

## **MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th October 2007 at the Regis School of Music, Sudley Road, Bognor Regis.**

Committee members present:

Richard Prior (RP) Chairman

Sasha Levtov (SL) Artistic Director

Jez Rogers (JR) Treasurer, webmaster

Patrick Butcher (PB) Charity Officer

Tony Poulett (TP) Fundraising Officer

Terry Woodgate (TW) Newsletter Editor

Moyria Woodgate (MW) Club Photographer/archivist

Vicky Walker (VW) Secretary

RP welcomed club members to the 14th AGM of the WSGC.

1) The minutes from the last AGM were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

2) RP said that attendance at the past season's concert series and outbound work had generated our best season yet. RP gave his thanks to all of the club members, the committee and gave particular mention to Nina Levtov. RP then thanked SL for his report and said that he hoped that the next season would be able to top this one.

3) RP then asked the floor if there were any queries over the accounts. None were raised. RP went on to thank JR for his hard work in taking over the accounts. Accounts were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

4) RP mentioned that the workshop co-ordinator role on the agenda had been listed in error. The rest of the committee was re-elected by a unanimous show of hands. TP then gave a talk about the sponsorship received by the club. £600 has been received from West Sussex County council and £200 from Bognor town Council. Arun District Council is to be taken off of the sponsors list after no grant has been received from them for 2 years. TP then mentioned West Dean College as our new sponsors and spoke of the sponsorship prize to West Dean International Guitar Festival to be offered in the forthcoming WSGF. TP said that he was waiting to contact the Marsh Christian Trust for a grant. Ackermans Music, Chichester Web, Town Flowers and Duende were given a special mention for their assistance also. TP added that we are always looking for sponsors and asked members to approach him if they came up with any ideas on this matter.

5) RP then welcomed Patrick Butcher to the floor to talk about registering with the Charities Commission and applying for charitable status. RP explained the need for us now to become a charity. PB explained to the club about his experience in setting up a charity earlier this year. He also explained to members about the gift aid option (tax relief) on membership fees and the assistance of securing reliable grants and funding. PB explained that it was not a 'get-rich-quick' scheme, but the club needed to go ahead with the application in order to push the club forward. Daphne Snocken asked if having a life membership would assist the club in any way financially. SL asked what sum she thought would be appropriate for a life membership and all agreed that this would be a good point to put up for discussion if the idea was to be carried. RP mentioned that although this was a good point, it was not strictly linked to charitable status of the club. RP then went on to mention that the subscription could be lowered - this is not eligible for tax-relief, but asking for an optional donation on top of the subscription fee, which would be eligible for tax relief. Daphne Snocken then asked if the people who were paying the donations would have to be tax payers - RP replied that yes, they would. TP asked if we have to approve any changes in the constitution with all club members - RP said that this would probably mean that we would hold an

extra AGM within the year to accommodate this if it were the case. RP mentioned that trustees were legally responsible to pay if the charity folded, but that this rarely happens. SL said that he had been following the RSM's change to charity status. SL also mentioned that the committee would be drawing up any changes to the constitution ASAP and the outlined financial benefits of becoming a charity before any additional AGM was to be held.

6) RP then spoke of Karim Bedda and Matthew Farrant being offered scholarships to West Dean and the Winchester Youth Guitar Festival respectively. He read out a letter from Karim's parents giving their thanks to the club and its members. RP said that it is the club's subscriptions that enable this and thanked the members again for all of their support.

7) RP asked if there was any other business. TW asked for help at the forthcoming WSGF and at concerts and club evenings. RP added that the festivals were enjoyable and interesting to attend and encouraged people to attend and help out. SL then asked for members to let the committee know if they were willing to help out at any events. RP thanked TW for his appeal.

RP then closed the meeting formally and gave his thanks to all for coming.