

OGAE(UK)

AGM 2024

Discussion Transcript

Simon Bennett: So to kind of introduce us. But can I ask Sean to just kick off the meeting.

Sean Bookless: Hi, everyone. It's great to see so many members here today.

Can everyone hear me? Yeah. yeah, I am gonna just read you President's report.

So I've only been in the role of president of all the UK for around sort of 9 or 10 months. So this report

Fin Ross Russell: Sean pause. Simon's waving the pen.

Simon Bennett: We have to just do the welcome, and then we have to do the apologies and the and the proxies. It won't take long. We've only got one proxy. So that's registered. We had welcoming structure. So yeah, if you want to kick off with the President's report, go ahead.

Fin Ross Russell: Also, Simon, do we need someone on minutes.

Simon Bennett: That's me!

Fin Ross Russell: Yay! Whoop! Whoop! Super! Secretary!

Simon Bennett: And if anyone else wants to take some notes I'd be very grateful, particularly if it's me talking. That'd be great if other people could take some notes.

Danny Lynch: I'll do that, for when you're talking.

Sean Bookless: Okay. Well, I hope everyone feels suitably welcome, and there I will. I'll kick off with my President's report. So, as I was saying, I've only been in the role for 9 or 10 months, so the reporting activity might be slightly briefer than usual. So I started the role in February, right in the middle of the universion season, and I thought my 1st task really was about supporting the existing committee with the ongoing preparations for Malmo. So many things were already in place, and there was a lot of key information to communicate with members, especially a year where lots of things were changing, lots of things couldn't be confirmed to the last minute because of security, etc. And we, you know, we had to communicate lots of things sort of last minute. So there were a lot of heightened security concerns going on due to the ongoing war in the Middle East and Oge. Uk. Was in regular contact with the British Embassies in both Sweden and Denmark, to be able to pass on key information to members. Weeks leading up to the contest were really busy, and it was sort of wonderful to see the club's enthusiasm for entrant Ollie Alexander, even if maybe we were slightly disappointed by the overall result

upon the song's release. I was interviewed on a number of local and national media channels, giving my thoughts on Dizzy. I had done BBC breakfast and then kind of local radio, and it was great to be able to promote the song Ollie, and also talk about how great OGAE UK was, which I always tried to get into every interview. I did. We worked with a number of external partners over the time. So the club was a proud sponsor once again of the London Eurovision party. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend to introduce the act, but both Haas and Robin represented OGAE UK and interviewed some of this year's acts and took pictures for the club magazine vision. We also helped facilitate the official Eurovision flight organized by Sponsor Easyjet, which flew fans for free from London to Copenhagen, and that looked like a very fun activity.

I'd say that I haven't been President before, Malmo. So it was my only experience, and it was quite surreal, and I don't know if that was normal or not based on, based on the fact that I haven't had another experience. But I think security was really tight, and the city didn't feel that comfortable with its role as host. Something it's done sort of well a number of times previously, and quite a few of the scheduled events were cancelled. So something that we've been working on with the British Embassy was about getting a big sort of London red bus in the centre of Malmo, as like an all day activity, and that had to be cancelled just because of fears of security and fears around sort of how it will be accepted by the city.

Something that was amazing, though, was, we did get to organize our kind of annual meetup for fans on the Thursday of Eurovision week. Despite some of the challenges involved in finding a spot for it. It was wonderful to meet so many members there, and so many people were having a great time in Malmo, and it was great to speak to them for the 1st time.

It was also particularly heartening to see so many new members who hadn't actually been to Eurovision or hadn't been to an okay event before coming and meeting new friends and seeing new people, and that was really lovely. I was asked to do a lot of media around the contest. But almost all of it focused on Israel's participation, and I rejected all of these requests, as I didn't really think it was appropriate to talk on behalf of the club on such a divisive issue. I think OGAE UK is for everyone, and will always be a space for everyone, and I knew that whatever I said would kind of hurt and upset some people and some members, and I decided just to say nothing on this on the topic, and I do not regret that decision at all.

Two events that I was really kind of happy to be part of, and really proud to represent, the UK. The party thrown by the UK Embassy in Sweden, and the meetup of International Presidents.

So the meet up of international Presidents was an informal gathering and a great chance to find out more about other clubs and strengthen links across the wider OGAE

network. So that was a really lovely experience, and it was great to meet other presidents and hear that they have some of the same issues as us, and then how they deal with things slightly differently. So I learned loads from that.

And then the UK Embassy party was attended by both the British Ambassador to Sweden and Ollie Alexander, and it was a really great night. I think the cocktails were very strong. We all ended up getting thrown out, but in a really sort of good natured way. It was a wonderful evening, and I got to tell Ollie that there were more fans visiting from the UK than from anywhere else, and we were all behind him, and he seemed to seem to like that.

After Eurovision in June, I attended the AGM of the OGAE International Network. So there were a number of key moments in this, including the election of the new OGAE International Committee, and it was also lovely to vote with colleagues from across the network to allow Slovakia to rejoin. So that was kind of the highlight of that meeting.

Then I think things do quieten down a little bit over the summer. But the committee remains busy planning for 2025

Another kind of key activity at this time was our hosting of the OGAE song contest, which Finn put so much work in work into, and had to coordinate with colleagues from all across the network. This has just finished, which shows the length of time that this activity takes place over.

Since Eurovision, the thing that's taken up the lion's share of my time has been organizing OGAE UK's annual fan convention, Eurobash. So, after such positive feedback for the 2023 event, we were really excited to return to Camp & Furnace in Liverpool. A key part of organizing it has been about trying to keep the event as affordable for members as possible.

