



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Friday 25th September 2020
by ZOOM at 7.05 pm

Club Officers present:

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| Julian Bobak (Chairman/Charity Officer/Librarian) JB | David Clarke (Treasurer) DC |
| Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) SL | Debbie Burford (Secretary) DB |
| Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary) BB | Leigh Boyle (Website Administrator) LB |
| Teresa Henley (Publicity Officer) TH | Julie Insull (Facebook) Jl |
| Moyria Woodgate (Photographer/Archivist) MW | Terry Woodgate (Newsletter Editor) TW |

JB welcomed club members to the 27th AGM of the WSGC, and the beginning of the 28th year of the guitar club. In addition to the above members this Zoom meeting was also attended by Angela MacTavish, Pam Fereday (and cat Lilybelle), Judith Ratledge, Diana Green, Andrew Richardson, Martin Glover, Ian Moorey and Linda Kelsall-Barnett (joining at 7.30pm) making a total of 18.

1) Apologies for Absence

None were received.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 28th September 2019 AGM were approved as a true record. *(DB would just like it to be noted that the first sentence of the 2019 Minutes should have read 26th AGM and 27th year of the club.)*

3) Chairman's Introduction

Julian Bobak began by thanking DC for setting up this Zoom meeting. As we begin the 28th year of the club, we can look back on a very odd 6 months. Particular thanks go to SL for keeping the club going in this very difficult time, where Zoom has been our saviour. He wished to thank the committee, that is Sasha Levtov, Debbie Burford David Clarke, Baz Boxall and Julie Insull and our new committee members over the last year, Teresa Henley and Leigh Boyle. His thanks also went to Jez Rogers in New Zealand for all his work on the new website. Grateful thanks too to Moyria and Terry Woodgate, who are stepping down as photographer/archivist and newsletter editor. They joined the club from Camberley in November 1995, taking over the newsletter in 2004 and working hard every year, doing a great job, with meticulous detail and professional presentation of the Good Vibrations Newsletter.

In breaking news, JB was delighted to announce today the launch of the Club's new website with its modern look and updated content. A huge thanks again to Jez Rogers, Leigh Boyle and Sasha for accelerating the work on this website. He finished by looking forward to a better year in 2021 "fingers crossed everyone!"

4) Matters Arising from the last AGM

None.

5) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

Members had received by post the Artistic Director's report of the club's 27th season and SL said that for the foreseeable future all events would have to be virtual. For 2020, three planned virtual events would be a club evening, a professional concert and a Christmas Party – for all three, video clips would be sent to SL for compilation. In 2021 the annual Chichester Music Festival would be online with entrants sending recordings to adjudicator Chris Stell. SL hoped that by the Summer Party the wretched Covid-19 virus would have disappeared. He joked that once things are normal again, we will have to meet up every week with plenty of wine!

JB asked how much we would pay professional performers for their video contributions and SL thought it should be the usual rate. DC thought we must offset the costs with donations and JB added that the club could get into financial difficulties otherwise. SL thought that voluntary donations were best eg. £10 if you really like the performance, £5 if you only quite like it "and if nobody likes it the performer can pay us" JB added.

SL said it was important to set the dates for members to send in their video contributions and urged all to send them to him in good time. JB thanked SL.

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

DC presented his accounts for the Club for the period 1/8/2019 to 31/7/2020 showing a bank balance of £8265.54 (as of 31/7). The Covid-19 pandemic had not had a damaging effect on the club's finances because nearly every event the club puts on needs subsidising, so by having fewer events the bank balance is actually healthier. During 2019-20 the club enjoyed six club evenings and four professional recitals – the average loss for the former was £33 and for the concerts £183. DC said it would make a big difference if just 18 to 20 more members would attend the concerts. The Club's November 2019 festival resulted in a net debit of £413.89. Bognor Town Council awarded the club a generous £1000 last year and DC has applied for the same amount this year, though with other pressures on the council we may not receive as much.

DC wished to thank all members for returning their gift aid forms. He has submitted two claims to HMRC for the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 which if successful will add £2367.00* to our funds in 2020-21. (**DC later wished to correct this figure of £2367.00 which also appeared on the written financial statement summary and is incorrect. The amount the club will get back from HMRC is in fact £591.75 which is one quarter of the total gift aid donations of £2367.00*)

Most of the membership fees are paid in September and the bank balance at the time of the AGM now stands at £9147.80 (£9047.80 plus £100 float) which is a healthy bank balance for September. JB thanked DC and found it amusing that the club is better off financially by not holding any events!

7) Election of Club Officers

JB stated that re-standing for the committee were JB, DC, SL and DB. The committee was voted in as follows:

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|--------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| Julian Bobak | Chairman /Charity Officer/Librarian | David Clarke | Treasurer |
| Sasha Levtov | Artistic Director | Debbie Burford | Secretary |

For the non-committee posts, Baz Boxall would continue as Membership Secretary, Teresa Henley as Publicity Officer and Leigh Boyle as Website Administrator. Jez Rogers would continue to look after the club's website and Julie Insull our Facebook profile. For health reasons, Terry and Moyria Woodgate were standing down as Newsletter Editor and Photographer/Archivist.

Angela MacTavish offered to fill the post of Hospitality Officer. JB thanked Angela and said that the only vacant posts were now Assistant Librarian and as of today Newsletter Editor/ Photographer/Archivist. He suggested that the newsletter may instead be on the website with contributions and comments from those attending events, unless “someone as enthusiastic as Terry comes forward” he added.

Membership Secretary's Report

BB reported 5 new members had joined in the last year but sadly we had lost 4. There are currently 98 memberships made up of 66 single, 25 family (at least 2 people) and 7 honorary, therefore roughly 123 people involved in the club. He thanked SL for keeping the club going with the videos but would like to have live performances by Zoom to keep members interested and involved. JB thanked BB.

8) AOB

Martin Glover asked why the annual subscription had not changed for many years. DC thought that this would not be the moment to change it and BB pointed out the issue of standing orders, whereby to change the fee every member would have to take a new form to their bank and then they might decide not to renew. Martin thought the complimentary tickets were a good idea.

Teresa Henley asked for suggestions for other places to publicise our events and Martin suggested Chichester University (Bognor Campus). Teresa also wondered if the club library was open during lockdown and JB said access could be arranged with one of the keyholders.

Linda Kelsall-Barnett had run her own Zoom concerts for pupils and had very positive feedback from parents despite variable sound quality. DC added that it was important to tell people the best settings for Zoom, eg the latest version has a hi-fidelity music setting. Linda added that though the orchestra cannot currently rehearse, Andrew Richardson has offered his technical expertise and she thanked him and will liaise with him.

Ian Moorey said that this was his first ever Zoom meeting and wondered why SL was coming to us from outer space, but said it was good to see everyone. Pam Fereday said it was also her first Zoom experience and probably her last!

Judith Ratledge, Terry and Moryia Woodgate and Pam Fereday spoke up to thank the committee for all their hard work.

JB asked DB if she had managed to take the Minutes OK over Zoom. DB replied that mostly she had, but that the “grunting pig noises” had been a bit off-putting! Martin Glover said the sound quality would be improved if everyone wore headphones with microphones.

At the end of the meeting, there was a treat from DC - a short video presentation of the launch of the new WSGC Website complete with fireworks and music, including “Birds Flew Over the Spire” played by our Patron, Gary Ryan. SL thanked DC for putting together the video to close the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

Debbie Burford (03/10/2020)