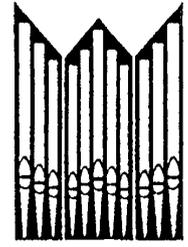


Chester & North East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th June 2017 at 7.00pm at Upton Golf Club, Chester

1. Chairman's Welcome - John Evans welcomed all present for their attendance and looked forward to a successful meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence – these were received from Gilmour Pemberton and Ross Williams.
3. Minutes of the last AGM - the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2016, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising not covered by other items on the Agenda.
5. Presentation of Accounts – these were circulated at the meeting, showing a balance in the bank as at 30th April 2017 of £1,923.79 and cash in hand of £72.61. It was proposed by Donal McCarthy and seconded by Jim Treloar that the accounts be accepted, and this was agreed. A suggestion was put forward from the floor that the Committee consider whether the Association should fund a bursary to take an organ scholar through college.

The Chairman commented that the role of Treasurer was not an easy one, and he thanked David on behalf of the Association for looking after our accounts in such a professional manner over the past 12 months.

6. Chairman's Report – The Chairman thanked everyone present for supporting the Association with their attendance this evening, and he also thanked the Committee for their enthusiasm and support. He commented that the 2016/17 season had been a very enjoyable year, which included visits to Arley Hall Chapel and gardens, Bangor and Chester Cathedrals, a fascinating tour around the Willis Organ Factory, a wonderful afternoon at Ellesmere College, and visits to St Peter's in Ruthin and, more recently, to Bethlehem Chapel in Rhosllanerchrugog.

He further commented that, although we were a very healthy Association – holding monthly meetings, having a monthly Newsletter and around 100 members – he urged members to continue encouraging others to join and attend the monthly meetings. He felt there was a great feeling of excitement and fellowship within the Association and that he was proud to be associated with it.

John reminded those present that there were still two vacancies on the Committee and that there was still time for members to think about offering their services.

He went on to say that 2018 would be the Association's 20th birthday, confirming that the Committee were planning celebrations for next May. The celebrations would include the production of a book of six new compositions by both well-known professional organists and our own members, which would be performed at the celebration event, followed by refreshments.

John commented that the coming year's programme would commence with a Social Evening and Quiz at Poulton Hall, this being a joint event with our friends from the Liverpool Organists' Association. Other events would include a talk by Alan Thurlow, an organ workshop given by Graham Eccles, and a singing workshop by Enid Whittle, plus the usual opportunities to visit interesting churches and play the organs, and that the full programme of events for the coming year would be distributed with the next Newsletter.

7. Election of Officers – Richard Bass had stood down from the Committee earlier in the year, but all other Officers and Committee Members were agreeable to standing for re-election, leaving two vacancies on the Committee, for which no nominations had been received.

It was proposed by Philip Rushforth, seconded by Brian Moate and agreed that the following nominations be voted on “en bloc”:

<i>Chairman:</i>	John Evans	<i>Committee Members:</i>	Mike Edwards
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Tony Warren		Tim Jones
<i>Treasurer:</i>	David Bird		Iain Stinson
<i>General Secretary:</i>	Angela Evans		Jim Treloar
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>	Ethan Henshaw		+ 2 vacancies
<i>Publicity Officer:</i>	Bob Jones		

The above were all accepted.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the Annual Accounts – the Treasurer suggested that last year’s auditor, Philip O’Neill, a retired Shell Finance Manager who lives locally in Upton, be asked to continue as Auditor next year. This was proposed by Robin Newby, seconded by Mike Edwards and was agreed.
9. Any Other Business – Iain Stinson gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the membership and the Committee to the Chairman and the Secretary, John and Angie Evans, for their leadership and hard work for the Association, which was gratefully received.
10. Date of the next AGM – it was suggested that the next AGM be held on Tuesday 12th June 2018; the date and venue would be confirmed in due course. The Chairman advised that the 2018 AGM would not be followed by a dinner, but would take place before one of the organised events, due to the 20th birthday celebration event taking place in May.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.20pm. The AGM was followed by a Dinner, after which the Chairman was delighted to introduce Rachel Mahon, Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral, as our after-dinner speaker.