



Affiliated to the British and International
Federation of Festivals
President: Marcus Martin MA GGSM LRAM

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday 15th September 2022
Emmanuel United Reform Church**

The meeting was opened at 20.00 by Marcus Martin – President, who welcomed, and thanked, members for attending.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from: Joan Edwards
 Mandy Chapman

2. Adoption of 2021 AGM Minutes

Proposed: Debbie Smith: Seconded: Gary Mobsby.

Approved by unanimous show of hands.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

Welcome to our AGM for 2022. It is very pleasing to see our regular members in attendance this evening. Do please encourage your friends and acquaintances to become members of WMAAF as their support of our charity would be much appreciated. We are always in need of volunteers to help with running the sections.

I am delighted to report that all sections of the festival ran very successfully at the beginning of this year. Performers, parents and teachers were pleased to be able to have a face to face festival once again. Precautions were in place with stewards wearing face coverings and hand sanitising happening too as well as some social distancing.

Chairman: Helen Emery BA(Hons) C.T.(ABRSM)
Hon. Secretary: Jan Spooner-Swabey BMus(Hons) : Hon Treasurer: Robert Smytherman
Worthing Music and Arts Festival, First Floor, rear of 21c Goring Road, Worthing, BN12 4AP
Telephone: 01903 506621 : Email: wmaafoffice@gmail.com : Website: www.wmaaf.co.uk
Registered Charity No: 1038211

Entries for some sections were slightly down in 2022 but others actually needed extra sessions to accommodate the performers. I hope that entries will rise in all sections for the 2023 festival.

I would like to thank all of the teachers that have supported the festival by encouraging their students to enter and preparing them for the classes. It is fantastic to see all of the talent in the different sections from both our local area and further afield.

Thanks must also be given to Andrea Martin, our administrator who keeps the office running smoothly. She is very ably assisted by Rosemary and Jan who both voluntarily put in many hours work during the weeks. The three of them do make a very efficient team.

Where would we be without the Executive Committee? Again, we are all volunteers who come together to run a very successful festival. Thankyou one and all for your continuing efforts. It is much appreciated by all who participate.

Acceptance of report

Proposed: Rosemary Hoyle: Seconded: Jacky Hetherington.

5. Secretary's Report

Well, that was a summer and a half wasn't it? I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Now as Autumn approaches, we settle in to making plans for the difficult times ahead with a new prime minister and a big change in the weather. Of course, since I wrote this we have had the shocking and unexpected news of the death of the late Queen. On behalf of all the festival movement and all at WMAAF, we offer our sincere condolences

Looking back to last summer, it was a challenge but very worthwhile to finally have the dance section at Northbrook, after its abrupt cancellation in January. The joy as young performers could again share their work was wonderful and was a great finale to the Festival career of Mandy Chapman.

Then plans went ahead for all sections to be live in 2022. In the end many of these had reduced entries, except for Piano and instrumental, who seem to have flourished after lockdown! We need to take these changes on board for the future in our planning. However, as other costs were reduced a small profit was made by all sections.

Life continues on in our office in Goring Road. We have extended our lease for the moment with slight differences in our notice period. Andrea Martin our administrator never really has a quiet day as there is always something to be done. And I must acknowledge our web site manager Richard Hyde, who seems to understand our needs with great promptness.....and at a very reasonable cost.

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So plans for 2023 are well underway, with entries now open on the website. John Logan has already put in place a BOPA (a type of performance licence) for us which will save much heart ache this coming year , our thanks to him. Adjudicators are all in place and venues booked. The singing section will move to Emmanuel church this year to save money and we think all the Dance section will be at the Pavilion this year to save moving from venue to venue. The dance section are also hoping to be approved as an All England qualifier, which may result in large entries every other year. New marking schemes are also being suggested and trialled in some festivals.

This year, we had programmes for each section rather than one for everything. Positives are it is a lot cheaper to produce, but there is no advertising income. It is still under review for the coming year, but likely to continue.

I hope we as a festival can respond to changes which are being proposed, it is no good to look back at our long history and expecting things to continue as they did in the 1950's and 60's. This has always been a popular and well supported local event , we need to make sure it remains so for a new generation of performers and teachers. If you have some skills which you think could be of use, why not step forward and volunteer? You will not be refused.....

Acceptance of Report

Proposed: Jenny Cuer-Greene: Seconded: Katherine Mustafa

6. Treasurer's Report

Despite being able to run a full festival last year, with reduced entries and costs still rising, especially venue hire, we have made another loss. Each individual section made a small operational profit, but we have to face up to the fact that our overheads are high, in the fact we have office premises which are vital to the running and management of the festival but could be considered a luxury. We have renewed a tenancy at will with our lease holders but actively need to see if cheaper.....or even free premisesare available . Perhaps some of you may know of some available premises which you think may suit us, do let us know.

We now have settled into using paypal for our entries, which may not be perfect but has made life much easier to manage! Also having a card reader at our entry points is also a great advantage. The small charges made by these groups are worthwhile.

Our membership is also much reduced, although we hope as life becomes more normal again we will gain a new generation of members. Thank you to our membership secretary, Rosemary Hoyle

Another person who is not a luxury is Andrea Martin, who manages our facebook page, website and any thing else which the committee asks her to do with patience and a smile!.

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I would like to thank Ian Walker at Mastersfuller accountants for his continued support .

Although we are fortunate in having resources, we have to accept that we need to watch our overheads in the future for the festival to continue.

Acceptance of Report

Proposed: Beth Emery: Seconded: Carol Suddaby.

7. Election of Examiner of Accounts

Proposed: Helen Emery: Seconded: Jan Spooner-Swabey

By a unanimous vote of hands, Ian Walker FCCa, elected as Examiner of Accounts.

8. Election of Officers

The following indicated their willingness to continue in office as registered trustees, and were re-elected by a unanimous show of hands:

Helen Emery (Chair): Jan Spooner-Swabey (Secretary): Robert Smytherman (Treasurer):

9. Election of Executive Committee

The following indicated their willingness to continue in their role as committee members, and de facto trustees, and were re-elected by a unanimous show of hands:

Keri Garner: Rosemary Hoyle: John Logan: Katherine Mustafa: Debbie Smith:

Beth Emery indicated her willingness to serve on committee for the first time.

Nomination proposed by: Jan Spooner-Swabey: seconded by: Rosemary Hoyle:

Beth Emery was elected by a unanimous show of hands.

10. Any Other Business

The Chair announced that the recipient of the cup is a lady who has been helping at the festival for many years. She always offers many sessions as a steward especially in Piano and Speech and Drama. The Oliver Buckle Cup this will be awarded to Pat Peal.

The festival committee has approved two resolutions being put to the membership to amend the constitution:

- 1) To remove the position of Vice –President as an elected officer.
- 2) To change the numbers required to be quorate from 7 to half the total number of elected officers and committee members plus 1.

Both resolution were accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

As no other business, the meeting closed at 20.20 hours.

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