We were delighted to reduce the cost for 2024. Given the volume of Eurovision events now taking place or not taking place. We're delighted that nearly 250 members put their faith in us and returned to Eurobash once again. I think we didn't take it for granted. And also, I think, in a year that's been quite challenging in lots of ways to be a member and to be President, and it was a really joyous experience, and it was the best of the club and the best of what the club had to offer, and it was really lovely to oversee that this year. I'm sure it will continue to evolve and thrive in the future.

So my time as President of OGAE UK has been short, shorter than I'd initially expected when I won the election at the start of the year. But despite this, I'm really proud to represent the club. Its wonderful members, and I wish the club every success in the future.

Simon Bennett: Thank you for that, Sean. Thank you very much, and thank you for everything you've done over the last year.

Can we take any questions. If you could use the hand raising facility on zoom, if you're familiar with it, and I'll try to spot if anyone else spots a hand. Please let me know. No questions ?

Fin Ross Russell: See a hand from Damien.

Simon Bennett: Okay, go ahead.

Damien Kelly: Sorry. It's been a while since I used zoom, so I'm not sure where the hand thing is. I know it's here somewhere. Thank you. Shawn, just a quick question. You mentioned that you chose not to get involved with what was happening in the Middle East, and not to answer questions regarding the well, the war that's going on. I was just, and I think that's that's right. But I was wondering if our organization has any stance on. Not what's going on in the Middle East, but the impact that it's having on Eurovision, because I do feel that the Eurovision that has just been sullied, and it was very disappointing because of the animosity. And I'm wondering if our organization has any opinion on that, or anything to say on that.

Sean Bookless: I mean, I think the issue is that we are an organization, but we're made up of sort of 4,000 people with 4,000 different opinions. So it's actually really difficult to to say. We think this. We think that . I think OGAE International have done some work around trying to link with the EBU on this to kind of coordinate with them. But as a club we haven't, because I don't know what that would be. I don't know how it would look like, because anything you do someone else wouldn't be happy with, and I and I was never, never sort of comfortable leading us down a path with that. And if there had been that kind of a groundswell of members who were really angry about something and work, and there'd been an attempt to challenge that. Then we might have looked at it, but there never was. So that's sort of my stance on it.

Damien Kelly: Okay. Thank you.

Fin Ross Russell: For the record. By the way, in case anyone does want to raise their hand. If you go to the bar at the bottom. There should be something that says react and that's how you can use the raise your hand function in order to do it. Just in case anyone has any further questions moving forward.

Damien Kelly: Thank you.

Simon Bennett: Any other questions.

Simon Bennett: Okay, well, we have a process whereby we vote to just accept the reports. So can I ask, do we have a voting system on here.

Fin Ross Russell: We could use the thumbs up.

Simon Bennett: If we could do it like this. If anyone does not wish to accept the report port, kind of inversely, please put the thumbs up.

Simon Bennett: No.

Fin Ross Russell: So it looks as if.

Simon Bennett: That report is accepted unanimously. Thank you very much, everybody.

Simon Bennett: and right on cue. Now that it's my turn, the cat, is approaching! So the secretary's report, everything was circulated in advance, so I won't go through all the intricate details. Just to kind of report that this year has probably been the busiest we've ever had in terms of administrative work. We've had to stage 2 elections during the space of just 11 months, and they require quite a lot of work, but we managed to carry those off quite successfully, and a vote of thanks to Tom Hughes, who did such a great job as our election coordinator handling the actual online vote.

So for both of those elections, we had hustings meetings, which was the first time we'd ever done that, and I think that gave an opportunity for members who were interested to question the candidates about their ideas and their philosophy for the future. So I think that worked quite well.

Admin was very tough this year, mainly because of ticketing. As you will probably remember, Malmo rather kind of sprung the ticketing on us extremely early last year. So by this time last year we were really getting ready to do the ticket sale so early that we had to curtail our ballot application process. But having started early, it was kind of the process that never ended, and it had loads of different elements to it, and we'll talk a little bit about that later. So it dominated work really right through until just before Eurovision. And so that did kind of have a knock on effect.

I know there was disquiet. Last year some people had wanted an online meeting to discuss what had been talked about at the in-person AGM last year, and I apologize that we just didn't have time to do that. However, all the details were published in Vision Magazine. But again, I apologize for that. And it's one of the reasons why we now have this online meeting

So very busy from an admin point of view from a membership point of view. It's not a particularly happy saga, but it's not entirely unexpected. Every club that hosts tends to have a huge bounce in their membership numbers. We had the biggest bounce in Eurovision history, and we've lost members now over the last couple of years. So the figures that you had here were, as at the 25th of October, when the documentation was

prepared. Obviously, things have continued since then, so we had a big drop in membership this year we are having another drop.

We now stand at 3,487 members. So it's well down from our peak a couple of years ago, but totally expected to be honest, disappointing, but expected, and we had kind of organized ourselves to anticipate that drop.

You can see, like the analysis of when people had joined. That gives us an idea of what their motivation probably was for joining, and you can see that the vast majority of people who have left us joined in 2022, 2023 and 2024. So most of those will have been motivated by tickets, particularly in Liverpool.

Bit more disappointing is when you kind of look into the analysis of who our membership are, and after years of steady progress in trying to redress the balance between the genders. We've taken a bit of a hit, and we've gone back to being 67% male, 32% female. So the female contingent has slightly reduced. Those figures might be slightly different now, because I did notice, for some reason, on the last day of renewals, it seemed to be disproportionately women who renewed on that day because they're obviously more organised and knew that that was the date they had to do it. But it is disappointing that we lost a good percentage of women across the club. And we're going to have to think about what we do about that. And there is actually an initiative at the moment at the international level, looking into how we can try and make all our clubs across Europe more accessible to everybody of every background, gender faith whatever.

