



Minutes of AGM held on November 26th 2023 at Royal Russell School

1) Welcomed in attendance

Richard Deering (Chair & minutes), Chris Hutchinson (Minutes), Barry Nicholson, Ophelia Gordon, Vamshikrishna Vishnudas and Rachele Howes (minutes).

2) Apologies received

Judith Barber, Joyce Chapman, Flynn Le Brocq, Graham Bass, Giovanna Pomilio, David Dreebin, Judith Dunworth, Judy Moseley, Gillian Bibby, Bridget West, Helen Snart.

3) The minutes of the 2022 AGM were proposed by Chris, seconded by Barry and duly signed by Chair.

4) The storage and selling of the trophies was discussed. Gillian knows of the people connected to the trophies. Chris offered to continue looking into the selling of the trophies.

The role of paid administrator has been determined as Rachele under the name Co-coordinator.

The role of membership was discussed. A discussion was had about how to define the role of membership. As per the constitution Clause 9 stating we *may* require a fee, Chris proposed that only those that *pay* the membership fee are members, those that do not pay may still have input but ultimately cannot vote. It was decided that this clarification will be relayed onto the members and the website can be adjusted as necessary. Seconded by Barry.

Chair shared his frustrations about not being involved in the 2023 launch event, but he was keen to be involved in the London Borough of Culture stewardship in Croydon. Ophelia proposed getting in contact with Davinia and pushing participation.

5) The Chair's Report was proposed by Barry and seconded by Chris. There were no further comments and Chair highlighted the grievances stated in the report in the hope that they were not repeated.

6) Chris proposed the financial accounts, and they were seconded by Barry. Note 7 in the accounts was discussed due to Judith Barber's query. Chair thanks Judith for her observation, he will look into her query with Guy Witcher of Matthews Hanton, but would like to highlight the accounts were professionally audited with Guy Witcher's signature.

7) Matthews Hanton was appointed as auditor and appreciation for their help in this year's accounts was recorded.

8) Chair indicated the requirement to find and appoint a Treasurer. Chair has attempted to call out for someone to take this role but has had no response. It was decided that Flynn will be spoken to regarding help in the matter as he had indicated a possible contact at the 2022 AGM and that had not yet been followed up.

9)

- a) Hannah had expressed her wish to stand down as a Trustee and we thanked her for her participation and support.
- b) Chris proposed electing Vamshi as a Trustee and Barry seconded. Vamshi was elected as a Trustee and welcomed by all.
- c) Chair shared that he has no real wish to stand down but shared his frustrations with the last Festival year. This included discussions about dealing with NatWest bank and Chair having to fund activities due to the account being frozen as well as the concerto class being cancelled. Discussing these issues, Chris stated that personal funds should never be used to pay fees. Royal Russell School charitable trust resource can be used, if necessary, in future to protect the members of the CPAF team. Chris proposes Chair stands for re-election as a Trustee, Barry seconded. Richard will continue as Chair, and the issues that arose this last festival year, can be avoided in future. Everyone agreed that there needs to be a conversation about the relationship with LMP and there will be a meeting arranged in early 2024.

10) The search for new trustees was discussed. Chris and Vamshi stated they will continue looking, preferably someone with experience in speech, drama, finance and South Asian dance.

11) Vamshi expressed an interest in updating the South Asian music and dance syllabus to make it more pertinent for the teacher and students taking part. He agreed to produce a blueprint of his ideas that will be discussed at a future date.

Vamshi suggested the use of a smaller venue for the Ashcroft event for future festivals, and the decisions behind the Ashcroft events were relayed to Vamshi by Richard.

12) The future of the Concerto Competition will be discussed with Flynn.

13) The requirement for more stewards during the running of the Festival was discussed as we are desperately short of the required help.

14) The President and Vice Presidents were endorsed for another year. Proposed by Barry and seconded by Chris.

There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 15:36 following thanks to Chris and his Royal Russell colleagues for their invaluable support and hospitality.