



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 79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Monday, 9 March 2026 at 7pm via ZOOM

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 79th Annual General Meeting (and the 18th since the LBC became a charity). The meeting was declared **quorate** (the requirement being 33 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 (Social Media), Sue Lynas (Newsletter) & Chenchi Tso (Website)

Members: 87

Apologies: Alastair Thomson (GDPR)

2. Minutes of the meeting held March 10th 2025 (previously circulated)

Motion: to accept the Minutes as read:

Proposed by Allison Potts and seconded by Tom Huck

APPROVED

3. The Chair's Report

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

- (i) The Trustees have taken the decision to **hold the AGM on zoom** again this year as membership is now worldwide and every member has the right to be in attendance. Holding the meeting as an in-person event with Zoom capabilities is a very expensive undertaking. As LBC's charitable goal is to help young dancers, their schools etc, holding this year's AGM as a virtual event makes economic sense
- (ii) Between 1 Nov and 31 October 2025, the LBC hosted **42 events**. Over 1,000 members and their guests enjoyed the In Conversations on Zoom and over 500 attended visits to vocational ballet schools and companies both in London and in other locations around the country. The *Tea and Tutus* afternoon in January 2025 was hugely enjoyable and was made possible by a generous bequest and a donation in memory of another member. The Royal Ballet School PTA's Summer Fair welcomed the LBC booth and they were grateful for the donation of a raffle prize of a year's membership to the LBC

- (iii) **The LBC tradition of awarding bursaries, scholarships and prizes continued.** The LBC Dame Ninette Award was presented to Aurora Chinchilla and Ptolmey Godney from the Royal Ballet School, the Sir Peter Wright Award was given to Thomas Kujawa and Olivia Cryne at Elmhurst and the LBC GradPro prize was awarded to another Elmhurst student, Alfie-Lee Hall. Given in memory of LBC's founder, The Stanley Hawkins Bursary was awarded to Amelie Jones to attend a week at Ballet Cymru's Summer School, and three scholarships were awarded to Yorkshire Ballet Summer Seminars. At the National Dance Awards ceremony, the LBC's award for Outstanding Male Classical Performance was presented to Aakash Odedra, the first time ever that this was awarded for classical Indian Kathak rather than for a classical ballet performance. These bursaries and awards are made entirely possible through the support of members with generous donations, legacies and membership fees
- (iv) **Membership** increased 9% to 635. LBC is mindful that there are occasions when members are unable to book places at events where there is restricted space particularly with Masterclasses or rehearsals. Although new members are most welcome it was acknowledged that there are many who have been members for years and years, but they all form the bedrock of LBC
- (v) The **newsletter** is issued bi-monthly and is gratefully received. Contributions from members are most welcome and should be sent to the editor, Sue Lynas. Those members who are not 'online' are contacted by post
- (vi) LBC's presence on **social media** is now well established and has brought LBC to the attention of people all over the world. Members are encouraged to share LBC posts to their followers. The **website** is a well-visited site by both members and internet-surfers. A close eye is kept on content and is refreshed regularly. It also gives people the opportunity to book for events and **analytics** have shown that it is often the gateway to new memberships
- (vii) 2024/25 saw LBC make over £17,000 in **charitable donations**. Thanks are extended to the loyalty of members in supporting talks and events. The Trustees are diligent at providing a programme that both intrigues and makes connections with other dance related organisations
- (viii) The Trustees are very aware of their responsibilities to the Charities Commission and to members. **Policies** were reviewed and updated in January to keep them in line with current requirements. They can be found on the website under 'Governance' in the section called 'About' and attention is drawn particularly to the Guidance for Members. When live events are held, those with mobility issues should notify the Events Secretary before booking so that suitable arrangements can be made
- (ix) The Chair thanked the team of **dedicated volunteers** who have contributed hugely to the success of the LBC. Changes to the committee resulted from the resignation of Alexandra Cross and Abby Lilly who left to pursue their careers and in Abby's case also motherhood. LBC's video editor Elodie Kaye who has left to attend university and concentrate on her studies has been succeeded by Vicky Poyser who is a wizard at turning the recordings around within hours of the In Conversations and preparing them for posting on the website. Trevor Rothwell continues to write detailed and accurate reports of these In Conversations conveying the flavour of the talks making them as satisfying as being there
- (x) Finally, the Chair expressed her thanks to LBC's Patron, **Sir Peter Wright**, now in his 100th year, and to LBC's President **Dame Monica Mason** for their much-valued support, enthusiasm and encouragement. On behalf of all the Trustees,

the Chair expressed her sincere and heartfelt **thanks to ALL the members** for their support of this art form which everyone loves so much and without which LBC would not exist.

