



Charity No. 1124762

**West Sussex Guitar Club AGM**  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
**at Regis School of Music at 8.50 pm**

**Committee Members present:**

Julian Bobak (Chairman) **JB**

Sasha Levtoy (Artistic Director) **SL**

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

Mike McCurrach (Treasurer) **MM**

Julie Insull (Librarian/Publicity Officer) **JI**

Debbie Burford (Secretary) **DB**

JB welcomed club members to the 22<sup>nd</sup> AGM of the WSGC.

**1) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Suzanne McQuillan, Sue Reeve and Christine Daniel. Around 20 members (excluding committee) attended the meeting.

**2) The Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 AGM were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

**Chairman's Introduction**

JB wished to thank the hard-working committee, where there are 'no passengers and some have two jobs' - to BB as Membership Secretary and Charity Officer for 'dealing with the Byzantine provinces of the Charity rules,' to MM as Treasurer for 'his assiduous work on the accounts, keeping everything straight so as to avoid the embarrassment suffered by the Tesco board,' to DB as Secretary for supplying 'compendious minutes, recommended for pure reading,' to JI for 'continuous and dogged work as Librarian and Publicity Officer,' and to SL, our Artistic Director 'the engine and architect of the club.' JB wondered if his contacts with the Eastern block were slightly suspicious - 'how he gets such world-class artists no-one knows!' He appealed to all members and friends to support.

The committee also wished to thank Richard Prior for his work on the website and 'playing the Hamlet cigar advert on numerous occasions' and Jez Rogers in New Zealand. For Terry and Moyria Woodgate for producing an 'extraordinary magazine, packed with excellent articles and photos.' JB sees TW as the 'father of the club' and an enormous help to the Chairman. And finally to Nina for her constant support, and catering at all our club events.

BB reported that membership had remained on a level and stable, currently 108 members (some family) so probably 170 people involved and therefore a healthy club. He would urge everyone to set up a standing order or at least pay promptly. For the charity side BB keeps an eye on what the Charity Commission is demanding at the time and abiding by their rules. JB thanked BB.

JB thought it probably the greatest club for classical guitar in England.

**3) Receive the Artistic Director's Report**

Members had received by post the Artistic Director's detailed report of the club's 22<sup>nd</sup> season. As well as a successful season of concerts and club evenings, SL felt the club had made a very important step forward with the formation of the club orchestra and he wanted to ensure it had plenty of opportunities to perform. He felt it important to subsidise the orchestra if necessary and it is intended there would be 6-7 sessions each term. £30 per term is a reasonable cost per person to help towards buying music, hiring the hall and paying the conductor, Linda Kelsall-Barnett. Linda felt that one hour from 8pm-9pm (no coffee break) would work best (Chris Sweatman's orchestra finishes at 7.45) and Linda would provide the music. The first rehearsal was set for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Linda said she would like the help of a secretary, someone responsible to duplicate parts, perhaps order music and keep a register and asked for volunteers. David Clarke volunteered to be secretary. SL would run a performance workshop on alternate weeks to the orchestra.

SL hoped we had all read about the substantial legacy of £4000 from the will of Kit Crowhurst, plus various donated musical instruments and sheet music. The club is very grateful to Angela MacTavish, a great friend of Kit, who helped in his last days, and allowed us to hear about the will. This legacy means that fundraising for the club is not so urgent but we do need to ensure we remain an active club with a future. Every club is getting older and there is a need to attract a new generation of young players before we find ourselves coming to the club in electric buggies! Having youngsters here is important and keeps us all young. This is mainly up to our guitar teachers but we should all tell people about the club and be welcoming to families. He added that the success of our club is the inspiration brought about by our artists and amateurs. Finally, SL wanted to thank the wonderful committee for all their work and practical

help at events and to thank everyone for their help over 22 years in sustaining the club and wished everyone a successful 23<sup>rd</sup> season. The report was adopted as correct.

