

RADLETT MUSIC CLUB

Minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”)

21 June 2022 at Christchurch Vision Hall, Radlett

In attendance: Jonathan Gillams, Stephen and Ros Haller, Gary Harding, Ruth Mackler, Jim and Chris Parkin, Naomi Hartnell, David and Maureen Grossman, Ian and Valerie Macdonald, Robin and Mary Crosher, Penny Mauger, Jenny Bailey, John Falk, Anne Venediger, Geoffrey and Mehri Smyth

The meeting was quorate.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Chris and Jenny Wilson, Bob Ogden, Bea Clark, Michael Stockbridge, Christine Essex, Peter Hartnell, Hedley and Sally Ramshaw and Brian Weller.
2. **Minutes of last AGM** (on 27 July 2021) – There were no comments on these and they were approved unanimously.
3. **Matters arising from minutes:** none.
4. **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 AGM¹. In summary, he reported that:

- 4.1. he was particularly pleased with the Primrose Piano Trio who gave a masterful performance; there was a young violinist, Mathilde Milwidsky with her piano accompanist; the Ferio Saxophone quartet was somewhat experimental but the event went very well and several members asked that they should return; and Simon Callaghan gave a very good performance on the piano.
- 4.2. next year’s programme is coming together. The first two concerts are of classical repertoire (the Benyounes String Quartet who were here in 2015 and, second, the London Bridge Piano Trio. We have also engaged Ariel Lanyi (pianist) who came third in the recent Leeds Piano Competition; Emanuel Sowicz (guitarist) who is making an international reputation and, finally, Leo Popplewell (cellist) who visited us with the Mithras Trio by Zoom last year. In addition, there is one more concert still to be arranged.

There were no questions raised about the report.

5. **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 AGM². In summary, he noted:

- 5.1. It was a successful season with six concerts of high standard eventually held.
- 5.2. Membership numbers and ticket sales were still down because of Covid.
- 5.3. Accordingly, the Committee was looking at alternative venues, widening our sponsorship base and reducing costs.
- 5.4. Shortage of Committee members remains an issue, especially those with IT skills, but the incumbents are managing for now.

¹ A copy of the report is attached to the file version of these minutes.

² A copy of the report is attached to the file version of these minutes.

5.5. We are changing concert start times to 7:30pm to reflect latest trends and attract younger members.

There were no questions raised about the report.

6. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner

Gary Harding said that Ron Wheal had agreed to reappointment for 2022/23. 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 circulated to members in advance. Gary Harding had prepared a written Treasurer's report which had also been circulated to members in advance and he delivered that report to the AGM³. In summary, he noted:

- 7.1. As a result of less income from ticket sales and a lower number of members our income for the year was down by £2,500.
- 7.2. We moved all of our bonds to deposit and cash accounts which prevented further loss of capital value.
- 7.3. Our operating loss on the year was about £7,000.
- 7.4. We have assets of about £28,000 so the club would only last 4 years if we continued with losses at that rate.
- 7.5. The Committee is looking at lower cost venues and alternative sources of income to improve the situation.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

In relation to the Club's diminishing financial position, Naomi Hartnell invited members to encourage friends to attend and take an interest in the Club. No other questions or issues were raised about this topic.

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 there be a block vote for this and the motion was approved unanimously.

³ Copies of these several documents are attached to the file version of these minutes.

9. Any other business

- 9.1. Stephen Haller reported upon the Club's 'pitch' at the Radlett Jubilee Street Party on Sunday 5 June 2022. Along with a number of other local societies, the Committee had manned a stand in the Radlett Centre car park advertising and promoting the Club. Although the morning was quite quiet, from lunchtime onwards foot-traffic increased substantially and many people stopped to take leaflets and ask about the Club. Stephen said he was hopeful this might lead to some new members next season and/or increased door ticket sales.
- 9.2. Jim Parkin added that, next season, one of the concerts will be a guitar recital and that was the sort of performance that ought to be attractive to a wider section of the community.
- 9.3. There was then a discussion about ways to address some of the Club's difficulties and generate more members and ticket sales. The main points raised were as follows:
 - 9.3.1. As a follow up to the Jubilee pitch, Ruth Mackler asked if it might be worth doing a leaflet drop around Radlett. Stephen Haller replied that leaflet drops were something we used to do regularly but there was a fair cost in producing the leaflets and then distributing them. The Committee had reviewed this in recent years and there was no real evidence that the exercise produced any extra members or ticket sales.
 - 9.3.2. The discussion prompted the idea that, if we could, it would be worth displaying the Club's new free-standing banner in the Radlett library.
 - 9.3.3. Robin Crosher asked about concerts with more appeal to wider audiences such as Klezmer concerts.
 - 9.3.4. Geoffrey Smyth asked about the use of Delrow House as a cheaper venue. He also asked about perhaps offering free seats to attract new members but Gary Harding pointed out that 25s and unders were already given free entry.
- 9.4. Valerie Macdonald, on behalf of the members, said she wanted to thank the Committee for its work.

Jonathan Gillams then declared the meeting closed.