is all because you want to sing! There's also a lot of additional work that goes on behind the scenes to enable us to run smoothly and I'd like to take this opportunity to make special mention of a few of those people without whom we'd be stuck.

A big thank you to David Miller who acts as our auditor (despite having transferred his singing allegiances to Kentish Opera!) ; to Elena Lewis-Grey for her sterling work in keeping our Patrons up to date with our activities (as an aside, if you know of anyone who would like to become a patron do let us know - a possible Christmas present idea?). Thanks to Debbie and Yvonne for their sterling work in running the weekly raffle; to Antony Gordon for continuing to help out with web site issues whilst Isobel has been busy with exams; to Sarah, Ailsa and Catherine for organizing the recent Wine and Cheese social event.

Last, but by no means least, huge thanks to Robyn and to Craig for their continued enthusiasm, dedication and musical leadership. Your efforts continue to be most appreciated by everyone.

5. Musical Director's remarks

I'd like to echo the Chairman's remarks – thanks to you all for coming along every week! It's an amazing time and as I look back over the last twelve months I'm impressed by your ability to cope with the wide range of music we tackled together. Not even that huge battery of percussion on stage for the Peacemakers phased you - you adapted to every challenge and ate them all up. Well done and thank you.

I'd like to thank the Committee without whom none of this would be possible and especially to Sheila Jones who I see is stepping down this evening from her role as Concert Secretary. She has been tireless, patient and extremely efficient and I've enjoyed working with her immensely.

And with this evening's rehearsal as a case in point, how lucky are we to have Craig on our side. It's truly a huge joy to work with you and you are much appreciated.

Onwards and upwards!

6. Treasurer's report

The Accounts having been previously circulated, the Treasurer highlighted a couple of items.

Subscription income is up, reflecting the growth in membership. We have also benefitted from a £500 Community Grant from Southern Water (thanks to Clive Steward for organising the application!) which will go towards the forthcoming Wiesbaden trip.

The raffle continues to make a significant contribution at £900.

Ticket Sales are very important – it's interesting to note that for the Jenkins concert in the spring we sold more tickets than ever before in my time as treasurer. Promotion is obviously key to this success.

Gift Aid is also an important contributor.

There being no questions, the accounts were adopted unanimously.

With respect to Subscriptions, the Treasurer explained that although endorsed by the Committee in August, and due at the start of the Season, the actual figures were subject to ratification at the AGM. This year our subs are £150 with the option of half year instalments (2 x £75). Tuition proportion, for Gift Aid purposes and calculated in accordance with HMRC guidelines, is set at £11.

The 23/4 Subscription level was unanimously ratified.

The Treasurer echoed the thanks to David Miller for his invaluable help in turning her working documents into these formal Accounts. His wonderful support is most appreciated.

On the Treasurer's recommendation, the continued appointment of David as Auditor was also unanimously confirmed.

7. Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary

All current Officers have agreed to continue in their roles and, there having been no further nominations, their positions were confirmed for another year.

Chairman	Michael Selway
Vice Chairman	Clive Steward
General Secretary	Janet Noble

8. Election of other Officers

The following Officers have agreed to continue in their roles and, there having been no further nominations, their positions were confirmed for another year.

Treasurer	Ailsa McMahan
Membership	Jane Walters
Librarian	Judith Henderson
Publicity Officer	Isobel Lowe
Making Music rep	Ailsa McMahan
Minutes Secretary	Janet Noble
Website Manager	Isobel Lowe

Sheila Jones, after more than a decade in post, is stepping down today from her role as Concert Secretary. The chairman thanked her on behalf of the Society for such sterling work; every concert she has overseen has been a resounding success, there's never a ripple, everything always seems to run as smoothly as clockwork. So much of our success is solely down to her efforts and we are most grateful.

On behalf of the society, Sheila was presented with a bouquet of flowers to much applause from members present. She thanked everyone, commenting that despite appearances it had not all been plain sailing, tough at times, but that she had enjoyed her tenure.

Appointment of new Concert Secretary

Two nominees have agreed to share the role going forward, Jenny Selway and Laura Marshall. Having been co-opted onto the Committee in August, their position was unanimously ratified by the meeting.

9. Election of ordinary Committee Members

In addition to the formal positions above, the Committee is augmented by ordinary Members who serve for terms of up to three years.

The following candidates, having indicated their willingness to stand for election, were duly elected to the Committee.

Nicholas Franck (co-opted to the Committee in January 2023)
Catherine Palmer
Antony Gordon

10. Any Other Business

Adriana Capadose asked if the Committee had been able to identify why ticket sales had been good for the Peacemakers concert. Should we be looking at performing more of these type of popular works?

Nick Veasey commented that perhaps it was the "Classic FM" effect, as they promoted a lot of contemporary music within their playlists.

