



Guild of Traditional Upholsterers

President – Adrian Smith LVO ACR
Chairman – Gareth Rees
Hon. Secretary – Niqui Little

Annual General Meeting

4pm - 17th September 2022

At:
BSUF, Fawley Bottom, Henley

MINUTES AGM 2022

Apologies

Emma Anderson,
Steve Chivers,
Craig Weinand,
Carole Fowles,
Roy Theobald

Present

Gareth Rees, David James, Hannah Weston Smith, Adrian Smith, Michelle Kenyon-Roberts, Aimee Payton, Greg Cupitt-Jones, Niqui Little

Minutes of last Annual General Meeting

Read and Approved

Chairman's Report

It has been two years since I was voted in as Chairman of the Guild.

I cannot say that those two years have been an easy time for all. We have sadly lost two members of the Guild, Anthea and Philip, who both did so much over the years to help promote the Guild. Not to forget John Brinsden winner of the challenge trophy in 1988. We have had to

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deal with the covid pandemic and all the restrictions it had brought us. Still we are here and as I see it the Guild is in a strong position moving forward.

When I became Chairman, my aim was to increase membership and promote the Guild to a wider audience, something that I believe has been achieved with the help of the committee. We now have in excess of 30 Friends, almost 200 student members, an ever-growing number of Journeymen, 19 at present but still our certificated membership stays level.

The journeyman membership started by Philip Wellesley Davies has proved to be a resounding success, led by the hard work of Bruce. Hopefully this healthy and ever-increasing membership will stand the Guild in good stead for the foreseeable future of certificated membership.

I would also like to personally thank Aimee Payton, Hannah Weston smith and Bruce Jack as the Membership committee for all their hard work in increasing membership. We all work as volunteers for the Guild and sometimes finding the time to do so is and can be difficult, but I do believe that the hard work that these individuals have done has benefitted the Guild immensely.

I would also like to thank Niqui for her work as secretary, keeping me in line, reminding me of obligations and all the hard work she has done over her tenure as Honourable Secretary. The past two years and the restrictions that we have endured has meant that we have been unable to meet as much as we may have liked. Cancelling this year's AGM due to the sad passing of HRH was disappointing, but we can look forward to the next year when hopefully we can meet again, celebrate and promote the craft and trade to a wider audience.

Thinking back to my appointment of chairman, I spoke to Philip on many occasions, he acted as a mentor to me in advance of becoming chairman and as such I have taken his advice on board. Philip was keen that the committee remains fresh and has a regular rotation of officers, to prevent stagnation. Hence being written into the constitution that the chairman can stay in office for a maximum of 3 years. Taking this onboard, I have decided to not put my name forward for another year and fulfil the maximum of three years, should I have been voted in again. I believe that the forward direction that the Guild has moved in over the last 2 years and how it has grown would be better bolstered by new blood, fresher thinking, and a new dynamic.

Treasurer's Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM 13.9.2021 – 8.9.2022

OPENING BALANCE £7,045.81

CLOSING BALANCE £8,652.69

INCOME

Late fees 2021

G. C-J	£50.00
C Stokes	£50.00 (Fr. £25 + £25 donation)
Shephard Ser	£25.00 Fr

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Swaffer	£125.00 corp.	£250.00	
Membership Fees 2022			
16 members paid , Certificated		£800.00	
1 Corporate – Martins Upholstery		£250.00	
31 Friend (+£25.00 donation)		£800.00	
Payment via PayPal (no names shown – 10?)		£237.54	<u>TOTAL £2,337.54</u>
Other payments			
Cheque 12.5.2022	£100.00		
Cheque for £65 from David James £65 Dinner and AGM			

EXPENDITURE

17.9.2021	Website Hosting (G Rees)	£252.36	
23.9.2021	AGM expenses (N Little)	£222.47	
9.11.2021	Sue Ryder donation	£300.00	
22.1.2022	GTU expenses (B Jack)	£142.21	
2.3.2022	GTU expenses (B Jack)	£7.18	
Aug21 – Sept 22	Account charges	£55.80	TOTAL £980.02

You will notice that I had not made the donation to MND Association, apologies, I had thought I had,
I have now made a payment for £300 as agreed last year, but this has not shown on statement yet.

