



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



OSOS Annual General Meeting

Thursday 11 April 2019, 7.45 pm

Old Southendian Clubhouse, Garons Park

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Having relocated to Gerald Usher's house due to the OSA Clubhouse not being opened as booked, the meeting commenced at 8.23 pm. The committee had waited for fifteen minutes from the advertised start time at the assigned venue to redirect any members who wished to attend.

Present: Gerald Usher (GU), Jon Roberts (JR), Brian Fletcher (BF), Joe Zammit (JZ), George Copley (GC) [via Skype], Suzanne Zammit (SZ) [via Skype]

Apologies for absence were received from: Geoff and Karen May, Warren Symes (WS)

2. Approval of minutes from the 2018 AGM and matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Reports from the committee

Excellent reports were received from:

a) Chairman

GU summarised the impressive range of activities undertaken by the Society since the last AGM.

b) Treasurer

JR confirmed that the Society maintained a healthy income and that all creditors had been paid. However, he warned that for the first year since its inception,

the Society had made a small operating loss and it was vital to ensure adequate funding for the work of the society and to have full funding available for any future works to be undertaken on the organ before contractors are engaged.

c) General Secretary

BF reported that the committee had met four times since the last AGM, with an attendance of at least four at every meeting. The main items under discussion were OSOS events, ongoing work to the organ, means of supporting school organists and strategies to recruit and retain members.

d) Membership Secretary

GC reported that while the level of support for the society remains high, a number of members have not chosen to renew their membership, depriving the society of regular income, and advised that retention and recruitment of members should be a priority in the year ahead.

e) Publicity and Communications Officer

JZ outlined ways in which the society has communicated over the past year with supporters, students of the School and the Charities Commission, as well as ways in which donations towards the work on the organ have been recognised.

f) School Liaison Officer

WS reported on the continuing success of the School Organ Society and ways in which the profile of the organ has been raised within the school, including a whole-school assembly about the organ, an award of half-colours to the School Organist and a dedicated section of the library for sheet music and books about the organ. In addition, WS has continued to liaise with the School and Village Workshop regarding the maintenance of the organ.

These reports are available in full as a separate document together with a statement of accounts for the year.

4. Discussion of proposals for an organ bursary/scholarship scheme at SHSB

In the absence of WS due to illness, this matter could not be discussed in full. It was noted that OSOS has offered informal, ad hoc support to school organists since its inception but that the Society now wishes to offer support in a more formal way. A similar scheme is in existence at WHSB. It was agreed to ask WS to propose some options for discussion at the next committee meeting.

5. Elections of the following committee positions for 2019 – 2020

The following were elected:

- a) Chairman – Gerald Usher (proposed by JZ, seconded JR)
- b) Treasurer – Jon Roberts (proposed by BF, seconded JZ)
- c) General Secretary – Brian Fletcher (proposed by GC, seconded GU)
- d) Membership Secretary – George Cobley (proposed by JZ, seconded BF)
- e) Publicity and Communications Officer – Joe Zammit (proposed by GU, seconded GC)
- f) School Liaison Officer – Warren Symes (proposed by GU, seconded JZ)

6. Appointment of a committee member as Deputy Chairman for 2019 – 2020

GU introduced this item by stating that over the past year, health problems had prevented him from taking as active a role as he would have liked. JZ was proposed as Deputy Chairman by GU, seconded by BF, and duly elected.

7. AOB

BF will write to the OSA to complain about the problems experienced with using the OSA Clubhouse as a venue for the meeting.

8. Provisional arrangements for next Annual General Meeting

JZ proposed organising the next AGM at the School in combination with an organ-based activity/concert to encourage better attendance and also suggested actively encouraging greater remote participation. SZ suggested including the School Organist in the programme. JZ also made the point that a considerable amount of information was already available to members online which meant that members would not perceive a strong need to attend the AGM for information alone.

The meeting concluded at 8.42 pm.