4. The Trustees' Report and Annual Accounts 2024/25

LBC's Treasurer, Keith White, presented his report:

- (i) The draft accounts previously circulated have now been independently examined. This year LBC was required to pay a relatively small sum for this whereas previously this was undertaken pro bono. It is a legal requirement for a charity to have their accounts examined
- (ii) Excluding two payments from income received specifically (one from a will and one from a payment to the V&A for archiving), by the end of October 2024 a surplus of £5000 was made. LBC still has substantial reserves but increased expenses, particularly of venue costs for live meetings, will need to be taken in to account in the future
- (iii) £5000 is allocated annually to the Gainsbury Award and donations can now be made specifically towards that
- (iv) Accounts show how LBC's charitable donations are made and as a registered charity it is important that there is transparency on that

The Trustees having previously agreed the accounts, it was noted that the members had received them: **DULY MINUTED**

Comments or questions from the floor regarding the Annual Accounts were invited:

Thanks were received from one member for very clear reporting of the accounts as distributed

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

5. Election of Officers and Trustees

One third of the Trustees stand each year for a term of three years. Following their being duly proposed and seconded electronically, and having indicated their willingness and eligibility to serve in that capacity, the nominees were:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------------|
| a) | Treasurer/Trustee | Keith White |
| b) | Trustee | Sue Lynas |
| c) | Trustee | Candace Kuss |
| d) | Trustee | Alastair Thomson |

Motion: no other nominations having been received, to agree to the re-election of the four Trustees **CARRIED**

6. Any Other Business

NONE

7. LBC's President, Dame Monica Mason, closed the meeting

- (i) She stated that she wished she could do more for the LBC. She expressed her pleasure at being able to join the team of Trustees and members at the AGM and congratulated Susan for her organisation and smooth running of the proceedings and of the Charity itself. Dame Monica commented that members were now able

- to enjoy such treats through the LBC as London was now the centre of the dance world with such varied and stimulating opportunities
- (ii) Winners of the **LBC Gainsbury Award 2026** were announced. The panel, led by Dame Monica and joined by Matthew Ball, Stina Quagebeur and Jamie Devernay-Lawrence, had had a very full and interesting afternoon. After very careful consideration it was decided to divide the £10,000 award equally between the three eventual winners:
- **London City Ballet**, under the directorship of Christopher Marney, is being awarded £3,333 to support an emerging choreographer, Tasha Chu, as part of a two-year programme of artistic development
 - **George Liang**, a coryphée with Northern Ballet, is being awarded £3,333 for his work commissioned by Robert Parker, Artistic Director at Elmhurst, to be performed as part of the School's Summer Showcase in June
 - **Aleth Berenice**, an independent choreographer, is being awarded £3,333 to develop a 20-minute dance work to be performed as an immersive theatre experience later this year.
- (iii) Dame Monica had spoken this afternoon with LBC's Patron, Sir Peter Wright, who was on very good form, but coming up to his 100th birthday can be very frustrated that he can't always remember what he wants to say! He sent his love to everyone and appreciated the support LBC gives the art form. Dame Monica believed the dancers in this country knew how fortunate they were in having the backing of LBC which is growing and thriving and she sent her love to everyone as well.

The Chair concluded that the winners of the Gainsbury Award had already been notified and the results would now be posted on the website and on social media. Members will be invited to watch rehearsals or performances of the winning works.

There being no further business the Chair presented flowers to Dame Monica and she thanked all those attending for their support at the meeting and throughout the year.

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

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

Date: 13.4.2026

Website: www.tlbc.org.uk

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