



Charity No. 1124762

**West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
11th September 2010
at Regis School of Music at 8.00 pm**

Committee Members present:

Terry Woodgate (Chairman/Newsletter Editor) TW
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) SL
Moyria Woodgate (Photographer/Archivist/Secretary/Press Officer) MW
Julie Insull (advance ticket sales) JI

TW welcomed club members to the 17th AGM of the WSGC and remarked how quickly the summer recess had passed.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Patrick Butcher, Alison & David Stonestreet, Irina Ilieva, Ray Reddick, Julian Bobak, Angela MacTavish, John & Patricia Kelsall and Peter Watkins.

2) The minutes of the last AGM

These were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

3) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

TW said that as summarised so well in SL's artistic director's report, last season was one of the most busiest and successful we have had, with 8 concerts, 3 masterclasses, 6 club evenings, 2 parties and hosting 2 guitar festivals. TW reiterated SL's thanks for the dedication and hard work of the committee. He added that although committee's come and go throughout the years, Sasha and Nina had of course been the driving force behind the club for the past 17 years. Without their input, there would be no club.

Because last season's events were well chronicled in his report SL said that instead he would rather inform members of the coming season's events. These will include the Duo Transatlantique, Vincent Lindsey-Clark, Stepan Rac, Fabio Zanon, John Mills & Coby Smith and finally Richard Smith with his cellist wife Julie Adams. This will end the season on a lighter note. In January it is proposed to hold a flamenco club evening hosted by member Steve Higgs. SL said that more and more artists are seeking out our club in which to perform.

4) Adoption of the Club Accounts

Patrick Butcher prepared the statement of accounts which were sent out with the AGM bumf. This showed the club was some £760 better off than the previous year. We received charity tax rebates of £770 but some of that was for back tax for previous years and the club cannot expect such a large sum in the future. For playing out at the Selsey Festival, the club received some £250 and TW thanked everyone who played at the event.

Money is always a problem. BTC did not provide a grant this year and most of our concerts lose money so TW implored members to come along and bring some friends.

TW said that the archive of events is self financing from the sale of photos to members and the sale of raffle tickets helps towards financing the library.

TW said that so far only 40 out of over 100 members had renewed which was a little disappointing. Half of those had renewed by the requested SO and some had contributed additional funds to the club for which TW said he was very grateful. Renewing by SO will save Patrick, our Treasurer a lot of time in paying in cheques to the bank over a protracted period of time. With standing orders, it is not so easy to increase the club fees, but that will not be required in the foreseeable future and there were other methods of increasing revenue. For example, club evenings with free food and refreshments at just £3 for members and free for

under 18's represent amazing value for money. TW requested that those who had not yet renewed membership do so soon.

The statement of club accounts was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

5) Election of Club Officers

TW said that all the committee were willing to stand for another term. In addition, JI was co-opted to help on the committee some time ago and was now standing for election. There were no additional nominations to stand on the committee. TW thanked those members who help out but who do not want the obligation to serve on the committee. In particular he thanked Barry & Vi Beckett and also Baz Boxall and Tony Poulett who had recently volunteered to help out.

The existing members of the committee were voted in by a unanimous show of hands. The committee now consists of Terry Woodgate as Chairman and Newsletter editor, Sasha Levtov as Artistic Director, Patrick Butcher as Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Charity Officer, Moyria Woodgate as Secretary, press officer & photographer/archivist, Julie Insull as ticket sales and also Irina Ilieva as hospitality officer. Non committee posts of librarians continue to be held by Alison and David Stonestreet and Jez Rogers continues as web master.

6) Discussion of Club Affairs

TW said that with each successive year the club becomes more successful. Last season we had more concerts than before, the festivals had more entrants and our members were becoming better performers (witness the youngsters who started the evening). It was felt however that the club had poor support from the local newspapers. SL suggested that this may be helped by members writing to the press if they were particularly impressed with any event.

With regard to the library, TW reported that Alison and David Stonestreet had done a sterling job in cataloguing over 2000 items (music, albums, vinyls, cds, dvds etc) which could be referenced from the comfort of your PC at home. There was also an almost complete set of Classical Guitar magazines save for Feb & Dec 2005 which could not be obtained. TW asked that if anyone no longer requires these, they be donated to the library together with any other guitar/music items that are no longer required. Members are prompt in returning items and it has been decided that for the future, 5 items can be borrowed at one time, but the loan period of 4 weeks remains the same.

TW praised Jez Rogers for the wonderful job he does in promoting the club to the world via the website. Last year there were between 50,000-100,000 hits. £39% came from the UK, 23% from the USA, with lots of other countries - Romania, New Zealand, Ireland, Germany, China and Sweden each at 1%. 24% of countries were unresolved. Good news was that Jez may return to the UK next year to attend the 20th West Dean festival.

TW appealed for more contributions to the newsletter since he said he runs out of adjectives and different angles to approach items. He felt that the newsletter binds the club together and forms a convenient diary of club events.

Comments from the floor included a request that concerts start promptly at 7:30pm as advertised. SL replied that it is difficult when members arrive a little late because of difficulties in parking their cars, but appealed to everyone to allow enough time to get into the concert hall. Some members preferred that the lights on the audience be dimmed to allow more concentration on the artist. This will depend upon the preference of the performer. The question of video recordings arose and whether it would be beneficial to the club to put some recordings on Utube. SL said that although festivals and concerts are recorded, a dvd of the events is not always made because this can be so time consuming. Furthermore, some artists are not so happy that their performances be available to the general public. SL appealed for help in checking and producing dvds particularly from some of the early VHS tapes. The question of fire exits was raised, in particular in connection with well attended concerts. SL replied that every year a fire certificate is granted and that fire extinguishers are checked so there should not be a problem here.

7) AOB

TW concluded the AGM by again requesting help at events and festivals and also asking that membership renewals be sent in soon. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Moyria Woodgate 13th September 2010