



Annual General Meeting minutes

Sunday April 6, 2025, 11:30am

Attendees

Name	Role
Jack Walsh	Chair
Matthew Stothard	Communications Officer
Joe McFadden	Training and Opportunities Officer
Roxy-Moon Dahal Hodson	Events Officer
Rory Buccheri	Membership Officer
Libby Elliott	Sponsorship Officer
Isabella Ankersen	Advocacy Officer
Alex Cooper	Alumni Officer
Jacob Robinson	Digital Media Officer
Luke Hewitt	North Officer
Edward Sutton	Wales Officer
Emily Jordan	South West Officer
Hosanna Boulter	Ireland & NI Officer
Daisy Outram	South East Officer
Oisin McGilloway	London Officer
Amy Rushton & Charlie Gershinson	Host Officers
Jem Collins	Trustee
Aubrey Allegretti	Trustee
Geri Scott	Trustee
Anttoni Numminen	Trustee
Emma Penney	Trustee and vice-chair of AGM
Richard Brooks	Trustee and chair of AGM
Ollie Cole	Trustee
James Mole	Trustee
Bath Time Cherwell Concrete Exposé Forge Press Gair Ryhdd GUM Impact Muse Circulation Nouse Quench Razz Roar News RUMS Review The Badger	28 member publications & their representatives. The full agenda was shared with delegates ahead of time and can be found online here.

The Beaver The Boar The Gaudie The Glasgow Guardian The Mancunian The Orbital The River The Student Epigram York Vision Kinesis (online) Brig Newspaper (online)	
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1. Call to order

2. Introductions and explanation of AGM running

Richard Brooks opened the meeting and explained to delegates the AGM's running order, including rules and procedures for voting on motions and in elections, as well as the schedule and time constraints for the AGM.

3. Reports to the Membership

The reports to the membership were presented to SPA members who had the opportunity to ask questions of:

- a. Chair's Report
- b. Training and Opportunities Officer Report
- c. Communications Officer Report
- d. Sponsorship Officer Report
- e. Membership Officer Report
- f. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement 2023/24

Members were asked to vote on both the Chair's report and the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement.

Both the Chair's report and Trustees' Annual Report passed unanimously.

4. Business

Motion 1 - Constitution changes

Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 1 - Constitution changes) which proposed amending the SPA's governing documents, including using gender neutral language, clarifying term limits and updating the SPA's process for quoting for services.



No one spoke against the motion. Members voted to approve the motion unanimously.

Motion 2 - New guidance on decision-making process for SPANC bids, with an amendment

Joe McFadden proposed a motion (Motion 2 - New guidance on decision-making process for SPANC bids) on encouraging the SPA to rotate the location of its national conferences in future. Ollie Cole proposed an amendment on the process and guidance to SPA officers for this happening.

Ollie Cole's amendment passed unanimously. The chair allowed an additional round of debate on the main motion (which now included the amendment). Members voted to approve the motion with one vote against and three abstentions.

Motion 3 - Trustee term and appointments

Ollie Cole proposed a motion (Motion 3 - Trustee term and appointments) on the process for trustees to be appointed and stand down.

No one spoke against the motion. Members voted to approve the motion unanimously.

Motion 4 - Reserves policy

Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 4 - Reserves policy) which would update the SPA's financial reserves policy.

No one spoke against the motion. Members voted to approve the motion unanimously.

Motion 5 - Focus on visual journalism

Sylvain Chan from The Beaver proposed a motion (Motion 5 - Focus on visual journalism) to ensure the SPA prioritises visual journalism and illustration more in its work.

No one spoke against the motion. Members voted to approve the motion - no objections were recorded, three abstentions were recorded.

5. Lifetime memberships

Richard Brooks handed over chairing of the meeting to Emma Penney, due to a conflict with the agenda item.

Jem Collins proposed a lifetime membership award for Richard Brooks, trustee of the SPA who was stepping down in May 2025, for his work in helping bridge the gap between student publications and students' unions and focus on democracy.

Somehow, no one spoke against the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the lifetime membership award.

6. Elections

The rules of the election were explained. Every candidate was given the opportunity for a short speech. Member publications could ask the same question of each of the candidates, who would then have a short time to respond. The order of speeches and questions were random. Richard Brooks explained that six executive roles were up for election. These were:

- Chair
- Training & Opportunities Officer
- Conference & Events Officer
- Communications Officer
- Sponsorship Officer
- Membership Officer

Chair

- Five candidates put themselves forward for Chair: Joe McFadden, Hosanna Boulter, Emily Jordan, Matthew Stothard and Isabella Ankerson.
- Matthew Stothard was elected as Chair of the SPA for 2025/26

Training and Opportunities Officer

- One candidate put themselves forward for Training and Opportunities Officer: Oisín McGilloway
- Oisín McGilloway was elected as Training and Opportunities Officer of the SPA for 2025/26

Conference and Events Officer

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Conference and Events Officer: Joe McFadden and Callum Martin
- Joe McFadden was elected as Conference and Events Officer of the SPA for 2025/26

Communications Officer

- Six candidates put themselves forward for Communications Officer: Emily Jordan, Hosanna Boulter, Heather Gosling, Rosie Peters-McDonald, Rayhan Hussain and Sophie Layton
- There was an equality of votes between Heather Gosling and Rosie Peters-McDonald. After deliberation, a second count was held only for Heather Gosling and Rosie Peters-McDonald. This also had an equality of votes, so a coin was flipped by the chair.
- Rosie Peters-McDonald was elected as Communications Officer of the SPA for 2025/26

Sponsorship Officer



- One candidate put themselves forward for Sponsorship Officer: Isabella Ankerson
- Isabella Ankerson was elected as Sponsorship Officer of the SPA for 2025/26

Membership Officer

- Five candidates put themselves forward for Membership Officer: Josh Pizzuto-Pomaco, Emily Jordan, Heather Gosling, Alex Cooper and Anna Boyne.
- There was an equality of votes between Josh Pizzuto-Pomaco and Heather Gosling, so a second vote was held for only these two candidates.
- Heather Gosling was elected as Membership Officer of the SPA for 2025/26

4. Any Other Business

Richard Brooks reminded those attending of further opportunities for involvement with the SPA as regional and project officers.

There wasn't Any Other Business, and the meeting was called to a close.

Appendix 1

Formal agenda for SPA AGM

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Introductions and explanation of AGM running**
3. **Reports to the Membership**
 - a. Chair's Report (Appendix 1)
 - b. Training and Opportunities Officer Report (Appendix 1)
 - c. Communications Officer Report (Appendix 1)
 - d. Sponsorship Officer Report (Appendix 1)
 - e. Membership Officer Report (Appendix 1)
 - f. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement 2023/24 (Appendix 2)
4. **Business**
 - a. Motion 1 - Constitution changes (Appendix 3)
 - b. Motion 2 - New guidance on decision-making process for SPANC bids (Appendix 4)
 - i. Amendments (Appendix 5)
 - c. Motion 3 - Trustee term and appointments (Appendix 6)
 - d. Motion 4 - Reserves policy (Appendix 7)
 - e. Motion 5 - Focus on visual journalism (Appendix 8)
5. Lifetime memberships (Appendix 9)
6. **Elections**
 - a. Election of the Chair
 - b. Election of the Training & Opportunities Officer
 - c. Election of the Conference & Events Officer
 - d. Election of the Communications Officer
 - e. Election of the Sponsorship Officer
 - f. Election of the Membership Officer
7. **Any Other Business**
 - a. Reminder of further upcoming elected positions
8. **Adjournment**