

MINUTES OF THE 65th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ANGLO-AUSTRIAN SOCIETY (AAS) HELD VIA ZOOM AT 4pm ON 19th JUNE 2024

The following Trustees of the Society took part in the Meeting:

Dame Janet Ritterman (Chairman); Headley Beeson (Treasurer); Rob Hopkins (Editor); Brigitte Kreuger (Trustee, IT Services); Patricia Langlely (Trustee, Legal Affairs), Helen Ramsden (Trustee, Membership); Felicitas Starr-Egger (Trustee, Grants); Professor Michael Worton (Board Secretary).

In attendance: Alan Radford (Independent Examiner)

Also attending were: Jane Avery, Lis Batteson, Huw Bendall, Robert Burgess, Gwen Clayton, Marie-José Clayton, Helen Colborne, Waltraud Dennhardt-Herzog, Mary Helen Dewar, Howard Dobbs, Theresa Flach, Christine Gadsby, Liz Gamlin, Michael Garton, Gisela Gledhill, Nicola Good, Kevin Grafton, Bruce Granger, Sabine Granger, Barbara Leadbetter, Daphne Lytton, Margery Mackay, Katherine Metcalf, Tony Mills, Gareth Millward, Josephine Murray, Lisbeth Owens, Philip Owens, Robin Owens, Sonia Palethorpe, Olivia Pilditch, Diana Rayner, Judy Raumann, Margaret Stone, Ingrid Todd, Felix Wagner, Ulrike Wright; members of the Cuarteto Iberia: Marta Peño, Arnold Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Aurora Rus

1 Minutes

The minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting were approved with one small amendment, on the proposal of Howard Dodds, seconded by Mary Helen Dewar.

2 Report of the Board of Trustees and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

The Chairman opened consideration of the Annual Report by highlighting the following:

- grant-giving has increased, in terms both of the number of applications supported and of the level of financial support awarded;
- the quarterly Newsletter continues to be appreciated for the range and interest of its content;
- the audience for the monthly Virtual Stammtisch evenings continue to grow, with people joining from across the UK and from Austria and the USA;
- Two new regional Stammtisch groups are being planned, one in Edinburgh, the other in North London.

She then reminded the meeting that, given that the AAS is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), it is the Trustees alone who are responsible for the financial management of the accounts and for approving them annually (or otherwise). The Trustees had approved the 2023 financial statements on 8 May 2024.

However, the Chairman and Trustees consider it important to share the accounts with the subscribing members for information and discussion. She asked Alan Radford, the AAS's Independent Examiner, (AR) to present the accounts.

AR pointed to the small net deficit on income for the year of £1,819, compared with a net surplus of £1,506 last year. On the other hand, the Society's total funds on 31 December 2023 were £592,566 compared with £566,026 on 1 December 2022, an increase on the year

of 4.7% due to the recovery of the investment market. The Society is thus in a very healthy financial state. AR also confirmed that, having completed his examination of the accounts, he could confirm that they conform to the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and that he had come across no other matters to which attention should be drawn.

The meeting expressed its immense gratitude to AR for the clarity of his report and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Trustees for all the invaluable work that he does throughout the year.

3 Board of Trustees

The meeting noted the retirement of Helen Ramsden as Membership Trustee, with the Chairman paying tribute to Helen's invaluable work in modernising and re-organising the Membership processes and records.

The meeting noted also the appointment of Jane Avery as Trustee, Enquiries and Judy Raumann as Trustee, Membership.

The meeting noted also the renewal of the Chairman, Dame Janet Ritterman, from 2024-2026.

The meeting finally noted the current terms of all the Trustees.

4 Any other business

There was no other business, and the Chairman closed the formal part of the agenda by thanking all of the organisers of the regional Stammtisch groups and also her fellow Trustees for all that they were doing for the Society.

5 Cuarteto Iberia

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Cuarteto Iberia from the Mozarteum University, Salzburg, who had participated in this year's AAS-funded Chamber Music Exchange with the Toccata Quartet from the Royal Academy of Music. The four musicians spoke of their love of music and of working together, of their past studies in different conservatoires in different countries, of their successes in international competitions, of their plans in the near future, including recording a CD, and of some of the most important things that they had learned from the Exchange. They then had a short but fascinating Q&A, and finally the meeting was treated to a video recording of one of their prize-winning performances.

6 Open discussion of priorities for the AAS in the year ahead

Issues and ideas discussed included: the importance of continuing to recruit new members and how most successfully to do this; finding ways of enabling members to feed useful/interesting/topical information into the website and Newsletter; building up further the network of regional Stammtisch groups.

The meeting ended with a vote of fulsome thanks from all present to the Chairman for her leadership and tireless work for the Society.

The meeting closed at 5.19pm