In terms of where our members are, nothing much really changed. The decline seemed to be pretty constant across the whole country. The only area that we measure that actually increased was overseas membership which was quite interesting. And there was quite a bit of increase there. They pay the same if they're accessing vision online. So and I think our club is quite highly regarded. So that's probably why we have more overseas members joining

Similarly with the age. I've given you a graph which compares the ages. Not really very much change. We've lost a little bit of the teenage members. And again, that can be linked with us hosting.

So the membership system, Membermojo, the system that it seems that quite a lot of our members love to hate. It's working. From my point of view. It works really well. We would never have been able to weather the last 4 years without Membermojo. It's quite flexible. It allows people to manage their own membership, although many people seem very, very reluctant to do so, but it's worked fine, and seems to be, you know, meeting our expectations.

We still have a handful of members who don't have email addresses, and so everything has to be done manually for them. We have to send them letters for renewal, letters for elections and that kind of thing. But there's only 6 of them. We can manage that. And yeah, I'm sure that will change over time

Data, security, nothing particular to note. Although I should just point out we did kind of circulate members to advise them. The only change there's been this year is that there's been a change the way we distribute vision. Previously we had prepared the labels and sent labels to the printer. They didn't want to continue with that process. There's been quite a few changes at the printer, so now we send them an excel spreadsheet with everybody's addresses. It's password protected. They have instructions to delete it as soon as they produce the labels. But we're covered by our kind of data protection policy in terms of, we have to provide that data to them to be able to send out the magazines, and they only obviously get the addresses of people who take the physical copy of the magazine

Subscription rates and vision we'll talk, perhaps, in the treasurer's report about budget and setting of the Rate Vision Magazine. Also, there's a hefty question about Vision magazine. So I think we'll talk a bit more about it there. We're producing about 2,000 copies each time. And we should note that we are like the a niche publication, but we are the world's highest circulating English language, Eurovision Magazine. Probably actually the biggest circulating Eurovision magazine full stop.

And it's circulated. We send copies to the EBU and people like that, so we should be rightly proud of our magazine. And thank you goes to our fantastic editorial team of Hassan and Lara, who've done a great job. It's been quite tough this year, and I know we had 2 editions in rapid succession, but we're back on track now with the schedule. It's very difficult to publish, and there've been quite a few changes at the printer as well, which have impacted the schedule.

Membership cards. I put this in every year in the vain hope that people will read it. Remember, card skipper causes no end of issues. People really don't understand. And you know, fair enough card skipper is not run by us. It's run by OGAE International. We have to send all the data to OGAE International. Then they upload the cards. And so there's always a bit of a delay. If you have renewed your membership, which everyone on this call should have done. Your card should have renewed yesterday. So if you go in and look, it should have renewed, and if it didn't, you'll have to contact me. But leave it for a couple of days, please.

We still suffer from a problem of people, you know, getting the text message and getting the email and just ignoring it. And then, of course, a couple of months later, coming and screaming because they haven't got a card, so we we've still got 545 members who have

been set up on the system, but haven't set up their card. That reduces slowly, and every time there's a ticketing event it always comes down a little bit.

So the section in the report on communications as well. So that links very much to Facebook, and anyone who went to the hustings will have seen that there was quite a lot of discussion about the Facebook group. A lot of discussion about the tone of the conversation in the Facebook group, and I think the others on the committee will probably agree with me that it's exercised more of our time than anything else this year.

Everybody on the committee has slightly different views on it. I personally think it's almost become a club within a club. It has got very out of date, and we acknowledge that it's got a lot of people still on there who are no longer members just because of the fall in membership and doing a kind of cull is a rather nasty word, but a cull of people who shouldn't be there is very complicated and time consuming, so we had hoped to have done it by now. But it's really not an easy thing to do.

We added into this year's renewal a box where you could tick to say you wanted to be part of the group and to give us your name in the group. Because this is the problem a lot of times. People don't have the same name on Facebook as they do in real life. And so it's difficult to know who's who. We will use that information and anyone who didn't tick the box will be removed. I think some people assumed that if they were already in the Facebook group they didn't need to tick that box. And from an initial look. It looks like only about half the membership at the moment want to be part of that group. So, the new committee will be looking at Facebook as a fairly urgent matter to work out how we proceed with it.

Like every year. I assure you, everything that's important goes out by email. The only time an announcement is made on Facebook is if there's like a really critical deadline, and we want to get to as many people as possible quickly. But it would always be followed up by an email message. And that is our official method of communicating with people.

Our monthly newsletter has slightly fallen by the wayside. That was just to do with personnel working out who's going to do it? We are certainly committed to getting back to having a much more formal monthly newsletter with updates on things that are going on. The others on the committee will giggle when I tell you that, you know, there are times when I send out a load of emails like, particularly around the elections. And I got a reply from one person which said, "you send out too many emails. You are annoying."

Ticket ballots. So, 2024 was the mother of all ballots. The Swedes managed to come up with 12 different variations of ticket packages and, what was worse, was, there were 12 different variations of how they were to be bought, and 12 different time periods, and

some of those time periods stretched way into 2024, from 2023. So it became like an all encompassing job trying to keep up with this thing, and then, of course, we had the issue of the whole Israel situation, and a lot of members no longer wanting to go and wanting to offload their tickets. This did seem to be a particular problem with OGAE UK.

