



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Saturday 25th September 2021
at Regis School of Music at 7.15 pm

Club Officers present:

Julian Bobak (Chairman/Charity Officer/Librarian) **JB**
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) **SL**
Angela MacTavish (Hospitality Officer) **AMT**

Debbie Burford (Secretary) **DB**
Teresa Henley (Publicity Officer) **TH**

JB welcomed club members to the 28th AGM of the WSGC and the beginning of the 29th year of the guitar club. In addition to the club officers above, this meeting was attended by members Linda Kelsall-Barnett, Ian Barnett, Andrew Richardson, Jay Huff, Ian Moorey, Evelina Kisliak, Harri Goldsmith, Tatiana Carson and three young members Sofia Carson, Lucy Carson and Vakaris Silaikis, making a total of 16.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Clarke (Treasurer), Leigh Boyle (Website Administrator), Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary) and Alison Stonestreet.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 25th September 2020 AGM were approved as a true record.

3) Chairman's Introduction

Julian Bobak began by contrasting this meeting to last year's AGM by Zoom with 18 attendees crammed onto our computer screens like "Hilliard Miniatures" and welcomed us all to this 28th AGM of the club. In the last year the club met and performed almost entirely by Zoom, managing only one live performance, that of the Vida Quartet last Saturday.

JB declared the club now "open", subject to the remaining Covid advice/guidelines from the government. Throughout the last difficult year, JB would like to thank the committee for their sterling efforts: Debbie Burford, David Clarke, Baz Boxall, Leigh Boyle, Jez Rogers, Angela MacTavish, Teresa Henley, Julie Insull and of course Sasha Levtov. He added that SL has steadfastly kept us happy, zooming our own performances and professional concerts as well as putting together the newsletters. This is on top of his work with the Regis School of Music celebrating its own 25th anniversary this year. So, we can now look forward to meeting at the hall once again with our next club evening on 16th October, a recital by Graham Devine on 13th November, our guitar festival on 28th November and the Christmas Party on 18th December. Hope to see you all there!

JB then summarised the Membership Secretary's report received from Baz Boxall. Since the last AGM the club has welcomed five new members: Nigel Crawley, James Crompton, Tom Freeman, Mark Jones and Peter Slowe. In the same period, six memberships have been lost including the sad loss of our dear friends, Peggy Carrott and John White, both of whom contributed greatly to the club for many years. John's wife, Carol, continues as an honorary member. There are currently 96 memberships but as 21 of these are family memberships, we therefore have at least 117 people involved in the club. Most of our members pay by standing order and we would encourage those who do not, to consider it for next year as it greatly eases the burden of dealing with renewals. 69 of our members completed Gift Aid forms allowing us to reclaim taxes from HMRC which has added more than £300 to our funds this year. Our strong and loyal membership was praised for continuing to support the club despite a lack of live events in the past 18 months.

4) Matters Arising from the last AGM

None.

5) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

Members had received by post the Artistic Director's two page report of the club's 28th season. SL said that not only had the club survived during this strange time but we had all acquired new skills and found new ways of communicating and making connections with each other. He was pleased to have been able to put on five virtual events but thought that now it is time to invite members back to live events, while still being careful. He has substantial plans for future club evenings, recitals and festivals. (P.T.O)

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

Members had received by post the Financial Report for the period 1/8/2020 to 31/7/2021, compiled by David Clarke, showing total funds of £9047.78 (as of 31/7/21). Normal club activities were replaced by pre-recorded professional recitals, festival performances and club evenings. Ticket sales were replaced by donations towards the professional artists' fees. No live events meant no expenditure on hall hire or catering, with the exception of the Summer Party which was held at the hall. As a result the club's outgoings were less than usual. The net debit for each virtual event was: New Generation Artists' video recital £233.98, Vida Quartet video recital £326.44, WSGC Composer's Festival £186.53 and Summer Party £22.50. In order for the committee to continue to meet, a subscription to Zoom was set up at a cost of £14.39 per month. Our annual grant application to Bognor Town Council resulted in a generous award of £1000. JB added that the club was in a good financial position thanks to our membership fees and our good name with Bognor Town Council.

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:

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

For the non-committee posts, Baz Boxall would continue as Membership Secretary, Teresa Henley as Publicity Officer, Leigh Boyle as Website Administrator and Angela MacTavish as Hospitality Officer. Jez Rogers would continue to look after the club's website and Julie Insull our Facebook profile.

Vacant posts remain for Assistant Librarian, Photographer/Archivist and Newsletter Editor (currently being covered by SL). JB wanted to encourage members to help in any way they can, adding that as Librarian "I do the washing up too!"

8) AOB

Angela MacTavish questioned the use of complimentary tickets on the door. She explained that their original purpose was as a "taster" for people who haven't been to the club before. AMT was concerned that some members were using them themselves, or for the same guests more than once. AMT thought the system should be tightened up as the club is losing revenue. Harri Goldsmith admitted that she had been using them for herself and thought that was what they were for. JB admitted to trying to use a complimentary ticket once too! In fairness the ticket says "To admit one person to any professional recital". JB/SL decided the tickets should say "Guest Ticket Only" or "For Your Guest." AMT now realises that members had been using them in good faith as they thought the complimentary tickets were for themselves.

Linda Kelsall-Barnett asked if funds were still available for new music stands. SL said the stands were at least 10 years old and JB said he had looked into it two years ago. SL suggested we should ask John Mason to recommend the best type. Perhaps a dozen new stands were needed.

Ian Moorey asked if *anyone* was allowed to sit in "The Royal Box" in corner of the hall? SL said he had originally built it for youngsters so they were away from the front row but would still have a good view, but actually anyone could sit there. Ian joked that perhaps all the complimentary ticket holders should be put there!

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Debbie Burford (18/8/2022)