

MINUTES OF AGM via ZOOM, WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2023 at 7pm

Present: Derik Palmer, Jan Brodie, Helen Slade, Anne Cole, Lyn Jones, Doug Harbour, Neil Gillard, Diana Arseneau-Powell, Jenny Beattie, Anita Cotterall, Jeanne Cosby, Sue Edwards, Pat Gilbert, Cary Karp, Ziggy Knopfler, Bob Lander, Vince Matthews, Felix Mauron, Bo Meacher, Christina Murrie, Rebecca Russell, Patrick O'Sullivan, John Rawlinson, Nadine Stah White.

Apologies: Tony Archibold, Pat Breen, Diane Chell, Marilyn Cowan, Ruth Dyke, Rees Gallacher, Colin George, Heather Farrell-Roberts, Janet Jenkins, Charles & Barbara Levy, Anja Lyttle, Maggie MacBean, Karen Mueller, Claudia Myatt, Linda Jauer, Barbara Parkinson, Terry Payne, Roy Porter, Anne Pyne, Sarah Rodger, Chris Sills, Alison Simmons, Alison Smith, Christine Turner, Sarah Welsh, Ian White, Chris & Chris Younger.

Judy Spindler, a long-standing member, and for many years a valuable Committee member, had also sent her apologies, shortly before her untimely death. The meeting expressed its sympathy to her family and friends.

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

The minutes of the 2022 AGM, which had been circulated on the day, were taken as read, proposed as a true record by Anita Cotterall, seconded by Ziggy Knopfler, and accepted by all present.

Matters Arising: 1. Derik congratulated Sue Edwards on her initiative to raise funds for 'School in a Bag' to send help to Ukrainian children affected by the war (an AOB item at the last AGM which was put into practice at Sore Fingers Easter week and raised £2044).

2. Sue thanked Pat Gilbert for the success of their local group (Heart Strings) – raised under Future Events at the 2022 AGM.

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

Treasurer's Report: the accounts and report were previously circulated and are attached again.

Anne Cole proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Lyn Jones and unanimously passed.

Membership Secretary's Report: Membership at 1st February 2023: 121 including 7 Pending (clearance of BACS, Cheque). 29 2022 members had not renewed, there were 4 new Members (Diane Chell, Sarah Rodger, Jen Roycroft, Marion Haigh), 4 had reluctantly unsubscribed (mainly medical reasons), 2 had unsubscribed for reasons of dissatisfaction, and 1 had unsubscribed giving no reason. 7 members had avoided using MemberMojo to renew (1 of necessity), and 3 had to be asked for offline GDPR Assent. One member was re-admitted on Committee recommendation, owing to his continuing PayPal Payments and perceived failing understanding. The updated situation (as at 22nd March) is that we now have 137 members, and the number of expiries from last year has reduced to 16, though we have sadly lost Judy Spindler. We also have 5 new members since the beginning of February (Jane Ingrouille, Catherine McKinty, Virginia Oman, John Timmis and Pam Waters).

Officers and Committee Members: There were no new nominations for any of the posts. The following were confirmed in their roles: Derik - President, and (although preferring not to be dual-hatted) to continue as Treasurer for a further year, Helen – Vice-President and Autoharp spares, Neil - Secretary, Doug - Membership Secretary, Jan - Events Organiser and Editor of Autoharp Notes, Lyn - Loaner Coordinator, Anne - Website Co-ordinator, Alison Simmons – Committee Member. All proposed by John Rawlinson, seconded by Sue Edwards and accepted unanimously.

Future Events

We will be continuing with regular online events – bi-monthly workshops with Karen Mueller, the monthly Meet, Greet and Warble (both of which are well-supported), and workshops with other tutors, including Helen's music theory ones. A live UKA Day will take place in Tewkesbury on Saturday 10th June with Mike Fenton (full details and booking forms will be available soon). ScAW will run from 7th-9th July – the original date had not proved possible because of a clash with another event at the Craigdarroch in Moniaive – and will include a Master Class with John and Kathy Hollandsworth, as well as a full programme on the Saturday – once again details and a booking form will be available soon. A further live event is possible in Dorset, probably from 8th-10th September, if there is sufficient support. This would be a full weekend event starting on Friday evening and finishing at lunchtime on Sunday. Neil will provide information on this in due course.

Nadine reported that the prospects for ScAW are mixed even though it is definitely going ahead this year. The accommodation situation in the village has changed with the second hotel and the major B&B both currently closed, although there are 3 Air B&Bs in or near the village, and others (plus glamping) in the next village. If the accommodation picture does not change, the future of ScAW in Moniaive may be in doubt. Other locations in SW Scotland might prove hard to find though there is a new venue – The Vault – in Newton Stewart, which might be worth investigating. Nadine thinks that it might be time for her to step down though she would be prepared to continue to act as Programme Co-ordinator if the venue and domestics could be sorted out. Maybe the central belt of Scotland could prove more fruitful? Derik said that the Committee would discuss the matter further, if possible also with Nadine.

Other members are encouraged to act as hosts for events in their own areas – for groups of local members, or a wider UKA event. The Committee will provide whatever help they can to get such events happening, and they could, of course, be underwritten by UKA with Committee approval.

Other Business

1. Loaner 'harps – Lyn is going to take those she has collected to Sore Fingers, and Neil and Nadine will also take a loaner there. The ideas will be to decide which should be retained – we think we probably only need about 6 – which might require some work by Greg, and how we should dispose of those we don't need - either sell or scrap for spares.
2. The website calendar does not seem to be working properly – Anne will investigate.
3. Are we going to keep or change the UKA's 'masthead' (as per last year's AGM Minutes) as it does the job. Committee will discuss at next meeting.
4. Anita asked that thanks be given to all those who contributed to making UKA work over the last year – Committee members, tutors, group leaders, advisers and so on.

The meeting was closed at 8.01pm (2001hrs).

The Grand Draw then took place.

Grand Draw Results:

- 1st – Gig Bag – Anne Cole
- 2nd – Set of Strings – Anja Lyttle
- 3rd – Cooperstand – Christine Turner
- 4th – Roll of Felt – Karen Torrell-Hoffman
- 5th – Autoharp Cosy - Pauline Phillips
- 6th – Mystery Prize – Alison Smith