The UK is the biggest club still, but even allowing for that, we had a ridiculous number of people who were trying to return their tickets, and no actual mechanism for returning them. So we had to agree something with the EBU and ticketmaster. Ticketmaster were incredibly unhelpful. And we put together a process. But it was really heavy on the admin, and all the admin fell onto us. They weren't really willing to help.

The same with the seats. We have a problem every year in that. These ticket agents don't seem to understand that husbands, wives, partners, mothers, fathers, and children would like to sit next to each other at a concert, especially one for which they're paying hundreds of pounds. They don't really understand that they think you should just take whatever seats you're allocated. So the only way we were able to do seating this year was for OGAE to buy all the tickets ourselves. So this was done by OGAE International. Tens of thousands of pounds had to be collected. This is the way tickets used to be. If you've been around for 15-20 years, it always used to work like this. But it's a huge work effort. So we had to do that for the seats in Malmo

2025. So the ballot process was linked to renewals this year, which seemed to kind of people quite liked it as far as the feedback that I've had. We tried to make it as easy as possible. There have been some complaints that it was too complicated. But the problem is, we have to prepare for something that we don't actually know what it is. So we have to try and gather as much information as possible in anticipation of how we think that the ticket offering will be made. So it's very hard to kind of predict that.

I've seen a lot of people make comments about how the process needs to be streamlined. Someone even suggested it be outsourced, and that we should invest in a proper system to do it. And it's like, Yeah, I totally agree that we should try and streamline it. But we're dealing with something unknown. So we have to get ready where, as you know, we're usually only given a couple of days to respond. So we have to just gather as much info as possible.

Now the ballot application is closed on 31st of October, and, to be honest, the data is a mess. You'll see all the things that I put down in the report. Lots of people have just not provided the information that's needed. And I think what they don't understand is, you know, we try to automate to streamline the process. So we do that by asking you to put membership numbers, card numbers and things like that, and if you leave it out we then have to go and find all those numbers, and it just takes forever.

So we will be sending out some emails, probably in the next week. We will give a period of time when people can repair some of the data that's missing. But if they don't provide the data by the end, by the target date, we're going to have to remove them from the ballot, because we simply haven't got the time to go back and put this data in. There'll be more communications about that over the next week. At the moment, we still don't have any info about tickets. I'm hoping that we'll get something before Christmas, but at the moment I'm doubting that anything will happen before the new year, but we will see, and we'll keep you up to date as and when we hear something.

That is my secretary's report, so happy to take any questions. Please use that hand, raising again.

Fin Ross Russell: I'm seeing. Alistair has a question.

Simon Bennett: Fire! Away!

Alistair Cheetham: Whether it's whether it's relevant this one. The one thing I'm hearing throughout things is about the fact. We've got 3,000 members, it seems to be a lot is put onto a small group of people. And I said, I just find it very odd that it is concentrated in that way. The fact that if you've got so many members that you know it's just, you know you've got an international role as well as the role of this one. And it just it just seems very, very odd. There isn't a wider idea of, you know what skills are within the membership to be able to do things so that it isn't down onto 5, 6 people to be doing all this chasing, all this all the you know, all the work

Offers have been made, I know, because I've done it myself of often things, but nothing happens from it. So I. As I say, I just it's a little bit difficult when you sort of saying yes, it creates it's created, and it does create a lot of work. But there's 3,000 members. Therefore, you know, as people with a lot of skills there.

Simon Bennett: That's true. And thank you. And yes, some people have volunteered. And the issue is, you know, data is held in certain places. We are not a company. We're not, you know. We don't have fantastic kind of IT resources behind us. It's very difficult to share information, and we don't really want to open up Membermojo for other people to look into it who are not like committee members or something like that. So there is a limit. If you have more than one person working on the same data, it creates difficulties. Now, the ticket ballot system doesn't involve more than one person. Particularly when it comes to the ticketing and sending out the information, this year it will be very different. You'll be needing to contact a separate person to confirm that you've purchased. So we are trying to bring more people on board.

We do regularly ask for assistance. We put out a call for assistance a couple of months ago, but we get very little back. We're particularly desperate for people to help us with

our website, and we put out a call for people on diversity. We put out a call for people to work on families. And we did get some people, and they are now helping us with that. There's a working group on that. There is kind of a limit to how we can share critical information outside of the committee.

Alistair Cheetham: So, then, that leads to a question of why is the committee so small.

Simon Bennett: Well, we can't really get candidates just for the committee we have, I mean, but one of the things that the new committee will look into is expanding it and that's been on the cards for a while. If we hadn't had elections this year, we probably would have already voted on a change in the Constitution to expand the committee. But we're not flush with people applying to join the committee either.

Danny Lynch: Yeah, can I jump in a bit? Do the organization? But they're the ones that do all the voting on behalf of the club. You don't really need a big massive number of people for that, because that was 7 people, which is an odd number. [to avoid deadlock] But it's all the kind of other stuff that we're doing, that we are looking into. But the actual committee itself are so the ones that do all the voting and organization. So I think 7 people is sufficient for from that perspective.

Fin Ross Russell: Does that answer the we question?

Simon Bennett: Anyway, we take it on board definitely. And if we can get more people involved, we definitely will.

Danny Lynch: Giovanni.

