**Lampeter Music Club**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Held on Sunday 19th November 2017 in The Old Hall, TSD.

**Present**

C. Bobbett, S. and T. Brennand, C. Cook, G. and S. Florence, C. Nixon, H. Parry, M. Rockingham-Gill, S. Rowlands, L. Sharpe, B. Thwaite.

**Apologies**

D. and M. Cockburn, H. Cook, C. Rogers, D. Rowlands.

**AGM Minutes 2016**

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved.

**Matters Arising**

Concert at the Falcondale Hotel: David Cockburn explored the possibilities but found the costs to be excessive and the hotel less than enthusiastic about having the club there.

Jenny Heirmerdinger: Jenny moved to Roehampton in the course of the year and was unable to take on the post of Chairperson as previously agreed.

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman began with a brief reminder of the previous season’s concerts:

* Harpist (and retiring LMC President) Elinor Bennett;
* The Ashley John Long (jazz) trio, in the Student Union;
* The Bute Clarinet Quartet;
* Graham Trew (voice) and Susi Morrow (piano)
* The Mavron Quartet
* The Piergorgio Ella (jazz) Quartet, in the Student Union

Membership: He reported on how the recent trend for falling membership hit an all-time low last season with just 27 members. This may have been due to the club electing to dispense with paper publicity in favour of electronic communication, or merely a reflection of a national trend towards less social participation in live arts.

Finance: He expressed gratitude to the sponsors whose recent concerts attracted an influx of new membership, but stated that whilst the club’s remaining funds had been freed up for another season, he could not as yet see the club’s future as being secure.

Piano: He explained that a lack of a grand piano in the university remained a problem for organising concerts with pianists. Hire costs for the previous two concerts (defrayed by sponsorship) were considerable and not practical as a long-term plan. Ffarmers village hall had been used on previous occasions, but few from Lampeter had attended.

The Chairman thanked the university who provided rooms for the club’s concerts and committee meetings. He also thanked Colin Bobbett for auditing the accounts. Finally, on the members’ behalf, the Chairman thanked the current committee members for their hard work and the time they freely gave to the running of the club. He expressed special thanks to Holly Cook (retiring as Programme Orgainser) who had kept the club’s programme going for many years with her contacts in Welsh musical life and her ability to negotiate very favourable terms.

**Treasurer’s Report 2016/17 year**

Income and Expenditure: Income was down from £3088 in the previous year to £2441, making a decrease of £647. Expenditure was also down from £3887 to £3381, due to a decrease in spending on artists’ fees, printing, postage and advertising.

Membership: Membership was at an all-time low of 27 members, but the current season had boosted numbers to 46, including 12 patrons.

Funding: Application for a modest amount of funding from Ceredigion County Council was rejected because of a lack of Welsh on the club website. This has now been rectified, with the website appearing in Welsh with English translation.

Generous sponsorship from several anonymous individuals and from Carol Nixon for the first two concerts of the season generated an extra £1500 for the club and a significant increase in membership. With the final concert being sponsored by Stephen Rowlands, the balance of funding required for the 18/19 year was expected to be secured.

The Treasurer agreed to email the end-of-year finance report to anyone who requested an electronic copy.

**Programme Organiser’s Report**

The Programme Organiser sent her apologies for being unable to attend her last AGM. She explained that she was resigning due to not having enough time to perform her role adequately, a role made increasingly more challenging by long-term inadequate funds, and the less than ideal circumstances facing musicians when accepting bookings. She applauded local generosity for keeping the club going but regretted the lack of support from governing Arts bodies. She paid tribute to the many professional artists that had provided some sublime performances over the years and thanked them and the members for their support.

**Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The Secretary had received notices of resignation from Stephen Rowlands, Carol Cook, and Holly Cook from the offices of Chairperson, Treasurer, and Programme Organiser respectively.

Ben Thwaite nominated David Cockburn as Chairperson, Colin Bobbett as Treasurer, and Stephen Rowlands as Programme Organiser. These were seconded by Lynne Sharpe.

Ben Thwaite stood for re-election as Secretary, and Carol Cook, George Lilley and Lynne Sharpe for re-election as committee members. These were unanimously seconded from the floor.

Stephen Florence and Carol Nixon offered to stand for election to the committee later in the meeting, (see below). They, too, were unanimously seconded from the floor, raising the total of committee members to nine.

**Comments and Suggestions from Members**

A discussion was had on the ways in which the music club could operate on a more club-like basis, with events being organised between concerts (or instead of) that would encourage participation from members, attract new people, and make the club more of a music appreciation society. Suggested ideas were: talks by musicologists; music discussion groups; film nights; blogging and reviews, and coach trips to other music events outside of Lampeter. Stephen Florence and Carol Nixon agreed to act as elected social secretaries to explore these ideas further with members of the committee.

**Any Other Business** None.The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.