



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Saturday 9th September 2017
at Regis School of Music at 8.15 pm

Committee Members present:

Julian Bobak (Chairman/Charity Officer) **JB**
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) **SL**
Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary) **BB**

David Clarke (Treasurer) **DC**
Julie Insull (Publicity Officer) **Jl**
Debbie Burford (Secretary) **DB**

JB welcomed club members to the 24th AGM of the WSGC, and the beginning of the 25th year of the guitar club.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from John Mason, Sue McQuillan, Terry & Moyria Woodgate and Angela MacTavish. Around 16 members (excluding committee) attended the meeting.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 10th September 2016 AGM were approved.

3) Chairman's Introduction

JB was keen welcome so many to the AGM and pointed out that our guitar club (as it reaches its 25th anniversary) was set up in the same year as *Classic fm* and both promote the guitar very well! He said that this year we had seen many world-class guitarists on our stage. But also we now have our own home-grown orchestras. The West Sussex Guitar Orchestra is conducted by Linda Kelsall-Barnett while Guitar Harmony (formerly Pickled Tink) is led by Robin Burgess. JB would like to thank both for their leadership.

JB wished to thank our hard-working committee and our "two foreign correspondents", that is Richard Prior in Devon and Jez Rogers in New Zealand who look after the guitar club's website. Thanks also go to Pam Fereday for keeping the library vibrant and especially to Terry Woodgate for producing our wonderful magazine which is up to its 22nd Volume, Issue 3. We are also grateful to our sponsors and especially Bognor Town Council for donating £500 to the club.

SL then presented our two retiring committee members with thankyou gifts, saying how sorry he was they are leaving the committee. Baz Boxall has served as Membership Secretary and Charity Officer for seven years and Julie Insull has served for ten years in the roles of Publicity Officer and Librarian but has kindly offered to stay on for a while until a replacement is found in publicity. JB asked if anyone from the floor was interested in joining the committee to let him know.

The club website is in the process of being modernised and we are the grateful for the help of RP and JR. Feedback can be given on our questionnaire. Finally, JB thanked everyone for attending.

4) Matters Arising from the last AGM

None.

5) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

Members had received by post the Artistic Director's detailed report of the club's 24th season which SL described as another wonderful year including splendid recitals from artists from around the world. He put the club's success down to the non-stop work of the committee, whom SL would like to thank profoundly. He said that not only did they help at all of our events but, most importantly, made linguistic corrections! He felt that we should think of the club as "subsidising" events rather than talk of "losses". It was very important for us all, as we are getting older, to inspire the next generation of players and to encourage youngsters and their families to become members.

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

DC presented his accounts for the Club for the period 1/8/2016 to 31/7/2017 which had been circulated to all members. He added that it was a great relief after one year of being Treasurer that the club still has a very healthy bank

balance! The bank account shows a balance of £9684.30 plus £100 in petty cash. This healthy sum is partly due to membership subscriptions from around 100 members but also to the generous legacy of £4000 from Kit Crowhurst which has now been transferred to the current account so as to be financially transparent. There has also been a successful grant application and Bognor Town Council have kindly donated £500 to the club. DC said that of course the balance will reduce during the year – he had used the word “losses” in his report – but we will continue to “subsidise” concerts, festivals and club evenings. He added that it is only the parties that make a profit - DC therefore proposed one a month! But on a serious note, we do need more attendances, especially at concerts. JB thanked DC. SL proposed the accounts be adopted as true which was seconded by Diana Green.

7) Election of Club Officers

JB stated that two long-standing members of the committee had decided to resign this year - Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary/Charity Officer) and Julie Insull (Publicity Officer). No-one had come forward to fill these posts but JI had very kindly offered to carry on until next year, if no replacement is found. During the past year, JB had also taken on the role of Charity Officer.

The committee was voted in as follows:

Julian Bobak	Chairman /Charity Officer	Debbie Burford	Secretary
Sasha Levto	Artistic Director	Julie Insull	<i>ex officio</i> Publicity Officer
David Clarke	Treasurer		

The post of **Membership Secretary** remained vacant.

For the non-committee posts Pam Fereday would continue as Librarian with David Clarke as Assistant Librarian. Moyria Woodgate would carry on as Photographer/Archivist and Terry Woodgate as Newsletter Editor. Richard Prior and Jez Rogers would continue to look after the club's website.

8) Constitution

JB reported that some minor changes to the Constitution were necessary and that notes on the proposed amendments had been sent with the AGM mailing. These included stating that the guitar club is a **registered charity**, updating the charity number and showing the principal office as **44-46 Sudley Road**, that the Club will be **managed by the Trustees and those who are co-opted**. Finally that **subscription** renewals to be amended from 1 October to **1 September**. JB has made these updates to reflect the wishes of the charity and in accordance with the Charity Commission. The corrected version will then be shown on the website. The amendments were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

9) Discussion of Club Affairs

This began with a discussion as to whether both Club Evenings and Concerts should start at 7pm instead of 7.30pm. From January this year, club evenings had started at 7pm. Diana Green, Linda and Ian Barnett thought that this was too early, especially for working people. Pam Fereday, though pleased with the earlier start, felt that they still finished just as late. SL still thought it was very important to start at 7pm so as to attract youngsters. Harri Goldsmith pointed out that there were no youngsters here tonight. A show of hands found that the majority wanted club evenings to continue to start at 7pm. Stephen Frith pointed out that club evenings were more informal so arriving late did not matter quite so much. A further show of hands found that no-one thought it was a good idea for concerts to start earlier, so concerts would continue to start at 7.30pm. SL thanked everyone for their input and singled out a visitor to the club who, enjoying rather a lot of the free wine, had made very positive comments about the club!

9) AOB

None

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Debbie Burford (6/12/2017)