Giovanni (he/him): Thank you. You were talking about. The the makeup? Well, mainly the gender makeup of the membership. I mean obviously we value you saying that you want the club to be as inclusive as possible. I mean the precondition, for that is good monitoring. I know you've talked about all the difficulties with Admin, but I don't think with any monitoring of the membership we can ever understand. I understand that we monitor for gender. I mean even that I obviously there's people that identify as other male or female. So that's another thing you might have to want to think about. But is there now? I think, some thinking about monitoring, properly, monitoring for identity characteristics in order to work out how diverse or not diverse we are, and because only then can a strategy be put in place to make it more inclusive. Otherwise we're just guessing right.

Simon Bennett: There is discussion on that. And we do. You know, there is 1% of members who don't identify as either male or female. So they're included in the graph. And there's a working group looking at this at the moment, it's very hard because you run into data protection issues. And we can't ask this kind of data unless we really know exactly what we're going to do with it. And it would obviously be voluntary. And we're

trying to approach this at the kind of global level, and there's very different attitudes between different clubs.

So there is this working group, looking at this at the moment on exactly what should we be measuring? What should be our target? What should we do, and what kind of things should we be putting in place to try and make sure that the clubs and our club in particular are as welcoming as possible? Now, one of the things that we're considering doing is writing to all the people who've not renewed this year to ask them. It will have some questions about, you know, whether they felt that the club was inclusive enough and things, and we'll see what the feedback is. When we've done this before, it's just kind of well, I wanted tickets for Liverpool, and now I don't. But we will be speaking to those people who haven't joined, who decided to leave us and see what the motivation is.

Fin Ross Russell: Jason.

Jason Brannan: Great. Thank you very much. Thank you, Simon. I'm just interested because you noted that it was to be anticipated that there would be a significant reduction in membership over the past 2 years. So what did the committee do in terms of their plans to ensure that there was a clear strategy behind that to avoid that massive tail off. Because I'm just interested around the point that it has been a massively significant drop. And if we'd looked at other OGAE International clubs, it could have been anticipated or expected. So what did the committee do to help reduce that potential reduction? Thank you.

Simon Bennett: I mean the committee. Yeah, totally expected it to happen. So one of the main things we did last year was the reduction in membership fee if you renewed. So if you were a new member, you still had to pay the £17 if you were renewing, it was only £7 last year. It's £10 this year, and that was an attempt to keep those members. We also, you know, made it a priority with vision and things like that. We were saying, we wanted to show members that there's more to us than tickets.

But all the Eurovision clubs know that tickets is a huge motivation for joining a club, and if tomorrow we said OGAE didn't get any ticket allocation for Eurovision, I think membership across the world would be decimated, because that's one of the big draws. We at least have vision magazine. Other clubs don't have anything like that. So our strategy was to try and show to people that there's more to the club than just getting access to tickets. You got your discount at the merchandise store. You got the information and access to national finals. So we did a big thing with Benidormfest two years ago. We've done Junior Eurovision this year. We've just done Melodyifestival.

We have our own events. So in the Host City, okay, in the UK. We haven't done much this last year. But obviously, there's the bash so you know, that was how we were trying to show people that we think that we were more than tickets. But we always knew that we

weren't going to retain these people. The positive thing is, we are considerably larger than before Liverpool. So you know, it's not that we just had a whole load of people who joined us wanted tickets, and then they left. A lot of people have decided to stay, and you can see we're still way up on where we were in 2021 so, you know, I think we've been successful in attracting and keeping some people, but it was never going to be everybody.

Sean Bookless: I think, as well sorry. Can I just jump in, Simon, and say that this is a pattern that most Host Clubs face when they're hosting. There's a huge spike in membership, and then afterwards it does die off a little. So we sort of anticipated that that would happen for us again this year.

Simon Bennett: Eddie.

Eddie De Souza: Thank you very much, Simon. Apology. My video is not on having trouble with the phone. Thank you so much for your report. Really helpful to know things. I'm just picking up something from Alistair's question a few moments ago. I really value everything you do, and I think you and I are very similar in terms of I had feedback in my role where I'm called in my role. I'm called a single point of success and a single point of failure. And God, I'm not saying this were to happen. But I wonder what the business continuity plan is for OGAE UK. For example, if you were indisposed in the middle of the ballot, or there was a key member who was helping things. I understand working for an organization about data protection. But as you commented in the question about protected characteristics, we don't take data on every certain level. And so the the level of risk is lower. But I'm wondering if opportunities can be opened up to allow people to help in a certain way, which means they're not seeing personal information, and that a lot of pressure isn't put because I do. You know, if there's another covid or flu, and members of the committee, there are only 7 who do a valuable job are taken out. It leaves OGAE in a very precarious situation, and we could see other members going. If, for example, the ticket ballot were to happen, or things like that. So yeah, interested in the business continuity aspect.

Simon Bennett: It's absolutely an extremely good question. Continuity, contingency. Planning is one of the things that we review every now and again, and it's certainly on the agenda for the new committee. We have arrangements so that no system is dependent on one person, so more than one person has access to Membermojo. So if one gets knocked out the other can do it. Though there's no I think, critical tool which is dependent on one person. The ballot. You're right is a problem because it ends up on a spreadsheet. But then we have to just share it between whoever we're putting on the ballot team. And this year we haven't decided exactly how that's going to work. But we will, I think, be using some shared, you know, like Google sheets that can be shared between people. We also make sure that passwords and things like that are available. So if one person gets run over by the proverbial bus. Others can take their place, and

those of you who've been around long enough will know that OGAE had this problem right at the beginning, and our original president who really, you know, basically ran everything about the club, did unfortunately pass away and so we learned our lesson.

The same applies to bank accounts and things like that. Everything we have, multiple people who can access the bank account. So nothing is completely critical. If there was an incident we would be able to cover it. But you're absolutely right, and we do need to revise our contingency plan.