Membership Secretary's Report

Guild of Traditional Upholsterers Membership Secretary Report 2021

Membership subcommittee - Hannah Weston Smith, Gareth Rees,
Bruce Jack – Journeyman Rep, Aimee Payton – Student Rep, Niqui Little

Certificated Members = 22 (2 pending) (19)

Certificated Training Centres = 1 (2 certificated members included above) Journeyman members = 19 (3 pending) (9)

Friend Members = 17 (37)

Student Members = 175 (267)

Corporate Sponsors = 1 (2)

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP = 234 (336)

Positives from the past year:

- ✓ Nearly all certificated members had signed up to standing order payments which meant that most fees were paid on or around the 1st of April
- ✓ Journeyman numbers have doubled with an enthusiastic and helpful group of members.

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- ✓ We work together to formulate a plan for Certificated Training Centre Membership. We have 1 CTCM already and this has given other centres the impetus to consider applying for certificated membership.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Continuing to develop the system for payment – combining the role of treasurer and membership secretaries in order for our membership system to be more easily and quickly updated.
- Continuing the success of links between training centres and GTU
- Developing the timetable for April so that we can ensure fees are paid in good time.
- Continue working with the student rep so that all graduating students are orientated towards

journeyman or friend membership to increase income.

- Continue to develop relationships with specific companies we would like as corporate sponsors.

The membership committee have continued to work incredibly hard this year and in particular Bruce who has doubled the number of Journeyman. The WhatsApp group has been I feel rewarding for all those in it and we hope that their positive comments will persuade other students who might want to take the step up to becoming Journeyman

Examination & Journeyman Secretary's Report

Journeyman Report

We currently have 19 Journeyman,

There are currently at least 3 other people working on Portfolio's

Examination 2022

Due to the postponement of the AGM, I have emailed all the entrants to send by post their completed stool to me. Charlotte Ellis will contact BSUF direct to arrange to take her stool top there. I will arrange for a new set of questions to be sent in a sealed envelope to be opened in front of her. I have offered to deliver to those wishing to get on and complete their exam verbally or via zoom.

Members to take their exams 2023

Circular, Maria Willis (voluntary)

Kidney, Armand, Gareth

The David James Student Award

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We have had 5 entries this year, they have been judged and we are going to contact the winners imminently.

Things we have learnt so far and will need some discussion before we launch next year's competition, knowing dates that all the schools their finish courses so they can be Judged. hopefully this gives a little more time for the entrants and their schools to be contacted and invited to attend the AGM. As the date has been moved forward it gives them less time to sort arrangements.

Reword marking sheets...

Social Media & Gazette Editor's Report

Social media

Facebook 949 followers

Instagram 1701 followers

Election of Officers and Committee:

Preliminary Proposals

POSITION	NAME	PROPOSER	SECONDED
Chairman	Hannah Weston Smith	Gareth Rees	Carole Fowles
Vice Chairman	Gareth Rees	Niqui Little	Hannah W-S
Hon. Secretary	Niqui Little	Gareth Rees	Michelle K-R
Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Michelle Kenyon-Roberts	Bruce Jack	Carole Fowles
Exam Secretary	Bruce Jack	Niqui Little	Carole Fowles
Website & Social Media	Charlotte Ellis	Gareth Rees	Michelle K-R
Gazette	Gareth Rees	Hannah W-S	David James
Student Rep.	Emma Anderson	Gareth Rees	Hannah W-S
Journeyman Rep.	Bruce Jack	Hannah W-S	Niqui Little
Events Organiser	Aimee Payton	Niqui Little	Gareth Rees
Members without Portfolio	Greg Cupitt-Jones Carole Fowles David James	All in Favour	

Hannah Weston Smith asked Adrian Smith if he would like to continue his role as President and he kindly agreed to continue his role.

Hannah Proposed Bruce Jack to become an Honorary Member (he has accepted)

Meeting Ended at 4.40pm