



AGM 1997

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on Saturday 20th September 1997 at the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis.

Committee in attendance: Richard Prior (Chairman) Pam Davis (Librarian)
Sasha Levтов (Artistic Director) Jonathan Parrott (Treasurer)

Apologies: Alastair Ridley (Press Secretary) Helena Bengе (Events Liaison)

1. Chairman's Address

The chairman declared the AGM open and welcomed those assembled. Apologies were received from Helena and Graham Bengе and Alastair and Stella Ridley.

The Chairman reviewed the previous season announcing that attendances at club evenings and concerts were slightly up on the 95/96 season and that memberships remained steady around the 130 mark. He expressed his opinion concerning the very high standards of performance by both the professional artists and the club members. He focused on two events during the past season that were of particular note; the hosting by the club of the Chichester Festival held over two days with a record number of entries, and the John Mills workshop which was both fascinating and instructive.

He offered his thanks to everyone who had contributed to the season by helping behind the scenes as well as by performing, he especially wished to thank personally Sasha for engaging such a wonderful repertoire of professional artists, Nina Levтов for so much help with the catering and other tasks, Jonathan for managing the finances and producing the financial reports and minutes for the committee, Pam for organising and developing the library, for her expert photographic work and for maintaining the club's photo albums so proficiently, Helena for her co-ordination of the catering and car lifts and for her cheerful and enthusiastic welcoming of visitors and new members. A special thank you was extended to Alistair for his co-ordination of the club's publicity, Alistair has announced his intention to stand down from the committee due to personal reasons. The many helpers who assist Alistair to distribute the posters were also recognized.

He looked forward to the forthcoming season with keen interest but stressed that the success of the club was dependant upon the enthusiasm of its members and asked them for their support by their attendance encouraging them to bring as many friends and family as possible. He stated that the committee is always keen to receive feedback on the members likes and dislikes and encouraged all to contribute to the running of the club.

2. Artistic Director's Report

The Artistic Director stated that those present had already received a printed copy of his report in the Notice for the AGM and there was no need for him to cover the events of the preceding year. He expressed his high expectations for the coming year with concerts by Eleftheria Kotzia and Gilbert Biberian, and a concert and masterclass by Nicola Hall already confirmed. Once again the premises are to be used for the guitar section of the Chichester Festival and the Arun Young Musicians Festival. The sound system and video equipment made it feasible to hold recorded music evenings where members could share their favourite tracks or video moments with each other. He expressed his opinion that the junior members of the club was its future and that their participation was of paramount importance, as a result of which the club evening on the 18th October

would see the first rehearsal of a Young Persons Orchestra (YPO) under the most welcome guidance of Linda Kelsall-Barnett, they would ultimately work towards the various festivals but the main intention was to provide a platform for the junior members to have fun. He reported on comments made in the professional circles that the West Sussex Guitar Club was regarded as one of, if not the most, active and professionally run clubs in the country and fast becoming a very highly rated venue for performers.

He concluded by wishing those present, members and the club a very successful new season.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the club accounts as at the 31st August 1997 were as printed in the Notice for the AGM and the balance held at the Portman Building Society stood at £70.38. The 96/97 season has seen a rise in income due mainly to an increase in concert attendances and membership subscription charges. The fees paid to professional artists offset the additional income and so it was necessary to tighten out belts in other areas; as a result of which considerable savings had been made in publicity and catering to enable the club to remain solvent whilst not impinging on the quality of service provided. The Treasurer expressed his opinion that during the forthcoming season the club's financial performance would be similar to the past year, fees should remain static and there would continue to be restrictions on expenditure wherever applicable. However to help to ensure the club's financial success it was intended to implement the following actions:

- The introduction of budgetary targets with reviews at Christmas and Easter
- The introduction of family tickets to encourage all the family to participate
- The introduction of the YPO once again to encourage family participation
- The intention to approach local businesses for sponsorship of concerts and performances by young professionals, or if this was unsuccessful to approach national businesses in the local area to sponsor the club as a whole.

He concluded by reconfirming the sentiments expressed by the Chairman, that the club is run for the members and only survives through their support. He encouraged them to attend the concerts and club evenings, to bring along a friend or neighbour, pay their membership subscriptions and to give a membership gift token as an early Christmas present.

4. Adoption of Accounts

Following the Treasurer's report it was proposed 'THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT BE ADOPTED'.

The motion was CARRIED by a show of hands.

5. Amendment to the Constitution

It was proposed 'THAT ARTICLE 4.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION BE AMENDED' to read:

"The Club shall be managed by a committee of 6 members consisting of a Chairman Treasurer Artistic Director Publicity Secretary Librarian and Events Liaison Co-ordinator".

Following discussion the motion was CARRIED by a show of hands.

6. Election of the Committee

The Chairman stated that Alistair Ridley was not standing for the position of Publicity Secretary, he had received one application for that post from Graham Bengé and that no other application to stand had been received from any non-serving member and that as all other committee members incumbent in the posts were prepared to serve for another year he proposed 'THAT THE COMMITTEE BE ELECTED UNOPPOSED'.

The motion was CARRIED by a show of hands.

7. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that no items had been notified by post and concluded that there was no other business.

8. Open Discussion

The meeting was opened to the floor for members to voice their ideas and concerns for the future of the club.

- Steve Higgs offered to develop and provide a location for a web page for the club. Sasha thanked him and gratefully accepted his offer explaining that the Internet would provide a very useful means of advertising and communication on a world wide basis.
- The format of club evenings was discussed. It was suggested that the evenings should be more structured so that members (especially new members) would know precisely what would be occurring on a given evening. To achieve this the committee agreed there would be a need for improved forward planning and that currently the organisation of professional concerts was paramount. It was suggested that rehearsals by small ensembles might make use of all the rooms in the school and open up opportunities for smaller groups to play together, it was pointed out that this would need a lot of planning and support from the teachers. It was the opinion of the majority that the current format was satisfactory and that there was no need to change.
- Opinions were sought on the buffet arrangements; the consensus was that no changes were required.
- Sasha requested advice on the inclusion of more flamenco orientated evenings. The general opinion was that the club had things about right with one flamenco concert a year. Some interest was expressed in a beginners workshop possibly from Francisco Antonio, the committee will need to investigate this further.
- Some concern was expressed over the rehearsal of the YPO at the same time as the Club orchestra and it was suggested that the YPO start at 7pm with the Club orchestra starting at 8pm. This will be considered by committee.
- Wayne Lines (Southampton Guitar Society) expressed his opinion that the Club has the right mix of events and that we should be wary of changing something that obviously worked so well. He was profusely thanked and the suggestion made that it was about time we had another joint club evening.
- On the theme of sponsorship it was suggested that we might be able to obtain sponsorship for equipment especially the video camera. The committee to investigate this further.

9. Close

The Chairman thanked all those present and declared the Annual General Meeting closed.