



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



MINUTES OF THE OSOS AGM 2018

Tuesday April 17th — 7:45pm at the Parish Centre, Holy Trinity, Rayleigh

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Present were: Gerald Usher (Chairman - GU), Joseph Zammit (JZ), Warren Symes (WS), George Cobley (via Skype - GC)

GU welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 19:48. Apologies were received from, John Blore, Brian Fletcher, Ivan Kish, Adrian Lucas, Geoffrey May, Graham McKean, and Jonathan Roberts (JR).

2. Approval of minutes from the 2017 AGM and matters arising

The same were reviewed, JZ proposed and WS seconded their approval which passed unanimously.

3. Reports from the Committee

- Chairman

GU's report is copied in full below:

It must be a rarity for a Chairman (especially this one!) to consider his report almost superfluous; but our brilliantly efficient Publicity and Communications system, along with a skilfully managed web site that other organisations would give their eye teeth for - and which is updated almost daily - virtually guarantees that OSOS members, donors and supporters are all 'in the know' about everything which has happened recently, is happening now and will be happening shortly. This is due to the extraordinary dynamism of one person whose speed of operation and forensic attention to detail (handled with enviable tact and diplomacy) has secured truly meteoric progress. We are lucky indeed to have such a powerhouse in our midst and I know that our appreciation will be fully articulated in the course of this evening's meeting. Special thanks also to Warren Symes, whose deft management of school/OSOS liaison has paved the way for so many remarkable achievements and, indeed, to all committee members for keeping the wheels turning so smoothly over the past twelve months.

In the light of the above, all I need to report here is that the past year has been the greatest for the SHSB organ (and the community involved with it) since it was built in 1923.

The report was received well by the meeting and mutual thanks exchanged for the particular efforts made this year and the comments made in GU's report.

- Treasurer

JR proposed *in absentia* the following financial summary to the meeting.

JR commented that concert income was on par with 16-17, donations were substantially higher, yet membership was the lowest year to date (though the meeting recognised the different means of obtaining membership, e.g. via CAF, were not fully reflected in the JR's summary). Concert income should increase this year and we should place a renewed focus on growing membership.

JR's report was seconded by GU and passed unanimously.

**OLD SOUTHENDIAN ORGAN SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET**

Income	17-18	16-17	15-16	14-15	TOTAL
Membership	210.00	260.00	250.00	-	720.00
Donations	39289.26	4425.00	4150.00	1833.34	49697.60
Events	425.00	426.84	290.00	-	1141.84
Sales	-	-	-	-	0.00
Total Income	<u>39924.26</u>	<u>5111.84</u>	<u>4690.00</u>	<u>1833.34</u>	<u>51559.44</u>
Expenses					
Components	38067.10	1580.52	219.99	202.40	40070.01
Trips	-	100.00	-	-	100.00
Marketing	428.86	93.99	-	-	522.85
Venue Hire	130.00	135.00	135.00	-	400.00
Total Expenses	<u>38625.96</u>	<u>1909.51</u>	<u>354.99</u>	<u>202.40</u>	<u>41092.86</u>
NET INCOME	<u>1298.30</u>	<u>3202.33</u>	<u>4335.01</u>	<u>1630.94</u>	<u>10466.58</u>

- General Secretary

There was no report from the General Secretary.

- Membership Secretary

GC commented that membership had been relative steady through the year, but that the large amount of activity around the organ rebuild had caused a large increase in supporters (e.g. mailing list, pipe sponsors, donors) which now totals almost 180.

The meeting then paused from approximately 20:05 to 20:25.

- Publicity and Communications

JZ reported on the highlights of the year which have enabled greater communication and success with supporters:

We registered with the Charities Commission (a requirement of having income over £5K p.a. income), and subsequently set up a Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) donations system. Of the £50K received, besides major gifts received (55%), 20% came from existing funds, 10% from gift aid, 10% from further cheques/BACs payments, and 5% by CAF.

We launched a pipe sponsorship scheme. Approximately 10% of the £50K fund is attributable to pipe sponsorship.

Mailchimp (a mailing list service for sending professional-looking communications by email) was introduced from approximately June 2017. From then until now approximately 600 messages have been opened by the approx 170 people on the mailing list.

Alongside adding sections for the appeal and organ updates to the website, Facebook has been employed further to keep people up to speed. Posts often reach 500 people, with top performing posts attaining a reach of up to 1500 people.

TicketSource has been added as a means of selling tickets online. This has guaranteed several hundred pounds of ticket sales ahead of our events in April and June this year.

4. Update from the School

WS gave a comprehensive report on the activity at the school, highlighting:

- Thomas Stanford has been performing well as School Organist - a highly committed individual, it has been good to involve Thomas in OSOS (e.g. concerts), and it is hoped this will continue.
- Two Sixth Form students are learning the organ and will take over next year.
- On Tuesday 24th April the first assembly with the rebuilt organ will take place, with the St. George theme due to be reinforced by a robust rendition of Jerusalem and a suitable voluntary to celebrate the organ's return.
- Organ music received by Hilary Hill from Gavin Brown's collection has been kindly received. Some has been set aside to sell over the summer (proceeds will be used to purchase items more suitable for teaching the organ to beginners), and the rest has been retained and catalogued in the school's new Hitchcock Library.
- WS's conversation with John Dixon (OSOS member, resident in Norfolk, VA, USA) provided a new opportunity for the students to have a session with an external organist, and also to obtain new but accessible repertoire written by John to aid teaching. The meeting expressed thanks to John, and WS will pick up in due course.
- Likewise, WS reported that Adrian Lucas's offer to work with the music students when he is around for his recital on June 16th is being worked on with the Music Department. WS will report back in due course to the Committee.
- The increased collaboration with the Music Department was praised, with the upcoming concert on April 19th providing a great showcase of their output. The concert was announced at the staff meeting on April 16th.

5. Amendments to the Rules

JZ talked through and proposed the following amendments to the Rules, as below, the same being seconded by WS and approved unanimously.

a) Life Membership

Change to formalise the Life Membership option created for over 65s.

Add section to end of point 3 of the Rules:

3.) iii.) Life Membership shall be available to members or prospective members who, at the point of application, are aged 65 or over, on payment of a minimum fee as shall from time to time be determined by the Committee of the Society. Life members will be exempt from the minimum annual subscription, but will receive the same benefits as members who do contribute the minimum annual subscription.

b) School Liaison Officer

Change to create a formal role on the Committee for a School Liaison Officer.

Edit point 4.) i.) of the Rules

4. i.) The business of the Society shall be managed by a Committee, which shall consist of the Society's President, Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Publicity and Communications Officer (encompassing the role of Webmaster) and School Liaison Officer.

6. Elections

a) Election of the Society's President for 2018-2020

The proposal by JZ to retain Adrian Lucas as the President was seconded by WS and approved unanimously by the meeting.

b) Election of the following Committee positions for 2018-2019 (including the new role of School Liaison Officer)

The proposal by JZ to elect the following to their respective positions was seconded by GC and approved by the meeting unanimously.

- Chairman - Gerald Usher
- Treasurer - Jonathan Roberts
- General Secretary - Brian Fletcher
- Membership Secretary - George Coble
- Publicity and Communications - Joseph Zammit
- School Liaison Officer - Warren Symes

7.AOB

JZ presented GU his membership card for Life Membership of the Society in recognition of his extraordinary contributions (voluntary, financial, musical, and more!).

8. Provisional arrangements for next General Meeting

As per the regulations and previous years, the meeting agreed that the AGM will be arranged for March or April next year, arrangements TBA.

There being no further business, GU thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 20:42.