



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20th April 2021, 8.00 pm

Held by videoconference

MINUTES

Present: Gerald Usher (GU), Joseph Zammit (JZ), Jonathan Roberts (JR), Tracy Nutter, Graham Campbell, John Dixon

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

GU opened the meeting at 8.06 pm with a welcome to everyone.

Apologies had been received from Committee members Brian Fletcher and Warren Symes due to ill health. Those present at the Meeting expressed their best wishes to them both.

2. Approval of minutes from the 2020 AGM and matters arising

The Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 27th October 2020 were reviewed, and subsequently approved unanimously by the Meeting as a true record of proceedings.

3. Reports from the Committee

Full reports had been made available online at www.osos.org.uk/news ahead of the meeting, covering all committee members and activities of the Society.

JZ summarised some of the highlights, including the adjustment of our activities to reach out to the public at home and the continued value of the contributions of our supporters to ensure our work could continue.

JR emphasised that we were fortunate to be able to support the School financially through these extraordinary times and ensure all expenditure relating to the organ and organists could be met.

4. Elections of Committee positions for 2021-2022

GU passed over to JZ, who proposed that Gerald Usher continue in the role of Chairman. This proposal was agreed by those present unanimously.

Resuming the chair, GU proposed the following Committee positions in turn, all of which were approved unanimously by the Meeting:

- Treasurer: Jonathan Roberts
- General Secretary: Brian Fletcher
- Publicity and Communications: Joseph Zammit
- School Liaison Officer: Warren Symes

It was explained that Brian Fletcher was to continue to cover the role of Membership Secretary as part of his secretarial duties.

GU, JZ and the Meeting agreed it was not a requirement of our Rules to appoint a specific Deputy Chairman, and that in the event such a deputy might be desired, a meeting could choose a member to act in such a role.

At the Chair's request, JZ further clarified that the position of President, currently held by Adrian Lucas, was elected every two years, with the most recent election being at the last meeting. In line with discussions at that same meeting, it was noted that ahead of our next Annual General Meeting, the Chair and Committee, in consultation with the incumbent in the role, would look at whether it would be desirable to propose such elections be held less often and for a longer term.

5. Any other business

a) John Dixon expressed his admiration and support for the work of the Society, noting the energy, passion, and commitment of the Committee. He recounted the influence of similar activities during his time growing up (including with Benjamin Britten at Southend Boys Choir and performances at the Royal Albert Hall), and explained that this was a large part of his motivation to reconnect with the Society. John also expressed a hope that others would support the Society, noting the other musicians and organists who passed through the School at a similar time.

b) John Dixon added that he hoped to return to give a recital of his compositions when conditions allowed. He added that the Live Recordings from the Society had been well received in the meantime, expressing thanks to Warren for sharing his music. JZ thanked John for his excellent video submission of organ music, which was to be included in future online content. JZ remarked that the words of introduction of the video, with information about the composer and compositions to be heard, will undoubtedly be useful as the Society competes for attention online.

c) John Dixon also recommended the Society connect to the Royal College of Organists (RCO), who are looking to connect with groups such as OSOS in order to further their work. GU thanked John for this suggestion, which will be discussed by the Committee at our next meeting.

6. Provisional arrangements for the next meeting

The Meeting agreed that our next Annual General Meeting be organised for a date in April 2022, in line with the Society's rules.

GU thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions, and subsequently closed the meeting at 8.38 pm.