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# **HarmonicaUK AGM held at**

# **19:00 on Friday 25th October 2024**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
   1. Members of the committee present: Simon Joy (SJ), Gene Myers (GM), Dave Colclough (DC), Suzy Colclough (SC), Darren Lampon (DL).
   2. Apologies: Lee van Crugton (LVC).
2. Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising
   1. No matters arising.
3. Reports and accounts
   1. All reports read out - Events, Chair, Secretary, Communications, Financial, Membership, Editorial and IT.
   2. Discussion was had around whether the trustees and the committee need to be the same. In the HarmonicaUK constitution, the committee is made up of the trustees. It was raised that in other charities, there is a separate committee that does not necessarily have to include trustees. This is something that can be considered in the future.
   3. However, the main issue is the committee requiring more help, either in the form of more trustees or just volunteers, as a number of members have had to leave the committee in the past year and Dave and Suzy Colclough will be stepping down at this AGM. The committee asked for support from members in the running of HarmonicaUK.
   4. The number of trustees will be four at the end of this AGM. The HarmonicaUK constitution states that the minimum number of trustees is six (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and not fewer than 2 and not more than 8 other members). To be in line with our constitution a proposal has been made to change minimum number of trustees to four (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and no more than 8 other members).
   5. Debate was had over the proposed changing of the words in the constitution and whether it is clear that it is members of the committee that are being referred to. One member felt that it was not clear enough. The current trustees felt that the wording was clear enough but this was to be voted on.
   6. A member suggested we do fundraising to finance an employed person? This would reduce the burden on the committee. This suggestion has merit and is something that can be explored further in the future.
   7. Finances - we have roughly £25000.
   8. Suggestion of applying for Arts Council grants for funding. While this is possible, it is a lot of work in itself, and we would then have to deliver a piece of work (if something can be identified that we would be able to deliver that would also qualify for funding).
   9. Membership: Lee van Crugton has been taking on the membership secretary role and has been shadowing Barbara Tate to learn about the role. He is standing to fully join the committee and will be voted for at this AGM.
   10. Cost of annual membership went up by £5 to £25. A handful of members cancelled their membership following this rise.
   11. We have members coming from Ben Hewlett’s teaching. A discussion was had whether there are other teachers that we can work with to gain new members? We are not currently doing this enough and there is scope for this to be expanded.
   12. Editorial
   13. IT: Distribution list has been maintained. HarmonicaUK email addresses have been created for volunteers.
   14. Editorial: GM took over from Sam Spranger as editor. The spring issue was missed. Continued goal to continue to publish interesting, inclusive and diverse articles. Next year is 90th anniversary. Planning a special edition magazine for this.
   15. Chair: DC will be stepping down as Chair at this AGM. GM will be stepping up as Acting Chair.
   16. DC - thank you to remaining committee. Thank you to past committee members, Richard Taylor had to leave due to work commitments. Richard was presented with a plaque and in his absence was accepted by GM. Plaque also presented to SC for her services to the committee.
   17. DC passed Chair onto GM. GM gave thanks to DC and SC for all their hard work. Presented DC with commemorative harmonica engraved by John Cook.
   18. GM outlined his his background and intentions as Acting Chair. Hoping to be Chair in interim role and is actively looking for someone to take the role long term. GM has been a board member for a £10 million company with three people on the board, so has experience managing organisations, but the difference is that we are volunteers.
   19. Planning on sending out surveys to see what we can do to help engage people in the organisation. GM remit is to build more engagement.
4. Proposed amendment to the constitution
   1. This was voted on and passed in the meeting, with one abstaining. We also had 84 proxy votes with (with two abstaining from giving proxy votes) which were given to the chair by those who could not make the meeting.
5. (Re)election of committee members

Simon Joy, Gene Myers, Darren Lampon, Lee van Crugton

This was voted on and passed We also had 84 proxy votes with (with two abstaining from giving proxy votes) which were given to the chair by those who could not make the meeting.

1. Member proposed resolutions
   1. None
2. Any other business
   1. Past chairs joined the committee on stage. Roger Trobridge asks those present to consider skills they may have that they can contribute without becoming members of the committee. Ben Hewlett says he sees a lot of enthusiasm for the harmonica and this is a golden age of the harmonica. Peter Hewitt - joined HUK in 1982 and it is very dear to his heart. Barry Elms - stepped down from chair but is still very active in HUK with newsletters. DC - Has been volunteering for 5 years. Has had a variety of roles including editor and events manager. It has been a difficult year but has had a lot of fun. It has just not been possible to continue.