

<p><b>Confidential</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD</u></b>  <b>EISTEDDFOD GERDDOROL RYNGWLADOL LLANGOLLEN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2023 Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company</b>  <b>held at Royal International Pavilion and on ZOOM</b>  <b>on Wednesday 9th August 2023 at 7:30pm</b></p>
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p>	<p>Chair Sarah Ecob welcomed members. There was a quorum. The attendees are listed in Appendix 1 to these minutes (list available on request)</p> <p>Apologies were received from members listed in Appendix 2 to these minutes.</p>
<p><b>2. To receive the Minutes of the AGM in the Royal International Pavilion on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the AGM of 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved. No matters were arising</p>
<p><b>3. Reports from the Chair and Treasurer</b></p>	<p>Sarah Ecob (SE) gave a combined report from Chair and Executive Producer, as Camilla King (CK), EP, could not attend the meeting so.</p> <p>SE started by thanking those present for attending.</p> <p>It was wonderful to meet so many members in July this year at her first Eisteddfod as Chair, and to see the amazing feat that people of Llangollen achieve, along with many others who return each year,. The way the Eisteddfod works is unique and something to be cherished. The wealth of talent amongst the volunteers, members, staff and Board is unrivalled.</p> <p>The Eisteddfod this year welcomed some twenty groups from outside the UK despite the challenging financial circumstances for competitors. LIME was delighted to see schools embracing the event again, when it is known that school trips have declined post Covid, with over 3,000 people attending the schools day.</p> <p>The return of the Parade of Nations was a particular joy for SE. This well-loved event lit up the streets of Llangollen with multi-cultural colour, music and happiness, a beacon of hope in our troubled world.</p> <p>Moving the inclusion project into the evening programme was another highlight and something that SE hopes can be done again.</p> <p>The opening concert, Alfie Boe and Welsh of the West End, was a fabulous start to the week and was a near sell-out. The rest of the week proved more difficult to sell but LIME had praise for the White Flower Concert remembering Srebrenica and the brave people of Ukraine. It was extremely moving to see our Ukrainian colleagues performing with the massed local choirs.</p> <p>Cor y Byd, Choir of the World was also a huge success with exceptional talent on display yet again this year.</p> <p>The Eisteddfod came at the end of a difficult year for the organisation. The impact of Covid and the cost-of-living crisis is evident in audience numbers, not just for LIME but</p>

also for other arts organisations. Public and private financing has been hard hit and arts organisations are all competing for diminished money.

LIME's staff numbers remain tiny. LIME had two maternity cover staff this year who SE thanked for their hard work in getting up to speed with their roles quickly. SE also congratulated Mikala and Chloe on the birth of their babies. Chloe has now returned to work and Mikala will return in the autumn; the Eisteddfod is excited to have them both back.

At the Board away-day last September it was agreed that a priority for the organisation was to ensure that the volunteers are properly supported. As such, it was agreed to appoint a part-time Volunteer Coordinator and LIME was delighted when Alix Rawlinson applied, someone who has a long association with the Eisteddfod and has been brilliant in this newly-established and evolving role. LIME was also incredibly lucky to attract Ceri Brierley as part-time Marketing Manager, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team.

SE also acknowledged CK for her long hours and commitment to the Eisteddfod.

The discussion around the Motto this year featured interesting but polarised-opposing views. It was a difficult period for LIME but SE expressed gratitude for all of those who engaged in a thoughtful way. SE knows that many people in the organisation feel very strongly about the motto. As an international event, it is important to have conversations like this to ensure that the expectations of LIME's communities and stakeholders continue to be met. The Board decided that the Motto should remain and should be presented bilingually. SE is sure the increased presence this year of the Motto on site and in marketing materials will have been noticed.

The Eisteddfod provides an amazing opportunity for global communities to come together. SE had moving, fascinating and educational conversations with many of the international visitors. She was particularly moved this year by the terrible situation that LIME's friends from Ukraine find themselves in, with family members fighting in unknown locations and with no means to find if they are safe or not. A visit by the Counsel General of Wales, Mick Antoniw MS, who is half-Ukrainian provided a welcome moment of solidarity. LIME was also pleased to receive a visit from the Secretary of State for Wales who was extremely complimentary about the event. LIME is working to ensure that the Eisteddfod stays at the forefront of the minds of our politicians as an important event not only for those in Llangollen but also to showcase Wales to the world. LIME has renewed its relationship with the British Council Wales who will be helping with sharing information for overseas competitors through all of the British Council Offices this year.

Sadly, the year has ended in a precarious financial state and new ways of working have to be found to make the Eisteddfod sustainable. SE invited Lucy Morris (LM), LIME Treasurer, to give a report about the financial situation.

LM started by saying it was a gloomy picture she would be reporting. Over the last 10 years LIME has been in a tricky financial situation a few times and from 2018 has been making losses. In 2020 LIME was saved by the COVID pandemic and received considerable support from WG in both 2020 & 2021.

