

RADLETT MUSIC CLUB

Minutes of the 83rd Annual General Meeting (“AGM”)

18 August 2020 – held by virtual means using Zoom

In attendance: Jonathan Gillams, Stephen and Ros Haller, Jim and Chris Parkin, Hedley and Sally Ramshaw, Michael Stockbridge, Jenny Bailey, Penny and Roy Mauger, Naomi and Peter Hartnell, Anthony Baker, Gary Harding and Ruth Mackler, Ian and Valerie MacDonald, Christine Thompson, David and Maureen Grossman, Brian Weller, John Belling, Mary Smith¹ and Robert and Wendy Mann².

The meeting was quorate.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Stan and Barbara Hill, Bob Ogden, John Aphthorp, Gordon and Gillian Hazelwood.
2. **Minutes of last AGM** (on 26 June 2019) – There were no comments on these and they were approved by all present, save for one abstention.
3. **Matters arising:** John Belling referred to item 5 of the minutes and asked about the issue of alternative venues due to the costs of the Radlett Centre. Jonathan Gillams replied that the concert that had been planned for next January was due to be at the Purcell School for those reasons. However, this would not now take place and, because of the pandemic, he said the Club does not want to start experimenting with other venues. Stephen Haller added that, even before the pandemic issues, the Committee had had much debate about alternative venues and this was recorded in the Committee minutes. In summary, the question had proved difficult. Some potential venues were too big, or too small, for our numbers; some were a little way from Radlett and, as the bulk of the membership lived in Radlett, there was concern that some people may be reluctant to travel. Aside from the Purcell School, no obvious solution had been identified.
4. **Chairman’s report:**

Jonathan Gillams had prepared a written report which had been circulated to members in advance and he delivered that report to the AGM³. In supplementing the written report, Jonathan added these points:

- 4.1. One of the strengths of the Club is that it is financially sound and, when we cancelled the last two concerts, we actually saved money.
- 4.2. In talking to other clubs around the country, a further strength is that we do more online than many, which is valuable when, for example, rescheduling things at short notice.
- 4.3. In paying tribute to Jenny Bailey’s service to the Club, Jonathan mentioned that the Club had sent her an Amazon gift voucher as a contribution towards a music stand. Jenny spoke to say thank you for the gift and that she had much enjoyed her 12 years as Membership Secretary. Jonathan then mentioned that Naomi Hartnell had taken over Jenny’s functions as Membership Secretary.
- 4.4. We are looking at live streaming of concerts, once we do get back to the Radlett Centre, so that members can watch online if they feel uncomfortable about attending a physical concert. He also said the Club would welcome offers of assistance in getting us up the technical learning curve for live streaming.

¹ Mary Smith’s video was not working but she was present by audio.

² The Manns’s video was not working but they were present by audio.

³ A copy of the report is attached to the file version of these minutes.

4.5. Looking further to the future, we are looking to move even more online and away from paper, for example to the use of email to advertise events. All but 8 members are on email and it makes life easier for us.

5. Concert Secretary's report:

Jim Parkin had prepared a written report which had been circulated to members in advance and he delivered that report to the AGM⁴. In addition, he added that for our first two concerts, we have booked two artists to give online performances.

5.1. The first is on 22 October to be given by a young Latvian pianist, Antonina Suhanova.

5.2. The second is on 10 November to be given by the harpist, Elizabeth Bass, whom we had booked anyway before the pandemic.

As regards the other artists who were booked for the 2020/21 season, Jim said they all understand the current difficulties and they have been told that we hope to re-engage with them for future concerts when things become clearer.

6. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner

Gary Harding said that Ron Wheal had agreed to reappointment for 2020/21. This was put to the vote and was approved unanimously.

7. Hon. Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts:

Copies of the accounts, and the Independent Examiner's report, had been sent to members with the AGM Notice and Gary Harding had prepared a written treasurer's report which had been circulated to members in advance of the AGM⁵. He delivered that report and summarised the key points arising from the accounts, leading to the surplus of £1,488.

Gary then referred to what Jonathan had said in his report, namely that the Committee has decided that the Club will offer continued membership to existing members through to next year without any membership fee. That will cover the two planned online concerts in the Autumn. Once we are into next year, and we can better judge things, the Committee will decide on what basis memberships should continue, and at what further fee, depending on what type of concert activity then seems possible.

Gary then asked if there were any questions about the accounts. John Belling raised a query about the cost of concerts. Gary explained that the costs of the Radlett Centre and the artists was more than the income from the concert (i.e. ticket sales and the proportionate part of the membership subscriptions). Basically, the cost of concerts was subsidised by the Club's reserves. Naomi Hartnell added that the hire of pianos was also a cost and, as the Chairman had reported earlier, for one concert the cost of the piano was generously covered by a member's donation. John Belling then asked, if the two cancelled concerts had been held, what the movement in funds would have been? Gary replied that the budget was a negative movement of about £2,000.

Michael Stockbridge then asked if the two Autumn concerts were going to be available to anyone from outside the Club. He thought there might be merit in a wider audience. Jonathan Gillams said that we were looking to include the Octagon Music Club but not looking to open it to the whole world. Gary Harding added that, in any event, our Zoom subscription is limited to 100 participants and we did not want to have to upgrade to accommodate extra people who were not members. David Grossman asked if YouTube was a viable alternative but Gary said that it was a different technology which, at present, the Club was not equipped to use.

⁴ A copy of the report is attached to the file version of these minutes.

⁵ A copy of the report is attached to the file version of these minutes.

As regards the possible return to physical concerts, David Grossman remarked that, with the size of our membership, the Radlett Centre ought to be capable of providing social distancing. Jonathan Gillams responded by saying that, at this stage, much depended on what the Radlett Centre did. It was not just a question of social distancing in the auditorium but how other facilities would operate such as the box office and the bar. Stephen Haller said the Committee had discussed this issue. As Jonathan had said, it was the venue facilities in the round that mattered, including the toilets. Stephen emphasised that the Committee was simply not competent to decide what constituted a safe environment in which to operate, nor did it have access to the resources to make those decisions. These were matters for venue operators to resolve and we had to be advised and guided by them. Naomi Hartnell added that by next year, the possibility of outside concerts might help and the situation with Covid-19 itself may have developed to a point where things were more certain about holding physical concerts.

It was then proposed that the accounts be adopted and they were approved unanimously.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members

In accordance with the notice of the AGM, the following existing Committee members were standing for the Committee.

	Committee Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Officers	Chairman	Jonathan Gillams	Stephen Haller	Gary Harding
	Hon. Secretary	Stephen Haller	Jonathan Gillams	Jim Parkin
	Hon Treasurer	Gary Harding	Stephen Haller	Jonathan Gillams
Other roles	Membership Secretary	Naomi Hartnell	Stephen Haller	Gary Harding
	Concert Secretary	Jim Parkin	Stephen Haller	Gary Harding
	Webmaster	Gary Harding	Stephen Haller	Jonathan Gillams

There were no other members standing for election. Jonathan Gillams then proposed that voting take place in two blocks, first for the ‘Officer’ positions and then for the ‘Other roles’. Both these proposals were put to the meeting and approved unanimously.

9. Any other business

9.1. Michael Stockbridge, on behalf of the members, said he was extremely grateful to the Committee for keeping the Club going in these difficult circumstances.

9.2. Jonathan Gillams expressed his thanks to the members attending for taking part in the Zoom meeting.

9.3. Naomi Hartnell expressed thanks to Gary Harding for organising the Zoom meeting and all the associated technology.

Jonathan Gillams then declared the meeting closed.