



2018 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the AGM of the Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society

14:45pm on 22nd November 2018, held at The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG.

Tony Bradman, Chair of ALCS, welcomed Members to the 40th ALCS Annual General Meeting. He noted with concern the survey ALCS had carried out during the year into authors' earnings and the changing environment in which writers were being asked to work with smaller advances, tighter royalty rates and increasingly more instances where writers are asked to work for nothing.

Owen Atkinson, Chief Executive of ALCS, then provided an update on the work of the organisation during the past year. He reported that 2017 had been a successful year with a record collection of £34.3M in licence fee income for ALCS Members. He noted that this was £2.2M above the previous year's result. ALCS had distributed £34.1M during the year to 81,000 Members; on top of which a further £0.5M was paid out through the agency agreement ALCS has with Writers Digital Payments Limited. The CEO stated that net commission for the year was 8.3% in accordance with the policy whereby any operating surplus is returned to Members. The CEO noted that ALCS membership was increasing and would exceed 100,000 members by the end of the month.

Barbara Hayes, Deputy CEO, reported on the lobbying activities undertaken by ALCS. She noted that the current concern was an EU draft Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market which includes an exception for illustration for teaching. She highlighted the need to ensure that the wording is flexible enough to accommodate the current licensing regime that works in the UK to the benefit of authors. She also noted concerns regarding Brexit and ensuring that the voice of the author is heard in discussions in the UK government. And, finally, she informed the meeting regarding the work of the International Authors Forum and how this was promoting PLR across the globe, working with the World Intellectual Property Organization.

The CEO then spoke about some of the challenges ALCS was facing due to changing technology, the uncertain business environment due to uncertainty around BREXIT and the potential effect this could have on future ALCS income. He then highlighted work on a new three-year strategy to ensure ALCS remains relevant in the digital era.

Formal proceedings commenced.

Agenda Item 1: To receive and adopt the Board of Directors' Report and Accounts for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Mark Bispham, Head of Finance, presented the Accounts and recommended them to the meeting.

The Chair moved for the adoption of the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. Dr Bashir Qureshi proposed; Gordon Owen seconded. There were no abstentions and no votes against. The Chair noted that the following votes had been cast online by Members:

Online votes	No. votes
For	868
Against	4
Discretionary	349
Abstain	40

The Chair confirmed that agenda item 1 was adopted.

Agenda item 2: To receive and adopt the Annual Transparency Report for 2017/18

Richard Combes, Head of Rights and Licensing presented the Transparency Report and explained the rationale behind this to the meeting.

The Chair moved for the adoption of the Annual Transparency Report for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. Alex Rooney proposed; Dolores Ditner seconded. There were no abstentions and no votes against. The Chair noted that the following votes had been cast online by Members:

Online votes	No. votes
For	874
Against	2
Discretionary	347
Abstain	38

The Chair confirmed that agenda item 2 was adopted.

Agenda item 3: To reappoint Messrs haysmacintyre of 10 Queen St Place, London EC4R 1AG as Auditors of the Company and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration

The Chair moved the motion for the re-appointment of haysmacintyre as Auditors of the Company, and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration. Alex Rooney proposed; Charlotte Fyfe seconded. There was one abstention and no votes against. The Chair noted that the following votes had been cast online by Members:

Online votes	No. votes
For	812
Against	20
Discretionary	350
Abstain	79

The Chair confirmed that agenda item 3 was adopted.

Agenda Item 4: To consider and if thought appropriate approve the recommendations of the Remunerations Committee regarding Directors' fees for 2018/19

The Chair reported that the current level of remuneration paid to Non-Executive Directors was recorded in the Annual Report and that the Remuneration Committee had recommended that remuneration paid to Directors for 2018/19 should be increased by 3.5% from the rates set for 2017/18; therefore, there would be a change in fees paid for the year ahead which would be the first increase in three years.

The Chair moved for the adoption of the recommendation regarding Directors' fees. Pamela Minette proposed; Valerie Dunmore seconded. There was one abstention and no votes against. The Chair again noted that the following votes had been cast online by Members:

Online votes	No. votes
For	744
Against	53
Discretionary	350
Abstain	114

The Chair confirmed that agenda item 4 was adopted.

Agenda Item 5: Announcement of the Results of the election for ALCS Board of Directors

The Chair announced the results of the recent ALCS Board elections with Maggie Gee being re-elected and Joanne Harris and Diane Redmond being elected for the first time. The Chair congratulated the new directors on their election to the board and thanked all the candidates for participating.

With the meeting nearing its conclusion the Chair asked if Members had any questions for the Executive. Hazel Speed questioned why Members could not sign up to both DACS and ALCS and also whether there was any movement towards forming a single organisation for the management of all collective rights within the UK. The CEO replied that Members could indeed sign up to both organisations provided separate rights were administered by each organisation. He was not aware of any movement towards the formation of a single collecting society but noted that the presence of 4 collecting societies operating under one roof – as was the case with ALCS sharing an office with the Copyright Licensing Agency, the Educational Recording Agency and Publishers Licensing Services – offered opportunities for close collaboration and efficiencies through the sharing of resources and knowledge.

The Chair thanked Hazel for her question and, there being no further questions, the Chair closed the Meeting.