#### 4) Adoption of the Club Accounts

MM presented the statement of the Club's accounts from 1/8/2014 to 31/7/2015. The current bank balance showed £7448.14 (plus £130 held in petty cash) and the club had brought in £185 more than it spent, so that was a bit of a first! The legacy from Kit Crowhurst of £4000 was not included in the figures.

The club had supported 6 recitals at a loss of around £1000 but MM felt the quality of the concerts more than compensated for this. However, just 10 more paying guests could mean the concerts break even.

It had been agreed that the membership fee would continue at the same rate. Club evenings and parties had been very successful only incurring a small loss of £170 over 7 events. For MM the highlight is the November Festival seeing the hallway packed with youngsters practising excitedly. The Junior festival usually breaks even but the Senior Festival does not because of course the parents don't come!

There were no questions or comments from the floor. The statement of club accounts was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

#### 5) Election of Club Officers

JI was standing down as Librarian but continuing as Publicity Officer. Other members of the committee had agreed to carry on.

The committee was voted in as follows:

Julian Bobak	<b>Chairman</b>	Debbie Burford	<b>Secretary</b>
Sasha Levto	<b>Artistic Director</b>	Baz Boxall	<b>Membership Secretary/Charity Officer</b>
Mike McCurrach	<b>Treasurer</b>	Julie Insull	<b>Publicity Officer</b>

For the non-committee posts Pam Fereday was standing as Librarian with David Clarke as Assistant Librarian. Moyria Woodgate would continue as Photographer/Archivist, Terry Woodgate as Newsletter Editor.

There were no objections and posts were carried.

#### 6) Discussion of Club Affairs

Angela MacTavish suggested our fund-raising activities could be co-ordinated with the RSM, especially since they are mostly retired people who bring plants and gifts and run the stalls and end up buying their own stuff. We could then share the profits. JB thought it a good idea. John Mason suggested using "easyfundraising.com" and when people buy groceries etc. from the supermarket then 1% is given to the charity of their choice. MM thought that was a good idea and we could be the nominated charity. SL said he gets bombarded with fundraising suggestions and would rather not be too commercial. He did not like the idea of telling members where to shop - he wanted to concentrate on inspiring people. Ian Barnett thought there was no harm in John's suggestion.

Sam Brown talked about the isolated environment of music study at college, but bringing his friends here from the Royal College (London) they unanimously said what a fantastic thing the club is. Sam said people get together and make music and he thought it was a very precious thing. SL agreed that this year we had had a wonderful contribution from the Royal College and Royal Academy students and it raised the standard of our own performances. Having more money in the club SL thought we might help them come for the next festival e.g. paying train fares. Richard Prior felt this may be unfair on other members of the club travelling from say Southampton. Sam thought having Royal College students would make the festival more exciting and bring publicity to the club. Diana Green thought it would fairer if they were coming to perform at say a club evening but not at the festival. Pam Fereday agreed with Diana - if we invite them to a club evening it is OK, but if they choose to take part in the festival she does not think we should support them financially. MM observed that Sam was a great ambassador for the club and has performed at every event but he thought equally we should encourage our own youngsters.

Linda said there had been a recent decline in interest in learning guitar for children. In Chichester she has had to fold her elementary orchestra due to lack of interest, the intermediate group has been reduced to 6 and the youth group to only 4. Linda said that provision for music is very poor in primary schools and there are few jobs for guitar teachers. Richard Prior thought we could get our students to go into junior schools but Linda said she took George Robinson to his old primary school, it went down very well and everyone said they wanted to learn the guitar but not one signed up for a lesson. MM said they were very fortunate to have Linda.

Richard had another idea - he has long had the feeling we are too *Bognor-centric*. 'We could consider putting on a recital in different places - we only do Chichester when there are 100,000 people in Worthing.' He thought Sam's friends could play in other venues and get the club's name known. SL thought it was worth considering but pointed out Richard was moving to Devon. SL suggested writing to MP Nick Gibb about introducing more guitar into schools but Ian Moorey said the Conservative government has been cutting the Arts so he is the last person to help.

JB summarised by saying it had been a very useful evening with thanks to all for their comments.

#### 7) AOB

None

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm.

Debbie Burford (18/3/2016)