

St Ives Arts Club
Annual General Meeting – year ending 30 September 2023
3.00pm Upstairs Theatre
Minutes

1. Appointment of New President 2023/24

Stephen Litherland was proposed by Phil Gee and this was unanimously approved.

2. Appointment of Executive and Committee positions

The meeting unanimously appointed the following to the executive positions;

Vice President – John Kness

Club Secretary – John Kness

Finance Officer – Chris O-Reilly

Membership Officer – Chris O'Reilly

Bookings Officer - Chris O'Reilly

Exhibitions Officer - Chris O'Reilly

3. Election of General Purposes committee

In addition to the executive officers, the following were unanimously appointed committee members;

Wendy Litherland, Louise Vallis, Will Sleath, Suzanne Ellacott.

4. Constitutional Changes – Clause 13 Appointment of Trustees

Proposed by the chair that clause 13 of the constitution is amended to a minimum of 2 trustees and a maximum of 5 trustees. Trustees to be appointed for a term of 5 years and that trustees can stand for immediate re-election at the end of their 5 year term. This was seconded by Phil Gee and unanimously approved.

5. Appointment of Trustees and Chair

Unanimously agreed that Janet Axten, Phil Gee and Stephen Litherland (Chair) be re-appointed as Trustees in accordance with the revised constitution.

Stephen Litherland will notify the Charity Commissioners of the changes.

Brian Richards offered to be a Trustee. It was agreed that Stephen Litherland would meet with him to discuss this.

6. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Suzanne Ellacott, Suzie Gutierrez, Anthony and Wendy

Gribbin, and Mary Fletcher.

7. Members in attendance

Cynthia Jenkin, Honor Nankervis, Janet Beckerleg, Claire Hughes, Chris Dawe, Jeremy Edwards, Carol MacArthur, Brian Richards, Graham Swee , Michael Laws, Janet Axten, Phil and Margaret Gee, Kerry Grant, Caroline Marwood, Stephen Litherland, Will Sleath, Chris O'Reilly, John Kness, Louise Vallis, Wendy Litherland.

8. Minutes of Last meeting and Officers Reports for 2022-2023

Minutes of 2021/22 AGM held on 15 Feb 2023 - The minutes had been circulated and were accepted as true and accurate record.

President report – a formal report from the President was circulated to the meeting and was also included in the latest newsletter. The President highlighted the maintenance works, the hope to be able to display more pictures especially artwork from past presidents, and the donation of archive documents.

The meeting thanked the President for his report.

Membership Officer – Chris O'Reilly highlighted the value of membership for just £3.33 per month, and circulated a list of membership benefits. Membership is good with 155 members last year. This year the number stands at 136 but rising as members are reminded to pay their membership fee. It was noted that it would help if members paid by standing order.

Bookings and Exhibition Officer – It was reported that bookings are good with the club used most days. The club hosted 28 events in the September Festival and had 38 weeks of exhibitions booked by members. It was noted that exhibition room income was £20,000 more than the year before, partly due to the new door and refurbishment. The exhibition room is fully booked for 2024. Bookings for the theatre were good last year and set to be good in 2024.

Chris O'Reilly proposed to have a small exhibition committee of enthusiastic members to assist him with the work of setting up and curation.

Finance Officer – the meeting received the financial summary. The Finance Officer highlighted the exhibition room income, both total and net, and the £21,000 of building work, indicating that more would be required this year, as summarised in the Presidents report.

It was asked if membership fees could be gift-aided. It was confirmed that they could but that it took a lot of work to administer it. It would ideally need someone to run it and the committee would look into this.

The meeting thanked Chris O'Reilly for all his work.

9. Representatives reports for 2022-2023

Monday Art Club – reported that the pressure was off membership now that other art groups had started up. The group is still well attended and questioned whether the stage could be used in the future. The committee will look into this.

Social Secretary – it was reported that there is now a social committee which organizes events negating the need for an actual Social Secretary. The committee hopes to do more in 2024.

World Classics – the series started again last November after a 5 year break. There have since been 2 successful concerts and the next is organized for 27 April 2024. There have now been 45 concerts over the whole World Series although it was noted that few members attend.

10. Any Other Business

Repairs and Improvements – the chair highlighted that the main areas of concern for repairing this year are the dangerous slates on the hip end, the leaking dormer, and replacing the inadequate guttering. Internally the focus would be to make the upstairs more user friendly including improving the floor covering, and improving the stage lighting and curtains.

The meeting raised concern about how cold the theatre is in winter and how hot in summer. It was noted that the boiler and heating system are old and inefficient. The committee will look into options with a view to finding a better heating and ventilation solution.

First Aid Box – In response to a question it was confirmed that 2 new first aid boxes would be purchased and wall mounted (upstairs and downstairs).

Plays – it was questioned whether the Arts Club would continue amateur dramatics as there had been no plays lately. The Chair confirmed that the club still had a theatre group to which members were more than welcome to join, adding that plays are an important part of the history of the Arts Club. It was agreed that this should be promoted more. After much discussion it was concluded that there is much going on and in development, and that these just needed people to commit.

Members Exhibitions – a view was expressed that 30% commission is a lot, especially on cards, and especially when members have to pay an entry fee and commit to stewarding as well. It was noted that the commission is comparable, even favourable, compared to other galleries but it was agreed that the committee will review the pricing structure and also look at how the theatre can contribute more.

Club member events – it was asked if members could get a discount on theatre ticket costs. It was noted, however, that identifying members when purchasing tickets was not easy and, given the small size of the venue, this could make some events unviable. As a solution it was proposed to put on 'member only' events. A suggestion for one such event, by Jeremy Edwards, was a display of the paintings which the club owns and has in store. In time it was hoped that there would be a separate programme of member events v public events. There was also a request for more 'Cornish' music and for the timing of member events to be considered.

Thanks – in acknowledgement of his 10 years service and commitment as President a gift was presented to Stephen Litherland.