



Charity No. 1124762

West Sussex Guitar Club AGM
Saturday 13th September 2025
at Regis School of Music at 7.05 pm

Club Officers present:

Julian Bobak (Chairman/Charity Officer/Librarian) **JB**
Sasha Levtov (Artistic Director/Newsletter Editor) **SL**
Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary) **BB**

Debbie Burford (Secretary) **DB**
Teresa Henley (Publicity Officer) **TH**

In addition to the club officers above, this meeting was attended by David Alexander, Ann Alexander, Morgan Andrews, Bob Bonner, Elaine Foakes, Diana Green, Harri Goldsmith, Jay Huff, Linda Kelsall-Barnett, Angela MacTavish, Paul Nowlan, Andrew Richardson, Yvonne Scott, Ion Tverdohleb, George Vears and Barbara Westmore.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Clarke (Treasurer), Sue Reeve and Alison Stonestreet.

2) The Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the 21st September 2024 AGM were approved as a true record.

3) Chairman's Introduction

Julian Bobak welcomed all to our AGM and Club Evening and the beginning of our 33rd year. A welcome was also extended to new members, Michael Kalli and family (Olive, Phillip and Philippa), Paul Nowlan and George Vears. Our year has included numerous club evenings, our three-counties guitar meeting in October, hosting guitar clubs from Dorset and Kent, and our 2024 Christmas Party, bizarrely featuring Sasha as a snake-charmer during our orchestra's performance of 'In a Persian Market'. This great amateur dramatisation also featured a princess and a juggler. In February we held our annual Chichester Festival of Music, Dance and Speech, with junior and senior sections adjudicated by Mark Ashford. During the year we have had professional concerts by Gary Ryan, Amanda Cook and Mark Ashford, as well as the Brazilian guitarist, Fabio Zanon, the Chilean/British guitarist, Emmanuel Sowicz, and the duo, Mark Eden and Christopher Stell. On 23rd June the club took part in the Festival of Chichester at St. John's Chapel with performances by our orchestra, led by Linda Kelsall-Barnett, ensembles and young professional Zoe Barnett. In July our Summer Party, 'Fiesta Latina', saw many sporting sombreros and Latin American dress. We are clearly expanding into amateur dramatics as our stage featured a backdrop of the Andes complete with a sort-of condor flying overhead. In October, Guitar Harmony, led by Andrew Richardson, gave a charity performance in Rustington.

So, after a successful year, my thanks goes to our committee, to Sasha Levtov as our Artistic Director, David Clarke (Treasurer), Baz Boxall (Membership Secretary), Debbie Burford (Secretary), Leigh Boyle (Website Administrator), Teresa Henley (Publicity), Jez Rogers (Webmaster) and Judith Ratledge (Hospitality Officer). Thanks also to Barbara Westmore for contributing photos for the newsletter and to all the helpers at our club evenings and professional concerts, stacking chairs, washing up etc; and also to Linda Kelsall-Barnett for directing our WSGC orchestra, Elaine Foakes for standing in for Linda when needed, and Andrew Richardson for leading Guitar Harmony.

We have a comprehensive library of written music, with sections for beginners, intermediate and advanced, so please use! I hope you are OK with our new management system for memberships which has had a few glitches, and apologies if anyone has been affected by the automated renewal system which sometimes sends out reminders for payments when these have been made.

Thank you all for attending today and throughout the year and I look forward to seeing you at our club evenings and professional concerts. You have two complimentary tickets so do invite friends and family too! Please do come and support our next professional concerts – on September 27th we have Judicaël Perroy and Natalia Lipnitskaya and on 22nd November a recital by Irina Kulikova.

4) Matters Arising from the last AGM

None.

5) Receive the Artistic Director's Report

Members had received by post the Artistic Director's report of the Club's 32nd season and SL said he had little to add apart from saying how important it was for the club to continue to support professional musicians. He added that

we have a wonderful stage and a superb audience. We usually only get 40-50 people at each concert but having just 10 more paying people would help with covering those professional fees. Thank you all for contributing food to our informal meetings too. And finally, Sasha declared, 'Congratulations for supporting the most active guitar society in this country, and Fabio Zanon thinks in Europe too!'

6) Adoption of the Club Accounts

Members had received by post the Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report for the period 1/8/2024 to 31/7/2025, compiled by David Clarke, showing total funds of £7,110.39 (as of 10/8/2025). JB stood in for DC who could not be here. DC's report stated that this year's bank balance was £522.85 down on last year. The net debit for our club evenings and parties was -£321.71 and for our five professional recitals -£1,825.03.

DC wished to thank Bognor Regis Town Council, George Ide solicitors and Equilibrium for their grants and donations of £250.00, £500.00 and £100.00 respectively. He also wished to thank members who donated a total of £275.00 and those who participate in Easyfundraising which gave a further sum of £100.27. Finally, members' gift aid donations added another £74.90.

The orchestra's successful concert at St John's Chapel brought in £358.76 in ticket sales and DC wished to thank Linda Kelsall-Barnett for organising that event. The statement of accounts was approved and adopted at the meeting.

7) Election of Club Officers

JB stated that all had agreed to stand again and the committee was voted in as follows:

Julian Bobak	Chairman /Charity Officer/Librarian	David Clarke	Treasurer
Sasha Levto	Artistic Director/Newsletter Editor	Debbie Burford	Secretary

For the non-committee posts, Baz Boxall would continue as Membership Secretary, Teresa Henley as Publicity Officer, Leigh Boyle as Website Administrator, and Judith Ratledge as Hospitality Officer. Jez Rogers would continue to look after the club's website from New Zealand but Julie Insull would stand down from looking after the club's Facebook profile. Vacant posts remain for Photographer/Archivist.

8) Membership Secretary's Report

Baz Boxall reported that JB had already introduced the new members but added that there are always a few leaving because 'they are even older than us!' BB stated that we have 92 memberships (down from 95 last year) including 33 family memberships, making a total of 125 people.

BB apologised to some members who got email reminders after renewing but said there is sometimes a delay of a few days in the system. He said members can easily click on the link to stop the reminders. He hopes to extend Membermojo this year so that any member can amend their own personal details and new people can apply directly through the website. He fully understood that not everyone wants to use the new technology so we will continue to use all the other methods. JB thanked BB.

9) AOB

(1) David Alexander (DA) questioned why he had been mentioned in the last newsletter as a 'new member' when in fact he joined the club three years ago. He felt he should have passed his apprenticeship by now! It was explained that this was compared to some people who had been members for over 30 years.

(2) Angela MacTavish thought how important it was to liaise with local schools and colleges, and said she would be willing to liaise for both WSGC and the RSM, so long as she was provided with suitable information to take along. Complimentary tickets could also be offered to pupils and teachers, she added.

(3) DA mentioned that when he first joined the club, it said it was for poetry too. SL said he was grateful to DA and Equilibrium for donating to the club each year, so would let DA read a poem today if he wished!

(4) JB asked if anyone was willing to stand for the vacant posts but there was no response.

The meeting closed at 7:26 pm.

Debbie Burford (23/05/2026)