

Quarterly No. 126, March 2014

FoMRHI Quarterly

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The next issue, Quarterly 127, will appear in June 2014. Please send in Comms and announcements to the address below, to arrive by June 1st.

Fellowship of Makers and Researchers of Historical Instruments

Fellows: Edmund A Bowles, John Cousen, Donald Gill, Stephen Gottlieb, Paul Hailperin, John F Hanchet, Uta Henning, Jacques Leguy, Pat McNulty, Jeremy Montagu, John Morley, Ephraim Segerman, Bernard Thomas, Marco Tiella

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Our 2000th Comm!

This is the second *Q* of the (nominal) 2013 subscription year, consisting of issues 125, 126, 127 and 128. Very many thanks to all those who have sent in Comms to make a nice balanced issue. It should be a matter of pride to all those who have contributed to the Fellowship over the last 39 years that in this issue we reach Comm. no. 2000. The itemised listing of all Comms to date at <http://www.fomrhi.org/pages/communications> was completed over the Christmas break, so the contents are there for all to see, and free to download for anybody, anywhere in the world, with internet access. What a magnificent monument of scholarship, and monument to the public-spirited desire to share hard-won knowledge this accumulation of material is!

Errata

Thanks also to those who pointed out some mistakes in the last *Q*. It was pointed out to me in no uncertain terms that the meeting was held at the Greenwich Early Music Exhibition last November should *not* have been described as an AGM, for which our rules make no provision. Also, in the members' list John and Stephanie Chambers' address was incorrect; the correct address is: John and Stephanie Chambers, 59 Egerton Road, Bexhill on Sea, Kent TN39 3HL.

New constitution for FoMRHI

It was provisionally decided at the meeting last November, and confirmed in email discussion amongst the Fellows, that FoMRHI needed a new constitution. The old rules, besides being peppered with references to things of a bygone age (telegram charges, a subscription set at £2 per year, and so on) and – it seems to me – ‘safeguards’ against a degree of either incompetence or Machiavellian deviousness on the part of the administration which can hardly be credited, had at its heart a distinction between the governing group of Fellows, and ‘ordinary members’ which seemed to belong to another time. Our new Treasurer, John Reeve, kindly went to the Charity Commission website and produced a skeleton constitution from the model provisions found there. This was been conflated with the existing FoMRHI rules, and the resulting constitution has been discussed and voted on by the existing Fellows, and passed *nem.con*. The new constitution is printed opposite. The most important change is that, in the manner of most similar organisations, we go over to a system of electing a committee to run the organisation, and holding an AGM. The current Fellows remain in office until the election of a committee, and we must shortly fix the date of an AGM, and appeal for candidates for the committee, whose new reign will begin from that time.

We need more members! Please distribute the leaflets enclosed

While we can all congratulate ourselves on arriving at our 2000th communication, we do rather badly need more members, and more contributors of Communications. The membership has been steadily declining for a long while, by ‘natural wastage’ not replaced by new recruits. So we have had 6,000 copies of a colourful new membership leaflet printed, and a few copies are enclosed herewith. Please distribute copies to friends and colleagues who would be interested in subscribing, or better still, writing for us. Ask the Secretary if you would like some more.

FELLOWSHIP of MAKERS and RESEARCHERS of HISTORICAL INSTRUMENTS

CONSTITUTION

1. Name and objects

- a) The name of the organisation shall be the Fellowship of Makers and Researchers of Historical Instruments, and the organisation may use the abbreviated title of “FoMRHI”.
- b) The objects of the Fellowship shall be the promotion of knowledge, co-operation and mutual assistance between members in the interests of authenticity in the manufacture, design, reconstruction, restoration, repair and use of historical musical instruments of all types and periods.

2. Membership

- a) Membership shall be open to anyone interested in the objects of the Fellowship, irrespective of nationality or domicile, upon payment of the annual subscription at the current rate, as decided by the committee from time to time, or otherwise as decided by the committee.
- b) The membership year is January 1st to December 31st.
- c) All members receive *FoMRHI Quarterly*, the association’s journal. Members are entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- d) The committee may expel a member for conduct that in their opinion is likely to bring the association into disrepute.

