



# Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday April 10, 2022, 12pm

## Attendees

| Name                 | Role                            | Name                | Role               |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Ruby Punt            | Acting Chair and Events Officer | Redbrick            | Member publication |
| Marino Unger-Verna   | Communications Officer          | Forge Press         | Member publication |
| Richard Brooks       | Trustee                         | Impact Magazine     | Member publication |
| Jem Collins          | Trustee                         | Liberty Belle       | Member publication |
| Bree Allegretti      | Trustee                         | The Phantom         | Member publication |
| Geri Scott           | Trustee                         | Kindred Magazine    | Member publication |
| Sally Paterson       | Trustee                         | The Edge            | Member publication |
| Matt Ward-Perkins    | North Officer                   | Wessex Scene        | Member publication |
| Jordan Hunter        | Scotland Officer                | Roar News           | Member publication |
| The Glasgow Guardian | Member publication              | Strand Magazine     | Member publication |
| York Vision          | Member publication              | The Saint           | Member publication |
| The Lemon Press      | Member publication              | Palatinate          | Member publication |
| The Mancunian        | Member publication              | SCAN                | Member publication |
| Exepose              | Member publication              | The Falmouth Anchor | Member publication |
| The Gaudie           | Member publication              |                     |                    |

### 1. Explanation of running of AGM

RB opened meeting and explained to delegates how voting will be run. Each member publication gets one vote and a simple majority wins. RB explained that if agreement could not be reached the vote would be deferred for electronic voting. RB explained how points of order and emergency motions could be raised.

## **2. Awards**

GS awarded bottles of prosecco for competition run over the weekend.

## **3. Statement of action**

JC set out the SPA statement of action. JC explained it had been a tough year for the SPA with a smaller than anticipated team due to resignations and no shows, however the team had managed to provide the first in-person conference for three years. Other events had been held including regional conferences (branded as a Training Day) and regional awards. JC also outlined how the charity was looking to put on a 10th anniversary event later in the year.

JC said lots of work had been done to professionalise the charity and back office work to make internal systems work better, as well as work to continue our recovery to pre-pandemic levels.

JC was asked by a delegate what the SPA reserves currently were, she explained she could not give a definitive answer because SPANC22 invoices were yet to be settled and some sponsorship had not yet come in, but that it was close to what it should constitutionally be. JC said £10,000 of sponsorship had been brought in for SPANC22 and that had helped the charity subsidise tickets for the conference to keep costs low for delegates. JC committed to full update on finances once the dust had settled.

## **4. Elections**

RB explained that five executive committee roles were being elected which would run to May 1, 2023, plus a trustee role with a four-year term. RB said candidates would have 30 seconds to give a speech before taking questions. Delegates were told they could vote for a candidate or to reopen nominations (RON).

### **a. Chair**

One candidate put themselves forward for chair: Marino Unger-Verna (Roar News).

The voting results were as follows: Marino Unger-Verna (21) RON (0)

Marino Unger-Verna was elected as chair of the SPA for 2022/23.

### **b. Conference and events officer**

One candidate put themselves forward for conference and events officer: Matt Ward-Perkins (York Vision).

The voting results were as follows: Matt Ward-Perkins (21) RON (0)

Matt Ward-Perkins was elected as conference and events officer of the SPA for 2022/23.

**c. Communications officer**

Two candidates put themselves forward for communications officer: Amy Smith (The Gaudie) and Ben Warner (Forge Press).

The voting results were as follows: Amy Smith (7) Ben Warner (12) RON (0)

Ben Warner was elected as communications officer of the SPA for 2022/23.

**d. Sponsorship officer**

One candidate put themselves forward for communications officer: Udit Singh (Forge Press).

The voting results were as follows: Udit Singh (21) RON (0)

Udit Singh was elected as sponsorship officer of the SPA for 2022/23.

**e. Training and opportunities officer**

Three candidates put themselves forward for communications officer: Ruby Punt (SOAS Spirit), Tabitha Lambie (SCAN), and Jordan Hunter (The Glasgow Guardian).

The voting results were as follows: Ruby Punt (3) Jordan Hunter (2) Tabitha Lambie (14) RON (0)

Tabitha Lambie was elected as training and opportunities officer of the SPA for 2022/23.

**f. Trustee**

One candidate put themselves forward for the role of trustee for a four-year term: Bree Allegretti.

The voting results were as follows: Bree Allegretti (21) RON (0)

Bree Allegretti was elected as trustee of the SPA for a four-year term.

**5. Motions**

One motion was submitted in advance of the deadline.

Prosper: Ruby Punt

*Proposed change to the constitution regarding Executive Officers and what to do if one of these roles become inactive. All Exec must post an update at least once a month stating what they've been doing at the SPA and how they are meeting their role requirements. If an Exec is unreachable for two months, the Trustees should be alerted and actions should be taken to find a replacement. Same for Regional Officers and Project Officers.*

Discussion was held over the time limit and whether support would be on offer for those struggling, RP confirmed it would be and there would be warnings in place and targets set. The definition of “inactive” was also discussed, RP said this meant not meeting agreed goals.

The voting results were as follows: For (12) Against (0) Abstain (7).

The motion carried.

## **6. Final remarks**

RB outlined that information on the appointed roles of regional officers and project officers would be advertised in the coming weeks.

AGM closed at 1.03pm.