



MINUTES OF AGM via ZOOM, SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2021

Present: Derik Palmer, Jan Brodie, Joolz Buggy, Anne Cole, Rees Gallacher, Neil Gillard, Doug Harbour, Lyn Jones, Alison Simmons, Jackie Aylott, Jenny Beattie, Dick Bland, Anita Cotterall, Sue Edwards, Pat Gilbert, Judith Haddock, Bob Lander, Felix Mauron, Kevan McCallum, Christina Murrie, Patrick O'Sullivan, Barbara Parkinson, Anne Pyne, John Rawlinson, Hilary Robinson, Helen Slade, Judy Spindler, Nadine Stah White, Peter Stockwell, Stella Tura.

Apologies: Patricia Breen, Heather Farrell-Roberts, Colin George, Maggie MacBean, Chris Sills, Ian White.

Our President, Derik, opened the meeting and welcomed all present to our first AGM via Zoom.

The minutes of the 2020 AGM, which had been previously circulated, were taken as read, proposed as a true record by Helen Slade, seconded by Lyn Jones, and accepted by all present. There were no matters arising for discussion.

The President's Report, previously circulated and attached, was summarised.

Treasurer's Report: the accounts were previously circulated and Derik reported that the UKA's financial situation remains sound, with the overall funds once again increasing during the year. The only live event (Tewkesbury in March 2020) made a loss, but small profits have accrued from each of the online workshops. Expenditure has included the Zoom subscription for these and other events. There is no need to increase subscriptions or fees for events at present.

There was a discussion about the reasons for the use of PayPal, and the possibilities of UKA holding autoharp spares for members. Kevan asked about the reasons for the ring-fenced money for ScAW. It was explained that this resulted from 4 years of £250 donations/sponsorship from Sanqhar Tiles. These provided the security to bring in overseas tutors (Karen Mueller, Patrick Couton), and the ring-fenced amount reflects the balance of that £1000 not dipped into over several years of ScAW.

Sue Edwards proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Pat Gilbert and unanimously passed.

Membership Secretary's Report, attached, was summarised. We currently have 122 members – the most for several years – including members in France (2), Germany(1), Switzerland(2) and the USA(6). Most members have embraced the the automatic renewal service provided by our new membership programme (MemberMojo), and 76 have bought Grand Draw tickets.

Officers and Committee Members: There were no new nominations for any of the posts and, as the post holders were all content to remain in their roles – Derik - President, (and, although not ideal for one person to hold multiple roles, to continue as Treasurer for the time being), Joolz - Vice-president, Neil - Secretary, Doug - Membership Secretary, Jan - Advance Organiser, Lyn - Loaner Coordinator, Rees - joint Autoharps Editor (with Jan) while Anne has taken over as Website Co-ordinator, they were proposed by Nadine, seconded by John and confirmed by the meeting. Alison Simmons was also confirmed as a committee member (proposed by Derik, seconded by Sue). Helen Slade expressed a willingness to join the Committee and was proposed by Rees and seconded by Anne Cole. Derik welcomed her.

Future Events

We will be continuing with regular online events for the foreseeable future – regular workshops, the monthly Meet, Greet and Warble, and possibly a members' chat session. Such a session might benefit from having a pre-notified theme. Karen Mueller's workshops are proving very popular, but we might also look to using other tutors in the same way. We are also in the early stages of thinking how we might plan a more extensive Zoom event with multiple workshops to cater for different ability levels. Nadine and Neil offered

to make personal Zoom accounts available for other UKA for an event offering multiple classes. We understand that Mike Fenton might soon be ready to teach online, and Nadine would also be prepared to teach a one hour Zoom workshop for an event – preferably at an intermediate level. As and when the situation allows we will also think about running live events again, though we will also continue to run Zoom events, as they have the ability to reach a wider audience.

ScAW (Scottish Autoharp Weekend) - Nadine would like to run this again as soon as possible – maybe even in the first week of August this year. Although John Hollandsworth would not now be able to attend in person, (planning time and uncertainty), he might be able to take part via Zoom.

SFSS October Week in October – Many who booked for last year's Easter Week will still have valid bookings. No doubt there will also be space for others to book, and it will have a really good chance of happening this year. UKA continues to liaise closely with John and Moira who organise the event.

We discussed the need for a Covid policy and risk assessment for any future live events. This may well prove necessary. The policy will be an agenda item for a future Committee meeting, while the risk assessment would depend on the regulations in place at the time, the Covid status of the proposed venue and other local factors

Other Business

Patrick asked that the UKA membership expressed their thanks to Derik and the Committee for keeping things going in such difficult times, and Nadine echoed this, particularly remarking on the creative thinking and imaginative use of technology, and with particular thanks to Jan for the Meet, Greet and Warble. Helen added her thanks for the KM workshops, and also asked that Sum Yee be thanked for her Music Theory lessons.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 4.50pm.

Grand Draw Results:

1st – Gig Bag – Derik Palmer

2nd – Set of Strings – Jeanne Cosby

3rd – Cooperstand – Pat Gilbert

4th – Roll of Felt – Jackie Aylott

5th – Autoharp Cosy – Anne Cole