



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Saturday 10th September 2016
at Regis School of Music at 8.40 pm

Committee Members present:

Julian Bobak (Chairman) **JB**

Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) **SL**

Baz Boxall (Charity Officer/Membership Secretary) **BB**

Mike McCurrach (Treasurer) **MM**

Julie Insull (Publicity Officer) **Jl**

Debbie Burford (Secretary) **DB**

JB welcomed club members to the 23rd AGM of the WSGC, and the beginning of the 24th year of the guitar club.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Nina Levtov, Alison Stonestreet, Linda and Ian Barnett, John and Pat Kelsall. Around 14 members (excluding committee) attended the meeting.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 12th September 2015 AGM were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

3) Chairman's Introduction

JB was keen to point out there was no wine this year, only water on the table! He said it had been a very good year for the club with some wonderful performances by the "top brass of the guitar world" namely Thibault Cauvin, Graham Devine, Judicael Perroy, Mark Ashford and Fabio Zanon. They were all such good performances but sadly not such good attendances which is a real waste. This criticism was not of course directed at those "keen members" present tonight but he hoped we would all bring more guests to the recitals.

JB wished to give thanks to our hard-working committee for their help in making events and administration run smoothly. MM is standing down as Treasurer and the club would like to thank him and his wife Sarah for looking after the accounts so well. The club would also like to thank Terry and Moryia Woodgate for producing the "Good Vibrations" newsletter. JB sees TW as the *éminence grise* (Terry has been here so many years and keeps us all in good order!) . JB also took the opportunity to thank Richard Prior in Devon and Jez Rogers in New Zealand for looking after our website.

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 23rd season and SL hoped we would forgive any spelling mistakes! He thought that this had been one of most exciting years and he was delighted to still be making a full programme of recitals, festivals and club evenings after 23 years. Despite difficult economic times and pressures, the club still has around 100 members (including families) and most still come to our club evenings and recitals. "Our mission is to promote live music" he added, which because of the internet is even more important now.

SL stated that our guitar club is one of the most successful in the country and the only one to offer so many events year after year. Nearby, Southampton and Dorset Guitar Societies have reduced their professional concerts to only a couple per year, he added. We could still do with bigger audiences but the club is OK financially. It is very important that we attract and look after a new generation of players and performers. SL is proud that the club has produced several professionals but we need to attract youngsters of 7-11 years and make their families welcome as they are our future. Once again he would like to thank all the committee members. JB thanked SL and said he once saw Sasha's work diary and it was the most extraordinary complicated thing he'd ever seen in his life! SL's report was adopted as correct.

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

MM presented his valedictory accounts for the Club for the period 1/8/2015 to 31/7/2016. The main current account showed a balance of £7230.26 whilst the No. 2 account held £4001.29 (Kit Crowhurst's legacy). The gift aid figure of £1484.51, MM explained, was actually for three years. MM also wished to acknowledge the generous grant from Bognor Town Council of £750. MM pointed out that each year the amount we must offer our artists creeps up but the paying audience decreases, so attendance is the key, though club funds are buoyant at the moment. MM has served four years as Treasurer and said it had been "a pleasure most of the time!" and wished David Clarke, taking on the Treasurer's role, great success. JB thanked MM. SL proposed the accounts be adopted as true which was seconded by Diana Green.

7) Election of Club Officers

JB stated that the significant change was David Clarke who had "manfully and generously" offered to be Treasurer. We would like to thank him very much particularly as he is in the process of moving house. A unanimous show of hands accepted all the posts.

The committee was voted in as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Julian Bobak | Chairman | Debbie Burford | Secretary |
| Sasha Levtov | Artistic Director | Baz Boxall | Membership Secretary/Charity Officer |
| David Clarke | Treasurer | Julie Insull | Publicity Officer |

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.

8) Discussion of Club Affairs

Angela MacTavish asked whether the complimentary tickets for visitors were a good idea and how many are actually used. JI confirmed that many were indeed used. Angela was concerned that not many then became members and she volunteered to talk to people in the break. All agreed that it is important to befriend new people so that we have new members. SL said the TV/internet was another distraction but Diana Green pointed out that programmes can be recorded easily to watch later so it should not stop people coming out.

Sue McQuillan from Rustington asked how well publicised the concerts are locally? SL said our publicity was much improved recently thanks to JI's efforts. SL said it was easy for him to produce extra posters but they need to be delivered. MM stated that posters need to be got out 2-3 weeks before the concert and suggested Sainsbury's Rustington a good spot.

JB wished to thank JI for her questionnaire, two questions being: *Should events start at 7 or 7.30 pm? Are Fridays preferable to Saturdays?* TW thought the earlier start would help youngsters and also those adults who stay behind to help clear up at the end. Diana Green thought the early start could be difficult for those of working age. Robin Burgess thought that professional concerts on a Friday may struggle. SL agreed that our Saturday events are pretty well attended but it is also a family day. The committee would consider all the comments and results of the questionnaire.

TW said he used to belong to the Berkshire Guitar Society but this folded in August due to lack of interest and numbers. SL emphasised how important it was to look after our youngsters and our guitar teachers and was pleased to welcome Robin Burgess from Littlehampton as a new teacher at the club.

TW gave a vote of thanks to the committee.

9) AOB

None

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

Debbie Burford (25/3/2017)