

EALING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Annual General Meeting on 15th December 2016
in Ealing Green Church
Minutes

The Mayor of Ealing, Cllr Dr Patricia Walker, who had arrived early to hear the orchestra playing through Rachmaninov's Second Symphony, opened the meeting.

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated and were agreed, with no objections and no matters arising.

John Gibbons gave his conductor's report. He reminded the members of each concert, noting an astonishing mix of music to satisfy both the curious and those preferring well-trodden paths. He mentioned especially Alexander Panfilov's amazing performance of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto when he replaced the Ealing Festival winner, who had had to withdraw due to injury at only a couple of days' notice. The orchestra was continually improving, both in performance and socially. His report was received with acclamation.

In her report, Chairman Jo Boswell said the orchestra had surmounted some significant challenges, not least in the February opera concert, with its demand for great flexibility in following the conductor, and a wide dynamic range. She said that John Gibbons struck an excellent balance between the necessary strictness to achieve the best possible performance, and the enjoyment essential for amateur players. She thanked the committee, especially Joey Innes-Hopkins, who was standing down but would continue her valuable organisation of the refreshments at concerts, Gary Walker, who was doing so much to vitalise the Friends of the ESO, and Secretary Richard Partridge. Ideas for improvement were always welcome. Her full report follows in the minute book.

David Smith presented the season's accounts. It had been an exceptional season financially, and the substantial surplus was largely due to the elimination of the backlog of Gift Aid refunds, and the absence of a foreign trip; it was also the first time that income from members had broken the £10,000 barrier. There were no questions. The independently examined accounts were adopted *nem con*, and follow in the minute book.

The election of Officers and Committee followed. With no fresh nominations from the floor, the following committee, having been proposed and seconded by the retiring committee, was elected *en bloc, nem con*.

Hon. Chairman	Jo Boswell
Hon. Treasurer	David Smith
Hon. Librarian	Steve Warrington
Hon. Orchestral Manager	Maddy Thomas
Hon. Secretary	Richard Partridge
Hon. Front-of-House Manager	Olivia Tan
Hon. Publicity Manager	Jenny Davies
Members	Paul Grigg (assistant treasurer) Sarah Lough Hilary Potts Gary Walker (Friends representative) David Weedon (social secretary)

The roles shown for the ordinary committee members are agreed by the committee rather than the General Meeting.

Martyn Humphreys proposed a vote of thanks to the conductor and committee. This was carried by acclamation.

Patrick Grattan proposed a vote of thanks to Melanie Crompton, who had founded the ESO Singers, to which she gave her considerable talents, showing remarkable patience and enthusiasm. This was also carried by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed, having lasted for ten minutes. 37 paid-up members had been present. The Mayor expressed her admiration for the meeting's efficiency, saying it was the best AGM she had chaired; she and her husband stayed on as the Rachmaninov was resumed.