



## Annual General Meeting minutes Sunday April 14, 2024, 11:30am

### Attendees

Name	Role
Matt Ward-Perkins	Chair
Justine Noble	Communications Officer
Ella Robinson	Training and Opportunities Officer
Jess Walmsley	Events Officer
Rory Buccheri	Sponsorship Officer
Joe McFadden	North Officer
Jordan Hunter	Scotland Officer
Mila Perera	South West Officer
Jack Walsh	Ireland & NI Officer
Isabella Ankersen	South East Officer
Lowri Lewis	Wales Officer
Ella Woszczyk	Host Officer
Jem Collins	Trustee
Aubrey Allegretti	Trustee
Geri Scott	Trustee
Anttoni Numminen	Trustee
Juliet Rix	Trustee
Richard Brooks	Trustee
Ollie Cole	Trustee
24 members recorded	Member publications & their representatives

### 1. Call to order

### 2. Introductions and explanation of AGM running

Newsworks video presentation was shown.

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. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement
- c. Training and Opportunities Officer Report



- d. Conference & Events Officer Report
- e. Communications Officer Report

No questions were asked and members voted to pass the reports - no objections or abstentions were recorded.

#### **4. Business**

##### *Motion 1 - Awards representation*

Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 1 - Awards representation) on representation at awards “to ensure that they are as equitable and fair as possible for everyone”.

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

##### *Motion 2 - SPA membership officer*

Matt Ward-Perkins proposed a motion (Motion 2 - SPA membership officer) on creating a specific membership officer role as many of the duties intended for this position are currently with the communications officer. He said that the plan was to formalise duties and create a point of contact with best possible support of members.

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

##### *Motion 3 - SPA reserves policy*

Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 3 - SPA reserves policy) on reserves and financial stability and proposed a plan to hold £10,000 within three years (by 2027) in order to bring ticket costs down.

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

##### *Motion 4 - Trustee term lengths*

Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 4 - Trustee term lengths) which would formalise agreed Trustee term lengths within the constitution.

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

##### *Motion 5 - Trustee addition*

Jem Collins proposed a motion (Motion 5 - Trustee addition) to mirror the new executive committee position with the creation of a new appointed Trustee position.



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

## **5. Informal awards and lifetime memberships**

Bree Allegretti presented awards for informal competitions run over the weekend, including travel award, Friday night's entertainment/pub quiz. A gift was also given to Matt Ward-Perkins for his hard work as Chair over the past year.

Matt Ward-Perkins as Chair proposed a lifetime membership award for Molly Cantwell, editor of Limerick Voice.

No one spoke against the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the motion and lifetime membership award.

Jem Collins proposed a lifetime membership award for Owain Evans, former chair and development officer of the SPA who led the professionalisation of the charity, as well as leading the organisation through the Covid-19 pandemic.

No one spoke against the motion. Members voted unanimously to approve the motion and lifetime membership award.

## **6. Elections**

RB explained the rules of the election. 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. RB explained that five executive roles and one trustee role were up for election. These were:

- Chair
- Training and Opportunities Officer
- Conference and Events Officer
- Communications Officer
- Sponsorship Officer
- Charity Trustee

### **Chair**

- Three candidates put themselves forward for Chair: Jack Walsh (Ireland & NI Officer), Justine Noble (Comms Officer) and Joe McFadden (North Officer)
- Jack Walsh was elected as Chair of the SPA for 2024/25

### **Training and Opportunities Officer**

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Training and Opportunities Officer: Joe McFadden (North Officer) and Elliot Rose (Bath Time)



- Joe McFadden was elected as Training and Opportunities Officer of the SPA for 2024/25

#### **Conference and Events Officer**

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Conference and Events Officer: Elliot Rose (Bath Time) and Talia Andrea (Strand Magazine)
- Talia Andrea was elected as Conference and Events Officer of the SPA for 2024/25

#### **Communications Officer**

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Communications Officer: Matthew Stothard (Concrete) and Matt Davis (Lemon Press)
- Matthew Stothard (Concrete) was elected as Communications Officer of the SPA for 2024/25

#### **Sponsorship Officer**

- Three candidates put themselves forward for Sponsorship Officer: Rory Buccheri (The Gaudie), Alan Nemirovski (The Beaver), and Libby Elliot (Mancunion)
- Libby Elliot was elected as Sponsorship Officer of the SPA for 2024/25

