

Founding President and First Patron: Dame Ninette de Valois OM, CH, DBE

Founded in 1946 by Stanley Hawkins

Patron: Sir Peter Wright CBE

President: Dame Monica Mason DBE

Vice Presidents: Dame Merle Park DBE, Wayne Eagling, David Nixon OBE, Darius James OBE, Sir David Bintley CBE, Kevin O'Hare CBE, Carlos Acosta CBE, Dame Darcey Bussell DBE, Tamara Rojo CBE, Aaron S Watkin

Chair: Susan Dalgetty Ezra

MINUTES OF THE 78th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Monday, 10 March 2025 at 7pm via ZOOM

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 78th Annual General Meeting (and the 17th since the LBC became a charity). The meeting was declared **quorate** (the requirement being 30 attendees which is 5% of the total membership).

Notice of the AGM and Agenda were circulated in February inviting resolutions for consideration **but none were received.**

Present:

President: Dame Monica Mason

Trustees: Susan Dalgetty Ezra (Chair), Keith White (Treasurer), Krissie Poyser (Secretary), Jill Samuels (Membership), Rachel Cavet (Events), Candace Kuss & Abby Lilly (Social Media), Sue Lynas (Newsletter), Alastair Thompson (GDPR), Chenchu Tso (Website) & Alexandra Cross (without portfolio)

Members: 66

2. Minutes of the meeting held March 11th 2024 (previously circulated)

Motion: to accept the Minutes as read:

Proposed by James Watt and seconded by Thomas Huck

APPROVED

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on March 11th 2024

NONE

4. The Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report and that of the Trustees, and highlighted the following:

- (i) The decision was taken to **hold the AGM on zoom** again this year as our membership is now worldwide and every member has the right to be in attendance. In order to hold a live event which could be zoomed at the same time, the costs were high. As our charitable goal is to help young dancers, their schools etc, the Trustees took the decision to hold this year's AGM as a virtual event.
- (ii) Between 1 Nov and 31 October 2024 the LBC held a record number of **44 events** with 13 In Conversations with guests from London and beyond. Zoom has allowed us to connect members with guests and interviewers in all parts of the world. There have also been several in person visits to ballet schools, summer schools, master classes, rehearsal watches and to Freed, the shoe makers.
- (iii) The **newsletter** editor continues to deliver consistently informative and interesting newsletters and contributions from members are welcome. To reduce costs the bi-monthly newsletter is now sent out electronically. Those members who are not 'online' are contacted by post.

- (iv) Thanks to regular posts on **social media** the number of people following and interacting with LBC has grown. Links to our social media are on the website. The **website** continues to be a source of information for members and non-members alike. The ability to read reports, book for LBC events and to sign up for membership via the website has proved invaluable. **Analytics** show that the website attracts many visitors and several new memberships have resulted.
- (v) **Membership** today stands just under 600. Only about half our membership reside in London but it touches all corners of the world. Attracting new membership is a priority but LBC will continue to care for the existing membership.
- (vi) **Charitable donations** have increased to £30,020 including the Gainsbury Award. Thanks to members' support of talks and events and to the growth in membership, the LBC is able to support dance in a small but significant way.
- (vii) The Trustees are very aware of their responsibilities to the Charity Commission and to our members. We continue to monitor our **policies**, so we remain in line with current requirements and to protect both our members and the charity.
- (viii) The Chair thanked the team of **dedicated volunteers** who have contributed hugely to the success of the LBC. We were sorry to lose Sylvia Villa, Fiona Erleigh and Ben Ettridge as Trustees and are very grateful to them for efforts on LBC's behalf. Happily, we have been fortunate to find Jill Samuels, Rachel Cavet, Chenchi Tso and Alexandra Cross who have slotted in comfortably and efficiently. Special thanks were extended to two additional volunteers, Elodie Kaye who creates YouTube videos and to Trevor Rothwell who writes reports following the In Conversation events.
- (ix) The Chair expressed the sadness felt by the LBC at the death earlier in the year of Linda Gainsbury, the former Vice-Chair. She was responsible for initiating the now biennial **Choreographic Award** and it is hoped she would be pleased to have it renamed The Gainsbury Award in her honour. Later this year the request for submissions will be sent out and winners will be announced at the 2026 AGM. Thanks were expressed to those who contributed to The Gainsbury Award in her memory. Anyone who would like to donate can do so on the Award page of the website.
- (x) Finally, the Chair expressed her thanks to both **Dame Monica** and to **Sir Peter Wright** for their support & encouragement. On behalf of all the Trustees, the Chair expressed her **thanks to ALL the members** whose support is shown through attendance at events, generous donations and messages of thanks and support.

