FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF

GEMINI PAST CONSORTS ASSOCIATION

HELD AT CUTLERS’ HALL, LONDON

ON

TUESDAY 17th OCTOBER 2023 AT 11.30AM

1) WELCOME

The Chairman, Laura Denholm, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were 18 members present.

2) MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM - 20th October 2022

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

3) CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman, Laura, then gave her report which included introducing the Committee and thanking them for their work over the past year and in particular Fabian French as Treasurer, Mira Joshi for her work on the website and Julia Grundy as Secretary of the Association. Laura also thanked the Events Committee for their work in organising both past and future events and Camilla Hooper for organising the AGM and Lunch. Finally the Chairman thanked members for their company and friendship over the year at the various events and reminded members that they can join the Committee if they wish, please just contact her or Secretary Julia.

4) TREASURER’S REPORT

In Treasurer Fabian French’s absence the Chairman submitted his report and informed members that the Accounts for the year to 30th September 2023 were on the website. The full report is attached to these Minutes.

It was confirmed that the subscription for 2024 would remain at £30 and this was felt enough to cover the administrative costs of the Association such as website, Zoom etc as well as give us funds to pay for events in advance if necessary. On Fabian’s arrival at the meeting he clarified a couple of points in his report. Mike Horton proposed the the Accounts be approved by the Meeting and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman thanked Fabian for all his work both on the Accounts and generally throughout the year and Pippa Latham for auditing the Accounts again this year.

5) SECRETARY’S REPORT

Secretary Julia gave a brief report about the events which had taken place during the last year and also informed those present that emails were sent to all Consorts that had supplied details to the Association but re-affirmed that events were open to members who had paid their subscriptions.

6) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Committee members as per the Agenda which is in accordance with the Association’s Constitution.

The Chairman proposed that Fabian French, Wendy Catford and Mira Joshi be re-elected to the Committee - it was agreed unanimously.

The Chair then informed members that Susie Salter, Jo-Anna Gardiner and Adele Davis had agreed to join the Committee and the Chair put this to those attending and it was unanimously agreed.

The Committee will therefore be:

Chairman - Laura Denholm - Shipwrights

Treasurer - Fabian French - Builders Merchants

Secretary - Julia Grundy - Framework Knitters

Members - Camilla Hooper - Cordwainers

Judy Cardnell - Chartered Accountants

Jayne Bradly Russell - Leather sellers

Mira Joshi - Fuellers

Wendy Catford - Water Conservators

Adele Davis - Hackney Carriage Drivers

Susie Salter - Actuaries

Jo-Anna Gardiner - Scriveners

8) EVENTS

Camilla Hooper reported that in principle the Committee had thought of organising 3 events each year including the AGM and Lunch - it was important to liaise with Apollo 19 to avoid clash of dates - most likely February and June with the AGM in October. After discussion it was agreed that Camilla would look into a tour of the Royal Opera House on 8th February and a meal afterwards. Other suggestions included - Kenwood House, Leighton House Museum, the Wallace Collection, Foundling Museum, Fan Museum, Walks - Hampstead area. The Committee are aware not to arrange events on the same day of the week each time. It was thought an “outdoor” event for June would be something to look into.

With regards to the AGM 2024, Camilla asked for suggestions on venues - especially if anyone had a useful contact with a Livery Hall as costs etc are rising not only for the meal but also hall hire.

The Chairman thanked Camilla for her hard work.

9) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jo-Anna Gardiner asked if Consorts can still join Gemini. Secretary Julia confirmed that they were able to do so. She explained that all Consorts get the emails advising them of Subscriptions, events etc but only those who had paid for membership of Gemini were able to attend events. Finally Annie Eggar thanked everyone involved in organising events and running the Association.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending the AGM and wished them an enjoyable, convivial lunch.

The date of the next AGM is to be confirmed

The meeting closed at 12noon

Signed……………………………………………………

Date……………………………………………………….

**Gemini Treasurer’s Report for AGM 2023**

This report is intended to add some colour to the rather dry Report and Accounts for the year to 30th September 2023. It is important to note that the Report and Accounts are merely a snapshot of the finances on 30th September, the date on which our financial year ends. They do not necessarily provide an accurate summary of the true financial position, mainly because we have received (most of) the income in respect of today’s lunch and hall hire, but we have not yet been invoiced for it.

Let me try and summarise the main elements. In 2023 we had subscription income of £1470, well up on the £990 last year. This is because we had more paid-up members than the previous year (49 vs 33) – not because we increased our annual membership subscription.

We had more events than last year which saw our income from events (excluding the AGM) rise to £3909. In addition, as at the year end, we had received payments of £1755 in advance of the AGM lunch – which as I said will be paid for in the financial year to 30th September 2024.

The vast majority of our expenditure of is made up of the costs of our events, which excluding the payment for last year’s AGM and lunch and the late payment for Greenwich, totalled £3812.61. The sharp eyed amongst you will note that the income from 2023 events was overall a little higher than the cost – by £96.39. This is because it is hard for the Committee to estimate precisely what the cost will be on the day – it often depends on how much we drink!! But I think the Committee can be pleased with the accuracy of our forecasting - we were only 2.5 percent adrift!

Please do not be alarmed that our expenditure exceeded our income by £2931.50. This is mainly due to the fact that the very expensive 2022 AGM and lunch was paid for in the course of this financial year. In my report at last year’s AGM I warned that this would impact our figures for this year. I’m pleased to report that this year’ AGM and lunch are significantly less expensive. Another factor is the cost of the Gemini badges, which I hope you all now have. This was a significant but one-off cost.

At the year end, we had cash at bank of £4644.55. This figure, as mentioned before, includes prepayment by attendees of the AGM lunch. The actual current bank balance - taking into account this prepayment, the cost of hiring the hall (which is not charged to members) and the lunch - is about £2500. This is considered to be a reasonable level of reserves for the time being. It allows us to pre-pay for events and venues when necessary.

Last, but not least, I would like to turn to the subject of annual membership subscriptions. This has been £30 per annum from the outset and I am pleased to report that your committee has decided to hold it at this level for the 23/24 financial year.

That concludes my report, and I would be delighted to answer any questions from our members.

Fabian French, Treasurer 17th October 2023