



Charity No. 1124762

**West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
6th September 2008
at Regis School of Music at 8.00 pm**

Committee Members present:

Terry Woodgate (Chairman/Newsletter Editor) TW
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) SL
Jez Rogers (Treasurer) JR
Moyria Woodgate (Photographer/Archivist/Secretary/Press Officer) MW
Patrick Butcher (Charity Officer) PB
Alison & David Stonestreet (Librarians) AS,DS

TW welcomed club members to the 25th AGM of the WSGC. He said that this year marked a watershed for the club now that it had obtained charitable status. This will help not only in raising the profile of the club, but also in obtaining tax concessions. TW said that with grants being reduced or ceasing altogether and the increased costs in running the club – hire of the hall and performers fees, it is very important that we take advantage of the tax rebates available.

TW said that the year had yet again been the most successful to date in terms of membership and entries in festivals. At some time this trend must inevitably slow down.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Tony Poulett (Sponsorship Officer), Karim Bedda and family, Bill and Stella Clarke, John & Patricia Kelsall.

2) The minutes of the last AGM

These were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

3) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

SL said that last season's events were well chronicled and so he would inform members of the coming seasons events. The season opens with a concert by Jeremy Jouve a French guitarist. The next concert has a change of artists. It will be given by 2 brilliant Italian guitarists the Bonfanti Duo and will be an evening of 19th century guitar music. A full 2 hour concert will be given at the Oxmarket at Chichester by WSGC members. The WSGF this November will be adjudicated by Paul Gregory and Graham Devine who will also give the Festival concert. The deadline for entry to the festival competitions is 31st October. A number of prizes are to be offered this year. In addition to the West Dean Bursary, there is a prize of a Camp's Guitar and a copy of Sibelius G7 software. Strings have been donated from two sources for 1st and 2nd places. SL said that of the 58 people attending the West Dean Guitar Festival this year, 8 were members of the WSGC. Four younger members were assisted by the club - Karim Bedda, Ross Barnes, Sam Brown and Simon Keet.

4) Adoption of the Club Accounts

JR explained that although the club accounts were looking healthy at the moment (£619 more than last year), he is always aware that this is a fine balance. Every concert typically loses £100 - £200 and if a concert were to be badly attended, then the losses would be significantly more. The club accounts were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

5) Election of Club Officers

There being no other nominations, the existing members 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, Jez Rogers as Treasurer, Patrick Butcher as charity officer, Tony Poulett as Fundraising Officer and Moyria Woodgate as Secretary & photographer/archivist. Non committee posts of librarians continue to be held by Alison and David Stonestreet and Press liaison is now being covered by Moyria Woodgate. TW explained that Vicky Walker and Jonathan Parrott had recently stood down from their posts as secretary and Press liaison officer respectively. TW thanked them for their support in this.

6) Adoption of the Revised Club Constitution

PB explained that in order to become an educational charity, the charity commissioners insisted that a number of changes be made to the original constitution. These concerned the educational objectives of the club (which have always been present but were not explicitly stated), clauses to preclude any financial gain for the trustees and procedures for winding up the club should the unthinkable happen. PB said that none of the revisions were onerous. The revised constitution was accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

7) Discussion of Club Affairs

PB began by outlining the reasons for the split in membership fees and gift aid. The club can gain back some 28% from tax rebates from the gift aids given by tax paying members. JR said that approximately one third of members had currently renewed their membership. PB is currently registering with HMRC in order to investigate the tax rebates and to see whether these can be backdated 6 years

AS said that together with DS they had been producing a computer database of the library. All the solo music and most of the compendia had so far been entered. This is some 1400 entries but it only represents half of the music. CDs, videos and vinyls still have to be entered. JR said that entries can be interrogated from the comfort of one's home PC, but that the database would not indicate if an item is out on loan, merely that such an item exists. The limit still remains at 3 items but only 1 CD/DVD at a time. A lot of sheet music is unaccounted for. AS requested the return of all loans to the library red box so they can be booked in. Do not try to return them to where you found them. AS canvassed opinion as to what would be a reasonable period of loan for members and whether fines of say £1 would be acceptable. This could be called a donation. SL thought that a loan from one club evening to another should be amply sufficient. If members were away on a club evening, they could always telephone in a renewal, but furthermore, the school is open on Monday evenings for the guitar orchestra and members could always return items then. Roger Ainley said that he felt that a £1 fine may dissuade some members from ever returning items borrowed. It was suggested that the proposed loan period together with fines be instituted for the forthcoming season and it can then be reviewed perhaps on a trial basis by the next club evening.

8) AOB

The floor was asked if they had any likes/dislikes about events put on by the committee. The general consensus was that everyone was content. SL said he would like some club evenings on a pre-arranged date planned in advance and run by teachers such as Linda or Mitch who could have a free hand in what they did.

TW asked if there were any comments on the newsletter. He was aware that some of the photographs which are now larger, do not reproduce too well in print. He appealed to members for more articles. It was suggested that there be a juniors' page since they represent a significant proportion of the membership. TW was happy to incorporate such an idea, but it relied on the juniors providing the input.

TW appealed for members to offer to help whether it be at a festival or helping to clear up after an event. He also appealed to members to keep bringing food along to club evenings as it does help to defray club costs. Nina Levtov was thanked for her unstinting work behind the scenes for the club – helping with the catering, artists, adjudicators, accompanying students and general hospitality. SL thanked the committee for their dedication to the club.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.