A short general discussion ensued about future programming. The Chairman invited any suggestions for consideration as they would be most appreciated for the next planning meeting, due to take place early in the New Year for 2024 and 2025.

Pieces mentioned in the open session were Bruckner Masses (very tuneful although possibly not widely known) and Mozart C Minor Mass.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	31 JULY 2024	31 JULY 2023
	£	£
GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
Income		
Subscriptions & donations	17,859	16,366
Other income	4,358	3,350
	22,217	19,716
Expenditure		
Core expenditure on musical activities	9,924	8,962
Other expenditure	2,036	1,870
	(11,960)	(10,832)
General income surplus (see detail page 3)	10,257	8,884
CONCERT ACCOUNTS		
Autumn	(2,250)	(2,443)
Christmas	(377)	(222)
Spring	(4,866)	(2,426)
Summer	(4)	454
	(7,497)	(4,637)
Net (deficit) on concerts (see detail page 4)	(7,497)	(4,637)
OTHER EVENTS		
Wiesbaden trip - receipts	13,635	-
Expenditure	(20,119)	-
Net (deficit)	(6,484)	-
Wine tasting net	328	-
	(6,156)	-
Net (deficit) on other events	(6,156)	-
Overall surplus/(deficit) for the year	(3,396)	4,247
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	49,170	44,923
	45,774	49,170
Accumulated funds at end of year	45,774	49,170


ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2024

	31 JULY 2024		31 JULY 2023	
	£	£	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>45,774</u>		<u>49,170</u>
REPRESENTED BY:				
Debtors and prepayments - note 1		118		224
Cash at bank				
Deposit account - CAF	40,575		39,597	
Current account - CAF	5,421		9,349	
		<u>45,996</u>		<u>48,946</u>
		46,114		
Creditors and accruals - note 2		(340)		-
		<u>45,774</u>		<u>49,170</u>

I have examined the accounts of The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, together with the books, vouchers produced, and explanations given and in my opinion they are in accordance therewith.


DAVID MILLER FCA
Hon. Auditor

Date: 23.10.2024

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	31 JULY 2024			31 JULY 2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Subscriptions & donations						
Patrons			1,208			1,538
Legacies, donations, sponsors			1,100			605
			2,308			2,143
Members			15,551			14,223
			17,859			16,366
Other income						
Gift Aid tax reclaim		2,160		1,907		
Bank interest		1,003		365		
Sale and hire of music & folders		216		40		
Self help						
Raffles	919			961		
CD and music sales	60			47		
Easyfundraising/Amazon	-			30		
			979			1,038
			4,358			3,350
			22,217			19,716
EXPENDITURE						
Core expenditure on musical activities (rehearsals)						
Musical director		5,280		4,800		
Accompanist		2,380		2,016		
Hall hire		2,264		2,146		
			9,924			8,962
Other expenditure						
Making Music (inc Insurance)		543		433		
IT/Web hosting/Zoom		345		328		
Committee, sundries		314		305		
Purchase of drinks tokens, cups etc		-		109		
Music library/storage		569		630		
Purchase of music folders		203		-		
Bank charges		62		65		
			2,036			1,870
			(11,960)			(10,832)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			10,257			8,884

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

CONCERT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

	Autumn 2023 Fauré Durufé	Christmas 2023 Goudhurst	Spring 2024 Beethoven Handel	Summer 2024 Chilcott	Total for Year	Total previous year
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
INCOME						
Ticket sales	5,255	761	4,330	1,579	11,925	13,893
Programme sales/advertising	392	-	373	-	765	935
Music hire/sales	224	215	416	306	1,161	708
	<u>5,871</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>5,119</u>	<u>1,885</u>	<u>13,851</u>	<u>15,536</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Assembly Hall hire & related costs	4,121	-	3,850	-	7,971	7,913
Hall hire & staging other	-	312	-	600	912	862
Conductor	620	300	620	300	1,840	1,670
Soloists vocal & instrumental	750	150	1,350	210	2,460	2,025
Orchestra/band	1,465	-	2,760	-	4,225	4,655
Organ hire	590	-	340	-	930	-
Music hire/purchase	227	136	545	342	1,250	1,245
Printing, publicity, drinks, gifts	348	455	520	437	1,760	1,803
	<u>8,121</u>	<u>1,353</u>	<u>9,985</u>	<u>1,889</u>	<u>21,348</u>	<u>20,173</u>
NET (DEFICIT)	<u>(2,250)</u>	<u>(377)</u>	<u>(4,866)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(7,497)</u>	<u>(4,637)</u>

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 JULY 2024

	<u>31.7.24</u>	<u>31.7.23</u>
<u>Debtors and Prepayments</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Note 1</u>		
Next season's costs paid in advance	118	224
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>118</u>	<u>224</u>
<u>Creditors and Accruals</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Note 2</u>		
Concert invoice paid after year end	340	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>340</u>	<u>-</u>