



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Saturday 24th September 2022
at Regis School of Music at 8.45 pm

Club Officers present:

Julian Bobak (Chairman/Charity Officer/Librarian) JB	Debbie Burford (Secretary) DB
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) SL	Teresa Henley (Publicity Officer) TH
David Clarke (Treasurer) DC	Leigh Boyle (Website Administrator) LB

In addition to the club officers above, this meeting was attended by David Alexander, Ann Alexander, Robin Burgess, David Carson, Igor Frühauf, Ryan Garfield, Jay Huff, Mark Jones, Linda Kelsall-Barnett, Evelina Kisliak, David Knight, Angela MacTavish, Conor Miles, John Reynolds, Andrew Richardson, Yvonne Scott, Vincent Smith (Bristol Guitar Society), Peter Watkins, Phil Wilson, Terry Woodgate and Moyria Woodgate making it a record attendance.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary) who has Covid, Diana Green and John Mason.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 25th September 2021 AGM were approved as a true record.

3) Chairman's Introduction

Julian Bobak welcomed club members to the 29th AGM of the WSGC and the beginning of the 30th year of the guitar club. This sees us back to normal after the Covid-interlude, with Club Evenings and performances by soloists, duos, trios, quartets and the WSGC orchestra and Guitar Harmony ensemble. We now have a strong junior section and during the year hosted our own festival adjudicated by Chris Stell. In addition, we have enjoyed professional performances by the Vida Guitar Quartet, Graham Devine, Laura Snowden and Fabio Zanon. We had a joyous Summer Party with the theme "Let's Face the Music and Dance" and we look forward to a recital by Xufei Yang on 5th November.

Since the last AGM the club has welcomed new members: David and Ann Alexander, Jonathan Fox, David Knight, Trevor Senatore and Philip Wilson. In the same period, we were saddened by the death of Antonio Desolis. JB recounted how he and Antonio once attended theory lessons far beyond the understanding of the class. Antonio, a man of direct speech, said to the lady giving the lectures "I have absolutely no idea what you're talking about" expressing in clear terms how the rest of us felt! We would also like to thank John White, David Bennett, Phil Maylen for bequests of their guitars to the club. In addition a second high quality guitar made for us by luthier (and member) Stephen Frith has been gifted to the club for loan to up-and-coming junior members.

JB gave grateful thanks to our committee members and non-committee members (Baz Boxall, Leigh Boyle, Debbie Burford, David Clarke, Teresa Henley, Julie Insull, Sasha Levtov, Jez Rogers) who have all agreed to continue. And thanks too to our retiring hospitality officer, Angela MacTavish, who will continue to contribute to our newsletter with in depth interviews of celebrities. JB also gave a special mention to our webmaster Jez Rogers and web assistant Leigh Boyle for thrusting us into the 21st century adding that you will see a QR code in this latest newsletter giving direct access to our website. Thanks to our sponsors, Bognor Town Council, the Regis School of Music and Little Florist who supply our magnificent flowers. Lastly, as Librarian, please do use our library with its extensive collection of guitar music and CDs.

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 splendid 29th season. SL said that not only had we had come through Covid which had held everything back for two years but we had continued to support professional performers by offering them virtual events during Covid and now by offering our stage. He was pleased that we are able to involve and educate our younger generation in the club and that they "also keep us young". He was
(P.T.O.)

pleased to announce that Xufei Yang and the Mela Quartet would be performing in our new season. He added that the club is very popular among professional artists and he gets lot of emails from them wanting to come to perform here. The only thing that stops us is our attendance - we need a full house to break even as we pay proper fees to our artists. He added that we have over 100 members and if just 50 came to concerts then that would be enough. He is very proud to support struggling musicians. He wanted to thank our hard-working committee behind the scenes and thanks to everyone else for their enthusiasm and regular practice.

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

Members had received by post the Financial Report for the period 1/8/2021 to 31/7/2022, compiled by David Clarke, showing total funds of £8891.24 (as of 22/8/22). DC apologised for forgetting his notes but said "we are back" with four professional concerts, five club evenings and two parties. The Club subsidises all events though the concerts make the biggest loss so we really need more attendance. He added that we are very grateful for the grant from the Town Council of £1000. Four gift aid claims brought in a further £1197.01 and thanks to all members who claim it on their forms. Gift aid in future will bring in a smaller sum. The figures show for the whole year a net debit of £156.54 which is really good. He added that membership fees were just coming in so we are in a good position to start the new season.

From the audience Terry Woodgate pointed out that we lost an average of £600 on each of the four concerts and thinks the club will have to put prices up. JB said that we have been thinking about increasing the subs which are very good value and have been the same for many years. JB added that members can make voluntary extra donations when they join the club if they wish. JB said that because of the cost of living we have held fees down so far but we may have to put prices up. David Alexander (DA) asked how we go about fund-raising outside of normal club evenings. JB agreed that we might have to do raffles, auctions or quizzes. Linda Kelsall-Barnett said the St Georges Concert in October will bring 50% of the takings for the club. DA offered to help out with fund-raising ideas as that is where his expertise lies. DC was concerned that if we raised extra income from elsewhere then the Town Council may reduce their grant. JB said we are looking for a fund-raising officer. JB thanked DA. The accounts were approved and JB thanked DC.

7) Election of Club Officers

JB stated that up for re-election to 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 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. Angela MacTavish has stood down as Hospitality Officer.

Vacant posts therefore remain for Assistant Librarian, Photographer/Archivist, Newsletter Editor (currently being covered by SL and TH), Hospitality Officer and Fund-Raising Officer.

8) AOB

Teresa Henley was asked about Publicity and said that she has been busy putting up posters for the club's concerts, adding that it would be a big help if other members could also distribute posters. She works with Julie Insull sharing the publicity on Facebook and any suggestions of sites would be welcome including online magazines. David Carson said if we can connect to Facebook then we can all share that. He also said he would be happy to get involved in a dedicated Facebook page.

Finally, Terry Woodgate wanted to thank the committee for all its hard work and they received a round of applause.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Debbie Burford (25/07/2023)