Annual General Meeting minutes

Sunday March 28, 2026, 11:30am

Attendees

Name	Role
Matthew Stothard	Chair
Rosie Peters-McDonald	Communications Officer
Oisin McGilloway	Training and Opportunities Officer
Joe McFadden	Conference and Events Officer
Heather Gosling	Membership Officer
Isabel Ankerson	Sponsorship Officer
Daisy Outram	Advocacy Officer
Josh Pizzuto-Pomaco	Alumni Officer
Sophie Layton	Digital Media Officer
Emily Jordan	Representation Officer
Alexandra Pullen	North Officer
Katie Storrie	Wales Officer
Charlie Gershinson	South West Officer
Jack Walsh	Ireland & NI Officer
Callum Martin	South East Officer
Amy Rushton	London Officer
Emily Pitt-Shaw & Hannah Foley	Host Officers
Jem Collins	Trustee
Geri Scott	Trustee
Anttoni Numminen	Trustee and vice-chair of AGM
Emma Penney	Trustee and chair of AGM
Temi Alanamu	Trustee
Ollie Cole	Trustee
The Badger The Boar Cherwell Concrete The Courier Delilah Edinburgh Napier Radio Group (ENRG) Exeposé Forge Press Gair Rhydd The Gryphon Liverpool Guild Student Media Mancunion The Orbital Magazine Palatinate The Pigeon Pi Media Rare FM	25 member publications & their representatives. The full agenda was shared with delegates ahead of time and can be found online here.

RAZZ Magazine Rewind Roar News RUMS Review The Saint The Student York Vision	

1. **Call to order**

2. **Introductions and explanation of AGM running**

Emma Penney 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 2024/25

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 - - Reserves policy
Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 1 - 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 2 - Trustee eligibility
Ollie Cole proposed a motion (Motion 2 - Trustee eligibility) to ensure a twelve-month break between a person's role as either with the SPA, as an ex-officio trustee, member of the executive committee or holding of an officer role, or holding a role at a member publication, before any appointment or re-appointment as a trustee.

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

Motion 3 - Introduction of a representation officer
Emily Jordan proposed a motion (Motion 3 - Introduction of a representation officer) to introduce the role of a Representation Project Officer.

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

Motion 4 - Expansion of responsibilities for the membership officer

Joe McFadden proposed a motion (Motion 4 - Expansion of responsibilities for the membership officer) to expand the role of the membership officer.

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

Motion 5 - Communication officer responsibilities
Geri Scott proposed a motion (Motion 5 - Communication officer responsibilities) to update the role of the communications officer.

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

Motion 6 - Appointment of trustees

Joe McFadden proposed a motion (Motion 6 - Appointment of trustees) to clarify the process for appointing trustees.

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

Motion 7 - provide a percentage of income to funding opportunities for members

Oisin McGilloway proposed a motion (Motion 7 - provide a percentage of income to funding opportunities for members) to ringfence funds for project grants for members.

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

Motion 8 - Ireland and Northern Ireland Regional Strategy

Jack Walsh proposed a motion (Motion 8 - Ireland and Northern Ireland Regional Strategy) to create a strategy for the growth and support of Irish members and to report back to the conference on progress in 2027.

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

Motion 9 - Introduction of a volunteer network
Joe McFadden proposed a motion (Motion 9 - Introduction of a volunteer network) to establish a volunteer network to assist with the delivery of projects as guided by the executive committee.

Geri Scott spoke against the motion, the chair allowed for discussion amongst the members, and for GS and JM to speak again each for a further 30 seconds.

Members voted against the motion, with ten abstentions and eleven votes for.

Motion 10 - National Conference bidding
Ali Rees proposed a motion (Motion 10 - National Conference bidding) to give specific consideration to the countries that make up the SPA when deciding on the location of SPANC. Ali Rees was not present at the AGM so Jem Collins spoke on their behalf.

Geri Scott spoke against the motion, the chair allowed for discussion amongst the members.

Members voted to approve the motion, with one vote against, and three abstentions recorded.

Motion 11 - Use of AI in student journalism

Sophie Layton proposed a motion (Motion 11 - Use of AI in student journalism) to ensure the SPA considers the use of AI in journalism.

Fiona Muncaster from The Badger spoke against, and the chair allowed for discussion amongst the members.

Members voted to approve the motion, with six votes against, and two abstentions.

5. Lifetime memberships

Joe McFadden proposed a lifetime membership award for Jack Walsh, a former chair whose contribution to the SPA has been hugely impactful.

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. Emma Penney explained that six executive roles were up for election, in addition to one trustee role. These were:

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

Chair

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Chair: Emily Pitt-Shaw and Oisin McGilloway.
- Emily Pitt-Shaw was elected as Chair of the SPA for 2026/27

Training and Opportunities Officer

- One candidate put themselves forward for Training and Opportunities Officer: Abbie Brown
- Abbie Brown was elected as Training and Opportunities Officer of the SPA for 2026/27

Conference and Events Officer

- One candidate put themselves forward for Conference and Events Officer: Oisin McGilloway
- Oisin McGilloway was elected as Conference and Events Officer of the SPA for 2026/27

Communications Officer

- Three candidates put themselves forward for Communications Officer: Sophie Layton, Isabel Cattermole and Anna Boyne.
- Anna Boyne was elected as Communications Officer of the SPA for 2026/27

Sponsorship Officer

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Sponsorship Officer: Jacob Robinson and Katie Storrie
- Jacob Robinson was elected as Sponsorship Officer of the SPA for 2026/27

Membership Officer

- Four candidates put themselves forward for Membership Officer: Jakob Reid, Martin Day, Jack Walsh and Hannah Foley

- Jack Walsh was elected as Membership Officer of the SPA for 2026/27

Trustee

- One candidate put themselves forward for Trustee: Antonni Numminen
- Antonni Numminen was elected as a Trustee for a term of four years

4. Any Other Business

Emma Penney 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**