Questions from the floor regarding the Chair's report were invited:

NONE

5. The Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts 2023/24 (previously circulated)

Annual Accounts 2023/24 presented by Keith White (Treasurer):

- (i) 2023/24 was a very successful year with our income increasing significantly in all categories including one substantial gift in a will which partly funded a social event. As a charity LBC is required to show accounts under three headings: unrestricted (where the money can be spent as we choose), designated (where we move money into funds for specific purposes) and restricted (where the donor specifies the purpose).
- (ii) Increased income resulted in an increase in LBC's support to ballet organisations as well as funding the Gainsbury Award.
- (iii) If anyone wishes to donate specifically to the Choreographic Fund that will be possible and most welcome
- (iv) Accounts show how our charitable donations are made. In addition to making specific bursaries or donations, when members pay to attend visits or rehearsals that money goes directly back to those organisations which has helped us develop close relationships with them and many of these events now form part of our regular calendar
- (v) LBC still has substantial reserves enabling us to continue setting aside money for the future and in particular for the 2026 Gainsbury Award.

Questions from the floor regarding the Annual Accounts were invited:

Q; It was asked whether the Trustees would consider an increase in the choreographic fund for the next round?

A: Financial planning indicated that the current award of £10,000 would continue

(Members were invited to send in questions via email to treasurer@tlbc.org.uk at a later point if desired)

Motion: The Trustees having previously agreed the accounts, to agree that the members had received them:

Proposed by Michael Sefi and seconded by Thomas Huck

AGREED

6. Consideration of any motions proposed from within the Membership

NONE RECEIVED

7. Election of Officers and Trustees

(i) It was agreed at the 2023 AGM to re-elect officers on a three-year rolling programme. Following their being duly proposed and seconded electronically, and having indicated their willingness and eligibility to serve in that capacity, the nominees were:

a)	Secretary/Trustee	Krissie Poyser
b)	New Trustee	Alexandra Cross
c)	New Trustee	Rachel Cavet
d)	New Trustee	Chenchi Tso
e)	New Trustee	Jill Samuels

Motion: no other nominations having been received, to agree to the election of the five Trustees en bloc:

CARRIED

8. Any Other Business

NONE

9. **LBC's President, Dame Monica Mason, closed the meeting** by expressing her pleasure at being able to join members at the AGM and congratulated Susan and her team for everything they contribute to the LBC. Dame Monica commented that the LBC is now such a well-respected organisation both with companies and organisations and also with individual dancers and the committee have done a wonderful job in raising the LBC's profile. She had spoken last week with LBC's Patron, Sir Peter Wright, who is now in his 99th year and is a remarkable man. Had he lived closer to London he would have enjoyed sitting with Dame Monica and Susan but he sends his love to all and misses being able to join us. Dame Monica concluded that she was looking forward to the talk later between Maggie Foyer and the winners of the LBC's 2024 Dame Ninette Award – Rebecca Stewart and Emile Gooding.

There being no further business the Chair thanked all those attending for their support at the meeting and throughout the year. Special thanks were given to Sir Peter Wright and to Dame Monica Mason for their continued and much valued involvement.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

Approved:: *Susan Dalgetty Ezra*
Susan Dalgetty Ezra (Chair)

Date: 1.4.25

Website: www.tlbc.org.uk

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