



Minutes of AGM held on November 24th 2024 at Royal Russell School (Conference Room within the Performing Arts Building) at 14:00

1) Welcome in attendance

Richard Deering (Chair and Minutes), Chris Hutchinson (Minutes), Arun Chatterjee (Vice Chair), Louise Rodgers, Lucy Rodgers, Davinia Davis-Maxwell, Liza Castellino, Judith Dunworth, Gillian Bibby, Rachele Howes (Minutes), Trixie Muirhead, Laura McHale

2) Geoffrey Lawrence

Chair paid tribute to Geoffrey Lawrence. Geoffrey Lawrence passed in August. Chair shared his disappointment in the delay of being notified of this news and reflected on Geoffrey's connection to CPAF. He explained that Geoffrey was the backbone to the festival as he was responsible for many of the great and essential attributes of CPAF and its modernising and had, as a result, been proud to be a Vice-President of CPAF since 2018.

3) Apologies

Apologies received from Bridget West, Barry Nicholson, Ophelia Gordon

4) Chris proposed the **minutes of 2023 AGM** and Richard seconded.

5) Matters arising

The trophies have not yet been sold and Gillian has agreed to assist with this. Lucy and Louise will be looking to re-engrave some trophies to be suitable for the dance festival.

In January, a Zoom meeting was held to discuss CPAF's relationship with the LMP. The conclusion from this meeting was that CPAF is financially better off without the concerto competition due to the renting second piano expenses, although it was agreed that the Concerto Competition co-operation with LMP was an important flagship part of our programme and had been so for many years and, ideally, should be reinstated if possible.

6) Chair report

Chris proposed the Chair's report and Gillian seconded.

7) Financial statement.

Chris proposed the financial statement and Gillian seconded. Judith Barber's query from the 2023 AGM has been resolved and everyone agreed with the financial statement. The substantial income from the CCLA investments was particularly appreciated.

8) Matthews Hanton was approved by all to continue to work as auditors and Chris commented on their thorough work and helpful support. Proposed by Chris and seconded by Gillian.

9) Chair expressed the importance of representation of all sections of the festival in the Board of Trustees. **Everybody welcomed the newly appointed Trustees:**

- A) Arun Chatterjee: Chris proposed, seconded by Gillian.
- B) Laura McHale: Chris proposed, seconded by Gillian.
- C) Lucy Rodgers: Chris proposed, seconded by Gillian.
- D) Louise Rodgers: Chris proposed, seconded by Gillian.

Chris commented that with the newly appointed Trustees, all sections of the festival are now represented.

10) 2025 Festival - January 25/26: February 1/2: May 24-31

- A) It was discussed that the entries as of the date and time of the AGM were good in numbers and like that of 2024 but with a healthy increase in strings and harp. The running of the Dance festival in May was discussed; Lucy and Louise explained the dance syllabus will be launching on January 9th.
 - B) Chair raised Royal Russell's Commercial Manager's suggestion to reduce domestic charges. It was decided that we need all facilities open for the festival. Chris shared Royal Russell supports CPAF charity to charity and CPAF share the covering of costs.
 - C) Lucy and Louise have selected trophies from the collection stored at Royal Russell to be altered. They have been in touch with Jenny Jarvis who has provided a list of trophies and the whereabouts of those that haven't been returned. The state of the trophies was discussed and the project of reaching out to dance schools to sponsor a cup as way to get support for the festival. An initial trophy fund of £200 was agreed by everyone.
 - D) It was discussed that the Dance section will reach out to other AED schools, and they will utilise social media to market and run this section of the festival. Davinia expressed an interest in revitalising the Instagram page for the Music, Speech and Drama and SA Dance sections too.
- 11)** Chair explained requirements for the festival to have at least ten **stewards** in order to run safely and smoothly. Laura put forward the idea of reaching out to schools who have entered the Speech and Drama to help assist with stewarding.

12) President and Vice-Presidents were endorsed for another year. Proposed by Chris and seconded by Gillian.

13) Social media marketing effectiveness and necessity was debated. Arun proposed that photography would be good for marketing and updating our website and social media accounts could boost audience numbers. It was decided to investigate organising safe and thorough regulations to accommodate taking photos during the festival. The importance of maintaining good communications between sections regarding social media marketing for consistency across the festival sections was discussed.

The Gala concert was discussed, and it was decided CPAF will hold a bi-annual gala concert in the intervening years between the bi-annual dance festival. Gillian shared the positive feedback from the 2024 Gala concert, and everyone agreed on its success, despite Chair's acknowledgment of the financial loss, although it should be considered as an expense rather than a cost. It was discussed that Western Dancers may participate in future years too. Davinia queried the ticket prices and Chris recommended pricing to continue to recoup a percentage of the expenses, rather than aiming to recoup the whole expense. It was decided that the price is appropriate.

Meeting ended at 15:32 following thanks to Chris and his Royal Russell colleagues for their individual support and hospitality.