

Treasurer's Annual report Bromsgrove Concerts Season ending 30th April 2024

Introduction

It has been another difficult year financially. Our reserves are still secure.

Administration

Online banking continues to be helpful, with three accounts with HSBC, 2 current accounts and a deposit account as well as recourse to the High Street bank as required.

Arrangements for working alongside the Bromsgrove School has not changed from last season. The front of house staff on concert nights have been very supportive and helpful as ever, within the ongoing constraints on what the school can provide. They facilitate walk-in ticket bookings through their system. We continue to have to use our own system via the website for whole season subscriptions, which the School cannot handle. Invoices for the hire of halls and other costs were charged nett of receipts from the box office, but at the end of the season. This has again meant that until the end of the season, PRS reports, calculations on available cash flow and other management decision making have had to be subject to intelligent guess work. The club is still not able to capture contact email addresses for audience members who walk in on the night.

Financial performance

We will again show a loss of around £5,000, subject to any adjustment following our Independent Assessor's Report.

Four applications for grants amounting to £5,000 were achieved. Very many thanks to John de la Cour and the trustees of the Elmley Foundation and to the RVW trust, latterly the Vaughan Williams Foundation, and also to the Grimmit Trust for their belief in us and generous support.

We achieved only a modest proportion of our previous seasons' ticket sales by all methods, including streaming. The best income was generated by the Birmingham Phil concert. The attendance for our 60th Anniversary concert with the Solem Quartet was disappointing despite extra publicity and complimentary drinks.

The sales of the programme book, and the 'History of Bromsgrove Concerts since 1963' were consequently disappointing, although some sales of the history were achieved this year through the Bromsgrove Society's book store.

Donations and fundraising

Member Donations and second hand CD sales were very helpful as ever and the committee is enormously grateful to members who made donations. We have tried hard to keep in touch with supporters by html email and also last season via Mailchimp. The offer of our live streamed concerts for all who buy normal tickets has helped those who find it difficult to venture out, (particularly after COVID) as well as some overseas supporters. However, it does mean a lower box office take.

Joyce Chamberlain, Hon Treasurer, May 2024

Postscript:

The accountants have now (July 20th 2024) completed their formal accounts to April 30th 2024. Therefore, my report to the AGM for endorsement can confirm the following:

Total Funds at 30/04/2024 £26,073 with a Deficit for 2023/24 £4,884.

We expect a further deficit for 2024/5 amounting to around £2000.

The full accounts are available for those who request it.