Fin Ross Russell: I think the other thing worth saying just in the context of you look at the 3 year period that this election cycle has just kind of ended on today. Actually, there's been quite a lot of like we as a committee, haven't been working at our full potential in that I think we had 2. I think we had one role vacant when the election originally happened. Then we had a committee member who dropped out, and then Vaughan decided to step down, and we ran the next set of elections. So in a way, this 3 year period during which all these changes have happened and the UK came second at Eurovision and then ended up hosting it, and then all of the subsequent stuff we I'd say, we've been working at full capacity, but fulfilling maybe 50% of the potential that we have. And I think with the new cycle that we're about to start, we have more of an opportunity to build things that are a little bit more shared between people rather than everything, just being on silent, which I certainly know during the election campaign was quite a lot of what various people were running on.

Eddie De Souza: Thank you both. That's really help. I just wanted to say as well, I really appreciate that. And going back just to another thing, I think there were 6 people who weren't successful, including myself, in the election, so, in terms of not having enough people to stand, I would disagree with that statement, and, you know, to take forward.

Simon Bennett: Fair enough. Yeah. I just say, you know, don't get the impression that I do everything in this club, because that's not true. Yes, I do, Membermojo, and the membership stuff, but all the contests, SurveyMonkey, and all that, Finn is in control of that, and has full access to SurveyMonkey. I have nothing to do with the website that's handled by a team with Sean and some of the others working on the website. I do nothing with the Facebook page. Danny is responsible for the Facebook page. Although we have a number of moderators on there. Vision is obviously completely separate to me. That's done by Haas and Lara, and the bash is completely separate as well with its own committee supervised by the President. The problem probably is that you get a report from me, and the others don't have something that they report on. But there's an awful lot of people in this team who are doing a lot of work. So don't get the impression that everything is me, you get a lot of emails from me, just because that's the nature of the secretary's role. But there is a lot of team behind this.

Simon Bennett: Any more questions. Nope.

Fin Ross Russell: Onwards.

Simon Bennett: Okay? So we have to do the same thing. So if anyone does not want to accept the report perhaps put the thumbs up up.

Fin Ross Russell: Think we're good.

Simon Bennett: Okay, thank you very much. [Report accepted unanimously]

Simon Bennett: Right? So the treasurer's report. Now, treasurer, you know, by way of background, information treasurer and secretary are linked. It's because it's kind of almost impossible to disentangle subscriptions from the bank account, which is why these two things are linked. We've looked at separating it in the past, but it would make things very cumbersome, but the bank accounts are completely under dual control. I can't move any money without someone else authorizing the payment, and I think we have about 4 signatories on the bank account as well. So this is not all me.

So I put a little thing here in about our budgeting this year. And again, budgeting was very difficult, because we didn't know exactly how many members we were going to retain, and we knew that we were having a volatile period, so we had to kind of make a best estimate of how many people we thought we were going to retain, and we made a decision once again to try to reduce our cash balance, because obviously we've built up a huge cash balance. When we had this enormous surge of membership and Liverpool cost us way less than we were expecting. You know. Initially we expected to have to fund the Euro Club ourselves, but in the end the arrangement with the city and camp and furnace meant that we didn't have to fork out too much money, which is why we had so much money. We had over a £100,000 last year, so we wanted to slowly kind of reduce the amount of money we're holding. That's why we, over the last 2 years had this reduced membership fee, and that was all done as part of the budgeting. We have detailed budgets of how much we would be spending on everything during the year. The VAT issue that we were worried about over the last couple of years because we had kind of teetered around the threshold for VAT, and it was very difficult to get proper advice on whether we were going to have to register for VAT or not. That's gone away now, because we've fallen well back within the threshold of vat

We have our events fund, and we did actually spend a bit more than usual on events last year, but that was around Liverpool. We also injected money into the bash for 2022, which made a small loss. So we had to cover that, and we had a number of events around Liverpool that we financed that were separate from the Euro Club at Camp & Furnace, but we are always willing to spend money that's been set aside on events. And there's a question about that later on, and we'll deal with that.

Our cash positions are set out there. You know we are managing the cash down. We've got as at 6th of November we had £85,000. That, of course, includes all the renewal

money for the coming year, so that should be like the high water point. And now slowly, over the year, we will pay that down, it will be reduced. So that is basically in line with what we expected.

Now the annual accounts. This is where I have to eat humble pie this morning. Thank you, John Partington, for asking me a question about the Paypal figures, and when I looked into giving him an answer to that, I discovered that I have made a rather large Boo boo on the annual account, so I apologize profusely.

What happened was in downloading the statements to create the accounts accidentally. One transaction that was on the 31st of March 2023 accidentally got included in the statement, so was included in this year's financials when it was actually in last year's. So these figures are incorrect, and I apologize for that. The only figure that is the problem is the subscription figure. So it has been underestimated by this amount that was in last year's, which was £15,000. So I have renewed figures, our subscription income for last year was actually £38,933 pounds, still 62% down on the previous year, but considerably more than I had on this on this paper. So I apologize for that.

That means our deficit, we still have a deficit, but it's only £9,274 [this is the deficit in terms of subscriptions only and does not include the £95.41 related to ESC24 tickets and the £948.61 from the Just Giving. The overall deficit was therefore £8,230.93], not the £23,000 [circulated] so entirely my fault. It was a problem with the paypal statement that I ran. I apologize. I will send out a correction to the membership, and obviously, when these figures come out in vision they will be corrected. All the other figures are correct and our cash positions are completely correct. It was just that misclassification of £15,000. So I apologize.