When the budget for 2023 was set, a loss of £200k was being forecast but this was covered by grant funding. The year has ended with a £248k deficit which

	<p>can be covered by reserves, but the organisation may not be financially viable going forward.</p> <p>The worst case forecast for 2024 is a loss of £155k. This isn't sustainable and the reserves won't cover it.</p> <p>A more optimistic budget which requires a successful concert programme, increased sponsorship and a reduction in costs results in a breakeven forecast.</p> <p>LM stressed how important it is for all to understand the difficult financial position. All aspects of LIME's income are significantly lower than in the past. There has been considerable cost cutting but there comes a point where this irrecoverably affects the quality of the event.</p> <p>LIME has a partnership with Rondo. In the past LIME had a 3 year agreement with them and received £105k cash. In 2019 this reduced to £70k, last year LIME received £30k and this year Rondo charged £20k. Since 2018 this amounts to a reduction of £185k. TV coverage of the event was much reduced, and it isn't yet known what this means for 2024.</p> <p>CK had talked to funders. £90k was received from the MEU but this isn't enough for 2024 and LIME needs to go back to its funders.</p> <p>SE thanked LM for her report and continued that LIME is in a dire situation and progress with the 2024 Eisteddfod cannot be made unless this existential situation is addressed.</p> <p>The Board met with the Chairs of the Committees last week to discuss responses and further actions. The Board believes all the talent and knowledge that is needed to turn the Eisteddfod around is available but help is needed to achieve this. Some small working groups will be created and will focus on specific areas such as a sponsorship group, a production group, a group to organise and oversee the competitions, an innovate group and grants group. The Board would like to invite members to a session on 14 August at 6pm to work through what can be done, how to do it and identify who will be involved. All are encouraged to come along. SE appreciates that it's short notice and is sure some people will be on holiday and unable to come along – as she was. She asked that any thoughts be shared via email or by speaking to any of the current Board Members or the new Members elected tonight. The Board is determined to move quickly so that a 77<sup>th</sup> International Eisteddfod can be delivered next year.</p> <p>Finally, SE concluded by thanking all for their continued support, commitment and energy in delivering the Eisteddfod each year. She also offered thanks to the Chairs and Committees for always going above and beyond and finally thanks to her fellow Board Members with whom it has been a privilege to work over the last 12 months. SE gave particular thanks to those trustees who are stepping down tonight.</p>
<p><b>4. Report of the Executive Producer</b></p>	<p>CK did not attend meeting. See item 3 above</p>
<p><b>5. To consider and vote on special resolutions dealing with</b></p>	<p>The background to this item is contained in the notice of the EGM/EMM. The special resolutions (5A, 5B, 5C) are listed in the agenda. Chris Adams (CA) summarised the issue.</p>

<p><b>the appointment of directors / trustees</b></p>	<p>Members voted on the three resolutions.</p> <p>There was a resounding majority of &gt;75% that all 3 resolutions be adopted.</p>
<p><b>6. Elections to Standing Board</b></p>	<p>There are seven vacancies and ten candidates. Background information is in the notice of the EGM/EMM and biographical details of candidates available online.</p> <p>Members voted for their preferred candidates.</p>
<p><b>7. To consider and vote on motions received from members</b></p>	<p>Motions received from members are listed in the appendix to the agenda. SE invited Haf Davies to give a summary of the motions.</p> <p>In relation to motion 7B, SE pointed out that the Board has had already agreed to retain the motto.</p> <p>In relation to motion 7C, SE indicated there had never been a plan to replace the shield.</p> <p>CA read out comments from Rhys Davies (RD) regarding motion 7A:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">RD is baffled why people object to the use of the word Maes by the Eisteddfod. It is nonsense to avoid the term when we in Wales refer to our parliament as ‘The Senedd’ and have always used the Welsh term Eisteddfod with no English equivalent. Just because it hasn’t been referred to as such in the past there is no reason not to embrace the term. We all have some knowledge of the Welsh language and can easily correct and explain the mispronunciations and mis understandings. The term Maes has every relevance and meaning to visitors and competitors because it is the language that has equal standing to English in Wales. Part of our role is to promote Welsh language and culture on an international stage. This Eisteddfod takes Welsh culture to the world, it takes the Eisteddfod concept to the world and we should be working with our partners in the other Eisteddfodau in Wales to create a single image of what an Eisteddfod is.</p> <p>CA thought Maes had been used in isolated instances in the past. CA summarised RD’s comments as being in support of using Maes when appropriate. RD voted against the motion.</p> <p>CA thought it wrong to limit LIME to a view of the Eisteddfod which may not hold in the future. CA will vote against.</p> <p>Barry Potter noted that the term ‘On the Maes’ is regularly used in the Friends magazine Limelight.</p> <p>Enid Law informed the room that in the distant past the Board had refused to use the word Maes.</p> <p>Sian Eager advised that LIME should look forward and distinguish itself from the National Eisteddfod.</p> <p>Members voted on the three motions.</p>

<p><b>8. To announce the results of the election of Trustees and votes on members motions</b></p>	<p>The successful candidates for the Board were:</p> <p>Roderick Grant Calton  Rev Rebekah Cannon  Mrs Alison Jane Davies  Shea Ferron  David Lawrence Hennigan  Selana Kong (Fung Hoi Yi)  Karen Price</p> <p>Results of the votes on members motions:</p> <p>7A: 63 for, 18 against  7B: 83 for, 0 against  7C: 81 for, 1 against</p>
<p><b>9. To receive deputations and questions</b></p>	<p>Barry Potter asked about the process to become a member. CA replied that there is a form, applicants need to be nominated and seconded by two members.</p> <p>Ros Davies thought communication had been abysmal and asked how it would be addressed in future. SE agreed communication had not been as good as it should have been. There will be meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> (possibly hybrid) to address immediate problems to which members and volunteers are invited. The volunteer co-ordinator has been producing newsletters and organising meetings. Opportunities for engagement and 2-way communication will be arranged..</p> <p>William Kong asked if there was a way of knowing if people received and read communications. SE thought the volume of emails made this impractical. SE referred to software that can be used for communications (but LIME hasn't got a copy) and the 'Hands on Llangollen' Facebook group.</p>
<p><b>10. Close of meeting</b></p>	<p>SE reminded members about the meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>SE thanked outgoing Board members and welcomed new Board members.</p> <p>SE thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>SE closed the meeting.</p>