



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



OSOS Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 2024, 8.15pm

Held by video conference

MINUTES

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

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The meeting started at 8.16 pm with a welcome from GU. Apologies for absence had been received from John Blore, John Cooper, and Michael Frampton.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the previous AGM (held on 29th April 2023) 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.

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

John Dixon commented positively on the organ from his time at the School preparing for and giving his concert in 2023.

The Meeting discussed the success of the concerts more broadly, highlighting especially the effective balance between high profile, local and voluntary performers in providing a diverse programme, and a positive contribution to the Society's finances.

4. Election of the Committee for 2024 – 2025

The following were unanimously elected by the meeting, on a proposal by John Dixon, seconded by Graham Campbell:

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

5. AOB

- a) The Meeting was updated on the continued “small but mighty” make-up of the Committee, which continues to perform well with the group covering relevant administrative, secretarial and school liaison roles effectively.
- b) The success of engaging organ builders Andrew Stevens and Nigel Wood was celebrated by the Meeting, alongside some discussion of their craftsmanship and collaboration.
- c) Work to liaise with the School’s organ students was highlighted, with more to follow to provide tuition, performing opportunities in concerts, and financial support. Also noted was the School Organist’s strong leading of the School Song recently.
- d) Some discussion was had around the promotion of concerts and the encouragement of wider school student attendance at events. A suggestion was made that perhaps using the wording “Old Southendian” may offer the wrong impression. The Committee will take the opportunity to engage through its links to the Old Southendian Association on the wider topic of engagement with the student body as part of its liaison through JZ.

6. Provisional arrangements for next Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that this should be organised for March or April 2025, as per the Society’s rules. The Committee confirmed it plans to continue to provide an option for Members to join via videoconference.

The Meeting concluded at 8.53 pm with thanks expressed by GU for everyone’s contributions.