# Lampeter Music Club

## Minutes of the AGM

## Sunday 27th November 2016

## The Old Hall, University of Trinity Saint David, Lampeter

**Present:**

David Cockburn, Maureen Cockburn, George Lilley, Stephen Rowlands, Jenny Heirmerdinger, Carol Cook, Lynne Sharpe, Pen Newton, Colin Bobbett, Mark Kingsley.

**Apologies:**

Deborah Rowlands, S. Florence, G. Florence, Holly Cook, Maureen Lilley

**AGM Minutes 2015:**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.

**Matters Arising:**

None

**Chairman’s Report:**

As last year, the chairman first spoke of the positive news before going on to the difficulties the club is facing.

The 2015 – 2016 season had been successful , starting with a piano recital by Angela Brownridge in Ffarmers village hall, followed by Victoria Simonsen’s cello recital in the Old Hall and – in November – our first jazz concert, given by Davi Singh and Guillaume Mathias in the Students’ Union. 2016 started with the Mavron String Quartet, followed by Llewelyn Jones’ harp recital and the season ended with a baroque programme by the Galliarda.

The current season started with Elinor Bennett’s harp recital at the beginning of October and later in the same month the Ashley John Long Trio gave a jazz concert in the Students’ Union. The AGM had been preceded by the Bute Clarinet Quartet and we have three concerts to come in the spring, starting in February with a song recital in Ffarmers by the baritone Graham Trew, accompanied by pianist Susi Morrow, then the Mavron Quartet later in the same month and the season will end with another Students’ Union concert, this time by the Piergorgio Ella Quartet.

The chairman went on to speak of the club’s new President, John Metcalf MBE, a very distinguished musician who lives locally.

Turning to less positive matters, the chairman spoke of the committee’s concern at a significant drop in membership numbers, which were down from 36 in 2015/16 to 27 in the current year. This was reflected in the poor attendance at concerts and a marked deterioration in the club’s financial position, with the reserve dropping from £3,585 in August 2015 to £2,786 in August 2016 – a situation which has implications for the club’s ability to plan a further season.

The chairman pointed out that other music promoters are also under financial pressure and he suggested that later in the meeting we should consider the best course of action and what can be done if the money runs out.

The chairman then thanked the college for providing us with performance venues and rooms for committee meetings. He also thanked Colin Bobbett for inspecting the accounts, Pen Newton for her secretarial work, Carol for dealing with finance, Holly for finding suitable artists, George as Vice-President, David, for publicity and Lynne for taking over as minute-taker. He especially thanked Pen and David, who have taken on the concert day tasks and liaison with college.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

The treasurer reported that takings for 2015/16 were nearly £900 down on the 2014/15 figure of £3,633. On a brighter note, expenditure was also down, from £4,979 in 2014/15 to £3,887 in 2015/16, due to the lower cost of artists’ fees.

The club’s bank accounts at 31.08.2016 contained a total of £2,786.

The treasurer described the club’s financial situation as “extremely tight” and the future as “glum”, adding that some new ideas are needed if it is to continue.

**Programme Organiser’s Report:**

The programme organiser was unable to attend in person but sent a statement saying that it was becoming increasingly difficult to book performers as – due to the financial situation – many are having to take other employment. She thought that an improvement in the situation was unlikely, at least in the near future and suggested that we should consider a reduction in the number of concerts per season.

**Election of Officers and Committee Members:**

The present officers and committee members agreed to remain in post until April 2017, when Jenny Heirmerdinger will take over as chairman, Stephen Rowlands will move from chair to secretary and the present secretary, Pen Newton, will become concert manager. This arrangement was proposed by Colin Bobbett and seconded by Maureen Cockburn.

**A Concert at the Falcondale Hotel:**

Opinions varied as to the merits of this proposal but it was agreed that – if it does go ahead – the concert would be a free-standing event and not part of a club season. David Cockburn offered to explore the possibilities.

**Comments and Suggestions from Members:**

There was a wide-ranging discussion of possible ways forward, although it was also suggested that a ‘wind-up plan’ should be considered in case the ‘rescue plan’ failed.

The half-price membership scheme had been a disappointment as, although it had attracted some new members for the 2015/16 season, they not had re-joined for 2016/17. It was agreed that the scheme was not worth repeating.

There was general agreement that, if we are to continue to put on concerts after the end of the current season, it would have to be on a reduced scale of, perhaps, three or four concerts instead of six. It was also suggested that the membership system could be dropped with admission to concerts being by payment at the door.

It was hoped that the University might be persuaded to offer some funding and that some sponsorship might be available from other sources. Another possibility was that a free concert might be arranged.

Mark Kingsley suggested that it would be useful to have access to the distribution lists of other music organisations, with a view to e-mailing their members with details of our concerts. It was agreed that, in view of privacy issues, we should not access email addresses ourselves but ask the secretaries to pass our information on to their members direct. Mark also suggested that we contact other local music clubs with a view to co-operating in the booking of performers. It was generally agreed that working with other music clubs in the area could be mutually beneficial and David Cockburn offered to circulate committee members with a draft plan for co-operation with other clubs.

**The meeting closed at 5.40pm**