#### **Charity Trustee**

- One candidate put themselves forward for Charity Trustee: Jem Collins (current Trustee)
- Jem Collins was elected as Charity Trustee of the SPA for 2024-2028

#### **4. Any Other Business**

There was no Any Other Business, and Richard Brooks called the meeting 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
- b. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement (attached in appendices).
- c. Training and Opportunities Officer Report
- d. Conference & Events Officer Report
- e. Communications Officer Report

#### **4. Business**

- a. Motion 1 - Arts & Culture Awards and Speakers (attached in appendices)
- b. Motion 2 - Reserves Policy (attached in appendices)

#### **5. 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 a Charity Trustee

#### **6. Any Other Business**

#### **7. Adjournment**



## Appendix 2 Motions submitted

### **MOTION 1 - ARTS & CULTURE AWARDS AND SPEAKERS**

*Proposed by: Joe McFadden; Seconded by: Ella Robinson*

We propose the Student Publication Association (SPA) introduces more culture awards and speakers to recognise the breadth of student journalism and different skills required in culture reporting. There are currently limited opportunities for culture journalists at SPANC, particularly within the awards categories and speakers, which fall short of the high standards and variety set for news and current affairs journalism.

We, on behalf of *The Mancunion's* senior editorial team, propose that the SPA takes conscious steps to improve this, making a conscious effort to select more speakers from culture backgrounds during SPANC24 and amending the awards categories to reflect the variety of culture journalism as, currently, one simple 'Best Arts or Culture Piece' is not nearly enough.

We believe that the 'Best Arts or Culture Piece' award category should be split into, at the very least, a 'Best Arts or Culture Review' and 'Best Arts or Culture Feature' to reflect the differences in writing style and journalistic skill required in culture reporting. The former would recognise an excellent review of a specific piece of culture (eg. theatre, film, TV or music, etc.) whilst the latter would recognise an accomplished cultural feature (eg. a well-argued opinion piece, interview, or in-depth look at a specific cultural event or news story).

We also believe that there should be the creation of a separate category for 'Best Culture Writer' or something similar as, currently, the Best Reporter award is dominated by news and current affairs journalists. There is precedent for this, with a separate award existing for 'Best Sports Reporter', so creating a new category specifically labelled 'Best Culture Writer' would ensure the SPA Awards recognise all levels of reporting equally and the different skills required to become accomplished in them because culture writing is a very different skill to news reporting, as is sports reporting.

Finally, the speaker issue can be rectified by, as previously mentioned, making a conscious effort to create several dedicated panels to culture journalism and all its different skills, including music journalists, film critics etc. so student journalists attending SPANC are all given equal opportunities to be inspired and learn from professionals in their craft - an area SPANC is, unfortunately, currently lacking in.



## **MOTION 2 - RESERVES POLICY**

*Proposed by: Ben Warner; Seconded by: Geri Scott*

The Student Publication Association notes:

- At the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the SPA, members passed a motion which added a Reserves Policy to the SPA Bye-Laws. This set the long-term target for reserves which the SPA should aim to hold at “the greater of 50% of expected annual turnover, or £7,500, within three years of this Bye-Law’s enactment (FY23).
- At the time of the passing of this motion, the SPA held approximately £4,000 in reserves, and since then has made good progress towards this target. At the time of writing, the SPA holds approximately £6,225 in reserves.
- The SPA requires reserves to ensure its continued operation should events outside of its control result in a serious financial blow.
- The trustees of the Student Publication Association are confident that sufficient progress is being made towards the target.
- Bye-Law 7, which specifies the details of the Reserves Policy, says that at each subsequent Annual General Meeting, the approval of members must be sought to continue the Policy at current levels for another year.
  - Due to circumstances outside of the current Executive Committee’s control, such a motion was not proposed at the 2022 Annual General Meeting in Sheffield.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

- To support the reserves policy at its present level for another year, and to further report on progress to members at the next Annual General Meeting of the SPA.
- To ensure that updates regarding the Reserves Policy, as well as further motions related to the policy will be proposed at Annual General Meetings unless impractical, rather than in General Meetings