



# The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



## OSOS Annual General Meeting

Saturday 29 April 2023, 3pm

Held by video conference

### MINUTES

Present: Gerald Usher (GU), Joe Zammit (JZ), Jon Roberts (JR), Graham Campbell, John Dixon.

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The meeting started at 3:05 pm with a welcome from GU. Apologies for absence had been received from Brian Fletcher, Adrian Lucas, Andy Sargent, and Warren Symes.

#### 2. Minutes of previous AGM

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the previous AGM (held on 20th April 2022) as a true record of proceedings.

#### 3. Reports from the Committee

Comprehensive reports from the Committee had been distributed in advance of the meeting via the OSOS website. During the year (in October 2022), Brian Fletcher stepped back from his role as General Secretary, and more recently Warren Symes has stepped back from his duties as a Committee member and School Liaison. The respective secretarial and liaison duties have been covered by other members of the Committee as required, and as such details on these topics are contained within the reports already circulated.

GU reiterated his thanks to the Committee for their work and for their informative reports.

#### 4. Election of committee for 2023 – 2024

The following were unanimously elected by the meeting:

- a) Chairman: Gerald Usher
- b) Treasurer: Jonathan Roberts
- c) Publicity and Communications: Joseph Zammit
- d) Trustee and committee member (without portfolio): Brian Fletcher

In answer to questions on the subject of the roles currently vacant, JZ reminded the Meeting that the Committee is able to co-opt into vacant positions during the year, and that in the meantime interim arrangements relating to the Society's secretarial matters and liaison with the School will remain in place, and kept under review by the Committee.

## **5. AOB**

- a) John Dixon asked whether the donation of his fee from the English Speaking Union to the Society had been received by OSOS, and it was confirmed by JR that this was the case. JR and GU expressed their thanks to John for the kind support on behalf of the Committee and Society.
- b) John Dixon expressed his excitement for his performance on 22nd July 2023, and will remain in contact to arrange access to rehearse the week of the concert, and possibly in preceding months depending on his personal and travel arrangements.
- c) John Dixon mentioned that, through his role at the American Guild of Organists (AGO), he had been in contact with the Royal College of Organists (RCO) in the U.K., noting that their President is aware of our centenary activities and may attend John's recital.
- d) Graham Campbell asked a question around how Gift Aid contributions from HMRC are recognised in the accounts. JR and JZ confirmed that Gift Aid on donations made through the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) system is claimed from HMRC by CAF on our behalf and falls under the Donations line of the accounts, whereas claims on other eligible income are made manually on an occasional basis, falling within the HMRC entry.
- e) GU remarked on the Society's ability to support the School with regular tuning, maintenance and student activities, with JR and JZ confirming the Society has a healthy bank balance and (in particular as concert activities resume) a growing and healthy net income. At present, tuning costs are largely borne by the School, however JR confirmed that in the future it would be possible to provide additional support with this if required.
- f) There was some discussion about the Society's approach to increasing engagement, with helpful suggestions from John Dixon around making personal invitations to his contemporaries (with the assistance of the OSA) ahead of his concert. In relation to identifying future members of the Committee, various issues were discussed around the skills, commitment, roles and recruitment aspects of this issue.

## **6. Provisional arrangements for next Annual General Meeting**

It was agreed that this should be organised for March or April 2024, as per the Society's rules. The Committee confirmed it plans to continue to provide an option for Members to join via videoconference, and that it will consider whether to hold the 2024 AGM in person when the events schedule and other context is understood nearer the time.

The Meeting concluded at 3.48 pm with thanks expressed by GU for everyone's contributions.