As you see, though, as expected and as intended, we spent more money than we raised this year. That was entirely what we expected, as we attempted to get rid of our cash pile. By far our largest expense relates to vision, and postage is becoming quite problematic. We had two postal increases in the last year, and so we are looking at all sorts of ways that we can address that trying to make the issues perhaps lighter might help. And we can reduce some postage that's going to be a big task to look at.

The one area where we saw big increases were events. We talked about that because of Liverpool. We're spending a lot more on IT, and that is set to increase further on the infrastructure to deliver the electronic vision. And just to work on the the website, SurveyMonkey, zoom, all these things. We're having to spend more and more money on it. And so that is increasing and will probably increase further.

We've got some badges that we distributed in Liverpool. We've still got quite a few of those, so we'll distribute those whenever we have a meeting, and you'll also see there's

the item for the Eurovision train, the party train, unfortunately, that the money for that straddled the financial year. We collected it the previous financial year, and we sent it to Avanti during this financial year. So that's why that's recorded there.

You also see, on the income side, we've got the just giving amount again that straddles the year end. We received that money very grateful for the donations from members for people who run the Liverpool Organizing Committee, and that money was then distributed in the this current financial year. So that's why that shows up there. And we made a small profit on the Eurovision seated tickets, which is down to the exchange rate changes and bank transaction fees. So that's why there's a little profit on that.

So income was still down by 62%, as I say, that was expected, and we expect it to drop again next year, but probably by less, things will depend a little bit on who the act is, and if there's a little bit more oomph and another surge of members ahead of Basel, but we will see how that goes

Very sorry that there's that correction to be made, happy to take any questions. Oh, by the way, thank you to John Partington, if I didn't mention it for raising the question which made me look into it, and found this Boo! Boo!

Alistair Cheetham: I'm going to go right back to the very beginning as something concerned, because it's something that's concerned me a number of times. When you said about the fact that the jobs being intrinsically linked, what you described was a subscription secretary, not a secretary. I'm a finance manager by profession secretary and finance should never be together and I've never understood why they are together, and the explanation just gave the subscription secretary not a secretary. Again. Under job comes compliance again. If you were a company there would be questions being asked about the two roles being put together because they shouldn't be, they should be separate, and I want to know as I say, given that what you described and I can understand a treasurer and a subscription secretary being together, but I cannot see a company. If it was, I know it's not a company, but a secretary and a treasurer, being the same person.

Simon Bennett: It's a very good point. If I have no interest in being the secretary and doing minutes and all that kind of the administration of the of the things. So if we can separate that out, I'd be very happy to. So it's something for the new committee to think about.

Alistair Cheetham: Thank you.

Fin Ross Russell: Damien.

Damien Kelly: Yeah, thank you. I just I always feel a desire to say, Thank you, everybody for doing this and for what you do. I think it's important that we put that across in terms

of vision. You said one of one of my joys, is to receive vision magazine in through my door. I really adore it. I think it's a super read, and it's fun. And I'm a bit concerned when you say, Do you want to make it lighter, and I'm wondering what that means is that like lighter paper, or less content.

Simon Bennett: Lighter paper and I'm not saying we will do that. It's something that we keep under review. We did it a few years ago. We reduced the thickness of the paper to reduce the weight of the the magazine to help with postage costs. No, no, nothing to do with content. It would be. It's just one of the things that we monitor.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah, it actually, so depends on the paper stock that the printer can actually buy in but it's something that we will be discussing with them, because that will probably help our cost tremendously. So watch this space.

Damien Kelly: Thank you.

Simon Bennett: And it has to be said, you know, last year was a very heavy year for vision, because we did a lot of the post Liverpool stuff. There was a lot to be reported. We had some very hefty magazines, and that's why the postage costs were elevated. So you know again, all of this is related to Liverpool, and what we had to do for that

Danny Lynch: So just to clarify something. Obviously, we've made a loss last year of £9,274. But actually, if you take out the advantage stuff. It was only really £3,500. So I think that kind of shows that we're our budget was actually really good, and we managed to actually pretty much out on target. We wanted to take a small loss, so that I think that shows you that we were doing quite well with that.

Simon Bennett: So Jason.

Jason Brannan: Thank you, Simon. Just a follow on question. Really. So say, for example, in relation to printing, is there a routine tendering process to ensure that the club is getting the best value in relation to cost, and you know, so I don't know whether or not that sits in place as part of the governance process. Thanks.

Simon Bennett: It's not done every year. It has been done at regular intervals. And actually, it is something that we want to do this coming year, because the print has changed considerably. However, we, we're on a pretty good deal with this printer, and it it only costs. I think it's about a pound per magazine to produce. It's 2 pence per per page, and they do us an extremely good deal. We've been loyal to them for quite a few years, and we have a good relationship with them. However, we will be looking at, you know, just making sure that we're getting the best value for money in terms of printing, and actually more in terms of the service or dispatch, because it's a pain, because we get them to to dispatch the magazine we have to pay vat on that, so that automatically elevates. So it's not just postage. There's a whole lot of vat in there as well, and we

obviously have to pay a service fee for them to do that with our current membership numbers. It's not practical for us to send out the magazine. We have done that in the past where we would just get the boxes of magazines, and we would then send it out. But that's not practical, but absolutely take your point. And it is something that we are thinking of doing.

Fin Ross Russell: Just very quickly. I'm seeing in the chat? Tim's asked, would a smaller magazine, ie. Fewer pages, significantly reduce the cost of the magazine.

