



Charity No. 1124762

**West Sussex Guitar Club AGM  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2009  
at Regis School of Music at 8.00 pm**

Committee Members present:

Terry Woodgate (Chairman/Newsletter Editor) TW  
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director) SL  
Patrick Butcher (Charity Officer) PB  
Tony Poulett (retiring Sponsorship Officer)  
Alison & David Stonestreet (Librarians) AS,DS  
Moyria Woodgate ( Photographer/Archivist/Secretary/Press Officer) MW  
Irina Ilieva (Hospitality Officer)

TW welcomed club members to the 16<sup>th</sup> AGM of the WSGC. He remarked how quickly the summer recess had passed, but that the hole in our lives was filled once again with our first concert of the season given by Xuefei Yang the previous week.

**1) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Angela MacTavish, Jill Douglas, Julian Bobak, Yvonne Skelding, John & Patricia Kelsall and of course Jez Rogers (retiring treasurer & membership secretary) who emigrated to New Zealand just a few days previous.

**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 was one of the most successful we have had. The events were well chronicled in his report so instead he would inform members of the coming season's events. A diary brochure of events up until 2010 had already been published, but after then there were further superb artists coming to the club. These included Judicael Perroy in January - a high profile performer and guitar teacher - who had successfully coached the last two GFA winners. Judicael will also give a workshop and SL asked for candidates of a high calibre who could perform before him. SL wanted to publicise this workshop in Classical Guitar to attract high calibre participants. We then have welcome returns of Irina Kulikova and Graham Devine. Graham will also give a workshop but based on Bach music, this would not require such a high standard of performers. The season will end with a performance by the Mandolinquents – 2 mandolins, a bass mandolin and a classical guitar. This will be an evening of fun and mischief. It is also hoped to devote half of a club evening to a Young Professional concert to be given by the runner up of the BBC Young Musician of the year who now studies with Gary Ryan.

**4) Adoption of the Club Accounts**

JR had prepared a statement of the club accounts prior to leaving. This showed the club was some £586 better off than the previous year. We had grants from BTC, WSCC and the MCT and in addition PB had set up the club as a charitable status and we have had income from tax refunds from HMRC. HAGO held a charity concert on our behalf and some additional income for the club came from playing out at the Oxmarket in Chichester and at the Selsey Festival. TW said that the club had been able to support a number of bursaries for younger players throughout the year. However, he was concerned about the relatively low numbers attending concerts. Takings on concerts were down some £1200 on the previous year and for the 2008/2009 season income was some £800 down on expenditure. TW said that although the club was doing well financially at the moment, there were strong hints that in the future grants will be reduced or may cease altogether in which case the club will have to be self sufficient.

PB said that to date some half of members had renewed their membership. A number of members had also made donations in addition to their suggested membership. TW pointed out that every £1 donated returned 28p from HMRC. He asked that those who had not yet renewed do so soon. SL offered that members who renew can bring along two friends for free to one concert during the year.

The statement of club accounts was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

### **5) Election of Club Officers**

TW said the club was sorry to lose JR (who had just emigrated to New Zealand) and TP (retiring Sponsorship officer) from the committee and thanked them for their work over the years. Fortunately JR will continue as webmaster for the club. TP was presented with a pair of engraved wine glasses together with something to fill them. TP thanked the club for his gift but appealed for members to help out at various events since we now had a small committee with lots to do. He said he had got a lot of satisfaction writing away to get grants. If people are unable to help perhaps they could make a small donation and try to attend more concerts and club evenings.

TW thanked the rest of the committee for their work. In particular D&A S for their sterling work on cataloguing our extensive library whose database can be accessed from home. AS said that the library had recently obtained all the pieces for all grades of the 2010 Trinity Guitar syllabus. SL thanked MW for her secretarial skills and photography and press officer jobs and also TW for producing the club newsletter. TW thanked Nina Levtoy for her unstinting work behind the scenes for the club – helping with the catering, artists, adjudicators, accompanying students and general hospitality.

There being no other nominations, the existing members were voted in by a unanimous show of hands. PB now undertakes additional responsibilities. The committee now consists of Terry Woodgate as Chairman and Newsletter editor, Sasha Levtoy as Artistic Director, Patrick Butcher as Treasurer, Membership Secretary and charity officer, Moyria Woodgate as Secretary, press officer & photographer/archivist and also Irina Ilieva as hospitality officer. Non committee posts of librarians continue to be held by Alison and David Stonestreet.

### **6) Discussion of Club Affairs**

TW said that each year the club puts on 6/7 concerts and club evenings, holds two festivals, and a workshop. The concerts consist of solo performances, ensembles and we try to have some lighter performances such as Richard Smith, HAGO and the forthcoming Mandolinquents. In addition, the club plays at outside venues both to help our income and other charities. We support youngsters with bursaries to attend various events. We have a library that must be second to none. TW asked if there was anything else the club should/could be doing? It was agreed that there was little more that the club could do and a comment was made that our concert costs are quite low compared with other venues. It was suggested that we should be more proactive with publicity, putting up flyers of our concerts in the workplace, libraries and tourist information offices. MW said that the Chichester Observer series is informed of all our concerts with a press release and a photograph, but for some considerable time now, nothing has been printed, presumably because we are in competition with higher profile venues like the Chichester Theatre. Member Barry Beckett undertook to be the focus for flyers which SL should send to him for onward distribution to other members who would tell him of their requirements. TW said that the club should not pay for any advertising.

### **7) AOB**

TW asked for members contributions to the newsletter. A member was shortly going to produce a series of articles on making a guitar which even if beyond member's capabilities should prove interesting. TW had continued the series of interviews with performers that Angela MacTavish had started. These show how performers first got started and give an insight to life at the top.

SL said he has many unique video recordings of performances at the club which would be of great educational value to the club and would like them transferred to DVDs to be kept in the library. He requested that anyone with some IT skills volunteer to copy these to DVD format.

TW reiterated TP's request for helpers. He realised that many would not like a long standing commitment of being on the committee, but he appealed for members to occasionally offer to help whether it be at a festival, manning the door 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 a great deal to defray club costs.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.