



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Saturday 21st September 2024
at Regis School of Music at 7.25 pm

Club Officers present:

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

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

In addition to the club officers above, this meeting was attended by David Alexander, Sue Allen, Morgan Andrews, Jay Huff, Chris Jones, Linda Kelsall-Barnett, Evelina Kisliak, David Knight, Angela MacTavish, Andrew Richardson, Judith Ratledge, Yvonne Scott, Vakaris Silaikis, Chris Small, Moyria Woodgate and Terry Woodgate.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Barnett, Leigh Boyle (Website Administrator), David Clarke (Treasurer), Diana Green and John Mason.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the 9th September 2023 AGM were approved as a true record.

3) Chairman's Introduction

Julian Bobak welcomed club members to our AGM and the beginning of the Club's 32nd year, with a gentle reminder that our Club Evenings start at 7pm. JB summarised our very busy year which began with the guitar duo of Judicael Perroy and Natalia Lipnitskaja and ended with a guitar/machete duo (a machete being a tiny Madeiran instrument) of Samantha Muir and Lara Taylor. In between, we enjoyed recitals by Richard Smith, Gary Ryan and the Abeto Duo, Club Evenings when all have had a chance to play on the stage and the Summer Party with the theme Viva Espana at which Zoe Barnett gave a memorable performance standing up (as is her wont). Our two orchestras continue to flourish and have played here and at St. George's Church, Chichester. We hosted the guitar section of the Chichester Festival of Music, Dance and Speech in February, and had our own Guitar Festival in November.

Our membership continues to grow and your Committee works hard to run the club. Thanks go to Sasha Levtov as Artistic Director and so much more, Baz Boxall our Membership Secretary, who has recently incorporated a new management system, David Clarke, Treasurer, Debbie Burford, Secretary and author of the minutes of our numerous committee meetings, Teresa Henley, Publicity Officer and considerable contributor to the newsletters, along with Angela MacTavish, Leigh Boyle our Website Administrator, Jez Rogers, Webmaster who lives in New Zealand and who visited us recently, and Julie Insull who looks after our Facebook profile. Thanks also to Nina Levtov, Evelina Kisliak and others who work behind the scenes and help with the food at club evenings, clearing up, chair-stacking and so forth. We are grateful to Stephen Frith who has donated yet another valuable, high quality guitar. We loan his guitars to up-and-coming youngsters to encourage their progress with the instrument.

Finally, JB wished to mention the vital sponsorship given by George Ide, Solicitors of Chichester, Bognor Regis Town Council, the Regis School of Music and Little Florist who supply the splendid floral decorations in the hall. A special mention was given to David Alexander and Equilibrium who generously sponsored the Samantha Muir concert, enabling us to make a rare profit on a professional recital, probably for the first time ever!

Forthcoming events include a visit from Dorset Guitar Society (as well as some guitarists from Kent) on 13th October and our own guitar festival on 2nd/3rd November, adjudicated by one of our patrons, Gary Ryan. We look forward to seeing you here, particularly for our professional concerts. As a final note, it was pointed out at last year's AGM that the committee was 'getting on a bit' and we should have other younger members which is so true, so if anyone would like to volunteer, we do still have two vacancies of Hospitality Officer and Photographer/Archivist.

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 31st season and SL said he had little to add but wanted to thank again all our committee without whom we couldn't have such a productive, inspiring club. He made a plea to start club evenings at 7pm and reminded members that the complimentary tickets are for your guests

only. He agreed with JB that we were all getting on a bit so it was important to cater for a younger generation but even some of *them* are now 'getting on', as Evelina is now studying at university in Guildford – he thanked her for coming over specially tonight.

He continued that the club is thriving as are our two orchestras. Angela MacTavish asked if we have any liaison with local schools and colleges as it would be good to publicise our meetings. SL said that we have our junior festivals and that Linda puts posters up all the time at Bishop Luffa but no-one has ever come to a concert.

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

Members had received by post the Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report for the period 1/8/2023 to 31/7/2024, compiled by David Clarke, showing total funds of £7619.74 (as of 1/8/24). JB stood in for DC who could not be here. DC's report stated that this year's bank balance was £305.69 down on last year. Four of this season's concerts made losses of between £3.07 and £721.30. However, DC wished to thank David Alexander and Equilibrium for arranging and fully funding the Samantha Muir concert which made a profit of £390.00.

Membership income was £1919.00 after our increase in fees this year, up by £460.00 on the last financial year. The club would like to thank members who made donations to the club, totalling £431.00. Gift Aid has been applied for which should come to £72.50 and Equilibrium donated £120.00 to the club. A welcome but reduced grant payment of £200.00 was received from Bognor Town Council, reduced this year due to the unprecedented number of applications and their limited budget. Participation by 10 club members to Easyfundraising came to £148.82. The guitar orchestra's concert at St. Georges Church in April brought in £280.00 in ticket sales and our thanks to Linda Kelsall-Barnett for organising that. The statement of accounts was approved and adopted at the meeting.

7) Election of Club Officers

JB stated that all had agreed to stand again and 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 and Leigh Boyle as Website Administrator. Jez Rogers would continue to look after the club's website and Julie Insull our Facebook profile. Vacant posts remain for Hospitality Officer and Photographer/Archivist. At this point SL said he'd received a very nice email from a member who has been a Chartered Librarian, Chis Jones (CJ). CJ has worked with archives and said it's about telling stories, which makes the difference between an archive and a collection of old letters. Photography is also a very important part of our events and SL had had two offers from members with good cameras, including Chris Small (CS). SL was delighted with this big offer from CS as it would be so good to have photos of all our events. He thanked DB for taking some wonderful photos in recent months but it would be good to have an official photographer. JB thanked both Chris's very much for offering to take on the roles of Archivist and Photographer.

8) Membership Secretary's Report

Baz Boxall reported that 14 new members had joined since the last AGM – Tom Baxter and Jan Parker, Garry Boatman and Linda Wyatt, Elaine Foakes, Tim Freegard, Chris Jones, Gwenda and Norman Keates, Helen Lloyd-Bostock, Nicola Maccarrone, Christopher Small, Emily Spirit and Seth Swain. Sadly, one long-term member has passed away this year, Richard Hunt, a supporter of the club since 1998, but his widow Jill is continuing her membership.

This year the club has implemented the new membership database. Those renewing by cheque, cash or BACS will have been receiving automated renewal emails which he hopes has been going smoothly. BB is planning to extend the facilities this year so that existing members can update their details through Membermojo and new members can apply online. BB concluded that if everyone renews this year, we will have a membership of 95 plus 34 additional family members, making a total of 129.

9) AOB

(1) SL reported that we had lost our 100 year old honorary member, Fred Corbin.

(2) SL stated there was still a vacancy for Hospitality Officer and this was an important role because we have so many new members. *Shortly after the AGM, Judith Ratledge kindly offered to take on the role of Hospitality Officer.*

(3) SL was pleased our club survived Covid and remained healthy. David Alexander (DA) said he was so impressed during Covid by how SL handled it by putting performances online. This was DA's introduction to our club and 'you all did tremendously well'. SL thanked DA who then asked if there was a way to replicate this now online 'like a club night that you missed but here are the highlights'. SL said he takes many videos but not usually for club evenings. JB reminisced that we made more funds in the pandemic than ever before.

(4) SL said that on the noticeboard there are photos of the committee and our next job was to make them more complimentary. CJ said he was sure there was a filter for that!

(5) DA said that Equilibrium would be making another donation to the club this year.

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

Debbie Burford (09/06/2024)