

## Endcliffe Orchestra Committee: Thursday 27th Nov. 2025

### Draft Minutes

1. Apologies: Alex, Neil, Lindsay, Karen, John and Ralph. Present: Chris, Alison, Clare, Lisa, Matt and River.

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting of 23rd October.

Several small corrections were made: the flyers that were now available were for the January 31st concert; a question was raised about the number of rehearsals that members should be required to attend and it was said that section leaders were finding it difficult to enforce a limit, rather leaders should ask which members of their sections were definitely committed to coming to the concert; it was wrongly reported that there was a social event on 1st March - this is not the case, indeed, that is the date of the workshop for the composing competition.

With these corrections made, the Draft Minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. Declaration of items for AOB: One issue - Library issues

4. Agenda items

a. Final arrangements for the December concert and further arrangements for the January 31st concert

It was reported that there had been good liaison meetings with the concert management group of the SYO. All concert arrangements, including the seating plan were now on Slack. There was a report of the excellent ticket sales with the 3:00pm concert sold out and some tickets still remaining for the 12:00pm concert.

As regards the January concert(s) tickets are now on sale via the website and through the QR code. River has spoken to Polly Ives and all is in hand for narration for all the items including Billy the Kid .

We have not heard further from Sir Paul McCartney's office. **Chris** will follow this up in the New Year.

We discussed the free concert specially for children and families and **it was agreed** that we should ask **Catherine (2nd violins)** to see if she could arrange some art materials and cushions for a special children's area (this time not at the front of the audience but in another appropriate space). We **agreed that we need a notice that children need to be**

**supervised** and this is **their parent's responsibility**. We should also **consider, as we did last time, whether to have some hats or headwear** for Peter and the Wolf etc.

b. Marketing matters

We discussed whether there were enough flyers especially since some were being placed on display tables at the Frozen Festivities concert. We would also need flyers about the composing competition available for display on Dec. 6th.

The question was raised as to whether we were 'contributing' a Christmas tree to the Christmas trees at MMC - as one of the groups that regularly uses their facilities. This could be another avenue for advertising our concerts. It was felt to be too late for this season, **but something that could be thought about next year**.

Lisa pointed out that there was plenty of space for adverts in our forthcoming programmes and we should try and encourage those who would pay for adverts.

c. Progress on the composing competition: procedures and timescale for judging entries.

The flyers advertising the composing competition were available and we should distribute them as widely as possible. Lisa asked whether the competition had been advertised in Facebook and this was to be looked into. Clare asked for clarification on the procedures for the judging panel. **River agreed to produce some guidelines for the judges**. We need to know from John how many entries had been presented up to this point.

d. Roll out and use of Slack

We had a general discussion of the current use of Slack. No decision was to be taken until after Christmas when the views of the full orchestra are to be canvassed. A few general comments were made: that it would be important, if a decision were made to use Slack, that everything be moved to this app so that all information is only in one place ( e.g. WhatsApp groups closed and no Newsletter by email.) We also proposed some changes in nomenclature e.g. 'General' changed to 'All

members' and to delete the 'Random' channel. We would also have a channel for the Tea and Coffee rota.

e. Membership application criteria.

We discussed at length the Membership application form in which potential members would be asked, in addition to basic information, their approximate playing standard and whether they already play with another orchestra or group. We discussed the point as to whether seats in the Endcliffe Orchestra, which prides itself as a development orchestra, should be available to players who already have seats in other orchestras and whether this would go against our ethos. If there were to be a competition between someone who already plays in another orchestra versus someone who does not have a seat in an orchestra, then we would tend towards taking the person with no orchestral experience.

As regards applications from string players we should require a standard of grade 6 or above, and for woodwind principals of Grade 8.

The application then goes to the section leader and to River and (as regards strings) to Ralph. The applicant is then asked to come to three rehearsals to gain a feel for the orchestra and vice versa.

If the applicant is to join the orchestra, they will be given a membership pack which includes a physical copy of the code of conduct and an agreement to pay subs and to join Slack (if this is chosen as our means of communication). They will be asked to promote the orchestra and its concerts and to assist, wherever they can, in the running of the orchestra

A point was made about the availability of music for applicants during their first three rehearsals and it **was agreed that the section leader should be responsible for provision of this music**, spare folders should be available in the event that new applicants apply for membership. The Membership secretary should be aware of all applications to join the orchestra and also of those who are on a waiting list for any section of the orchestra.

5. AOB (a) Alison raised a question about the music for the July concert. The music could be borrowed from one of the music libraries or is available on IMSLP. It was agreed that, partly to support the music libraries, we should hire the music in the first place, and, if we are not satisfied by its quality, we can

always send it back. Apparently, both the Borodin and the Elgar are quite cheap to hire.

(b) A point was raised about our participation in Classical Sheffield in 2027. We said that we were happy to give **River the go ahead to express our interest in participating**. This could be on the basis of a collaboration with SYO and/or Sheffield Symphony Orchestra.

6. Date of next meeting: 15th January 2026, at Chris's (unless there is another offer of a venue).