3. Committee

- a) The management committee of FoMRHI is composed of elected committee members, not fewer than ten in number, elected by ballot of the whole membership from a list circulated at least a month in advance of the Annual General Meeting, where the ballot will close and be counted and the results declared. Committee members may serve for a term of five years. The committee takes all decisions about the business of the organisation, including setting subscriptions, entering into contracts, and other financial matters.
- b) The committee may by majority vote co-opt any members to serve on the committee if additional expertise is required.
- c) Any member may propose the election of any other member to the committee, or volunteer to stand himself or herself, and any member may be elected to the committee. Committee members must be current members in good standing.
- d) The qualification for election to the committee shall generally be that the proposed candidate has made a substantial contribution by the publication or dissemination of research material or otherwise to the cause of authenticity and accuracy in the manufacture, design, reconstruction, restoration, repair or use of historical musical instruments, or otherwise has a significant contribution to make to the work of the Fellowship.

e) The committee shall have the power to set up any sub-committees for any purpose which they may hold to be desirable and which is within the objects of the Fellowship.

4. Officers

The Officers of the Fellowship shall be the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, elected by simple majority of the committee actually voting in a ballot for that purpose. Either may be removed from office at any time by a simple majority of all the committee actually voting in a ballot held for that purpose.

5. Honorary Treasurer

The treasurer shall keep the accounts of the association and present an annual statement of accounts for the annual general meeting, having had them independently examined by a person of the committee's choosing, or failing that, of his own choosing. The Honorary Treasurer need not be a member.

6. Honorary Secretary

a) The secretary is responsible for:

- Day-to-day running of the association
- Dealing with correspondence
- Collecting subscriptions
- Keeping lists of members
- Organising the AGM.

The secretary may also be editor of the *Quarterly*.

b) The Honorary Secretary may receive remuneration as determined by the committee from time to time.

7. Chairman

The chair at meetings shall be taken by a committee member (excluding the Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer) elected by simple majority at the meeting for that purpose.

8. The Annual General Meeting

a) The time and place of the AGM will be set within 3 months of the financial year end, December 31st, and published at least one month before the AGM.

b) It will include:

- secretary's review of the previous year's events
- treasurer's report and presentation of accounts
- election of committee
- any members' resolutions

c) Resolutions at such meetings shall be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting, unless otherwise determined by the constitution. By simple majority vote the AGM or EGM may decide to refer a resolution to ballot of the whole membership, which will in that case be decided by a simple majority of those voting within one month, the result to be promptly thereafter notified to the whole membership by the Honorary Secretary.

d) A quorum of ten members and at least three committee members is required for the AGM. If the AGM is convened but is not quorate, the AGM may resolve decisions to be put promptly to a ballot of the whole membership by email or post, which will in that case be decided by a simple majority of those voting within one month, the result to be promptly thereafter notified to the whole membership by the Honorary Secretary.

e) All Members may take a full part in such meetings,

f) The accidental omission to give notice of any meeting or other proceeding, motion, nomination, or other matter to, or the non- receipt of such notice by any Member shall not invalidate the meeting or other proceeding, motion, nomination or other matter in question.

9. Extraordinary General Meeting

The Honorary Secretary may on the decision of three committee members call an Extraordinary General Meeting if a vote of members is required on an unexpected issue. One month's notice of time, place and matters to be discussed must be given to the whole membership for an EGM. The quorum shall be as for the AGM.

10. Application of funds

a) The funds of the Fellowship shall be applied solely in the furtherance of the objects of the Fellowship, as determined by the committee from time to time.

b) All monies received by or on account of the Fellowship shall be paid with due promptitude into a banking account in the name of the Fellowship and no money shall be paid by or for the Fellowship (other than petty cash disbursements out of the Honorary Secretary's float) except by cheques on such account. Cheques on the said account shall be countersigned by the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

11. Changes to the constitution

These Rules may be altered, repealed, added to or amended, by a Resolution passed in accordance with these Rules.

12. Dissolution

The association may be dissolved by simple majority vote of the members in a ballot of the whole membership, if proposed by a majority of the committee, with at least one month's notice. If the Fellowship is disbanded, any assets remaining after all liabilities have been met shall be divided equally amongst those persons who at the date of the resolution to disband the Fellowship were members thereof, or may be given to such other organisation as the committee may decide.