Simon Bennett: It wouldn't reduce the cost of the printing by much it might reduce the postage. So that's 1 of the things I was saying that we will look at. You know it's very difficult, because the blooming Royal Mail changes everything so often that we need to just work out the thickness of magazine, plus the envelope where the threshold is for the postage. But it isn't going to save much and, to be honest, I think you know, I mean Hass can say we want to provide as much in Vision as we can. We'd like to kind of flatten out so that we don't have too much variation during the year of like a thick edition of thin edition. Want to try and flatten that out as much as possible. But we wouldn't want to be cutting back on content just to reduce postage cost by a relatively small amount.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah. And the latest issue was only it was only 72 pages. And that was because, you know, we really wanted to get out before so Halloween to fit in with our cover feature. But we're gonna try and keep the matter around about 84, 88 pages. But that may vary because the Eurovision issue that comes out end of April. There's gonna be a lot of content about this year next year's contest. So we shall see.

Hassan Yusuf: But but we will try and keep things down to, you know a decent level. So everyone gets entertained, and it doesn't cost too much to send out.

Simon Bennett: And we have regular conversations about this. I mean, we, you know, we've talked about perhaps reducing to 3 times a year and things like that. But we think we need to keep it to 4. There's enough stuff that goes in there. There's enough members that really like it. That we think we want to keep it. I just saw there was a question across the bottom, asking when was the last competitive tender. I'm afraid I don't have that information. I'd have to look into it.

Danny Lynch: Simon, was it? There was 3 magazines last year, wasn't there?

Simon Bennett: There was a double issue not last year, the previous membership years. There was.

Danny Lynch: 5.5 5,000. That's 4 magazines worth. Yeah.

Simon Bennett: Yeah.

Danny Lynch: So divide that by 4 divide that by 2,000 magazines we have, and just to try to work out what it is per magazine. It's divided by 4. It's about 3 pounds 20 per magazine. Roughly, that we're spending. That's that's including postage that each member that's for the that's per magazine per member. So that is actually good value when you think about it. And that's, I think that's including postage. So I think that's a really good value that we have.

Simon Bennett: I mean, one of the questions is about vision, and we'll get onto that. So there's there's much more. There's a whole load of questions about vision and and what we want to do with it in the future. We'll handle that in a sec.

Simon Bennett: Any more questions.

Fin Ross Russell: Doesn't look like it.

Simon Bennett: Okay. So again, apologies for the error in the P&L. But can we, if anyone objects to the report, please use the thumbs up.

Fin Ross Russell: No, that all looks good. [accepted unanimously]

Simon Bennett: Okay, thank you very much. So we now get on to questions from members. These are the questions that were submitted by Thursday evening. So the 1st one relates to the Eurobash, I'll give a summary to everybody. I think it, Sean, do you want to talk to this one? And actually, Scott may want to chime in as well. So basically, Martin Palmer was writing, saying, you know, in recent years the bash has been in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Bristol, Cardiff, and Liverpool, and asking that it be a priority to spread it around the country effectively. You know, looking at having one in Scotland, Northern Ireland, east of England. South coast. Totally. Yeah. From my point of view. Totally understand where you're coming from. The committee regularly discusses where the bash should take place. And We have been trying to go to Scotland for quite a while. The only thing I would say from my point of view, it's not me who gets involved in in organizing this. The bash is an incredibly complicated thing. To organize and finding a venue is extremely difficult and can be extremely expensive. So it's quite a difficult task. And so but, Sean, do you want to to talk to this.

Sean Bookless: Yeah, I think what I'd say is that I think with the bash it's best to be as organized as possible and I obviously only started as president in February, and then I was sort of dealing with Malmo stuff. So we didn't actually get to book a venue till slightly later on, just before Eurovision.

So by the time the later you do it, the less options you have, and I think my main aim for Eurobash this year especially because it was the 1st one I was doing as President. I wanted to make sure it was affordable for members, and I knew that we could do that in Camp & Furnace in Liverpool. It was a venue that we worked in many times before, and who really knew what to do with the day, and I knew that members would be happy

there. It was always my intention then to sort of move it somewhere else, but I think, as Simon says it is really a really difficult venue to come or event. Sorry to run last year's Eurobash, I think, made £2 of a profit which shows sort of how tight the margins are. And I think, while it's really important that it does move around we had 250 people in a in a venue in Liverpool this year, finding a venue that's sort of as suitable in other parts of the country is a challenge, and it'll definitely be something for the new committee to take up. I'm not saying it's not possible. I just think like it's harder than just. Oh, let's go somewhere else different every year. The plan with Eurobash has always been to do 2 years. So you sort of get the benefits of organizing it in kind of more than one time, so you don't need to start from scratch every year. So we use Liverpool for a second time this year. Traditionally, now we'd move on, and it'll be up to the next committee, where they where they choose to go.

Simon Bennett: Scott, do you want to add anything? Because I know you've already been thinking about it, because the planning for next year has to already be underway.

Scott Ross: Hi, folks! Yes, it's something that's been. It's something that's been discussed already. I've got friends and event management and hotel management that are putting out the feelers in various cities across the UK. I'm very open to where we go. I've been in touch with people. They're in charge of venues. Venue management. Yeah. So it is something that I'm actively looking into hopefully from our official capacity. I can't really tell you anything more until we have a sit down a discussion, and then we'll try and come up with a subcommittee to then work, but hopefully maybe into December we could have a date and a location.

Simon Bennett: Thank you. I think the other thing you need to remember is we need to pick somewhere that's not like out on a limb that will make it very expensive for people to get to. So that's why a lot of these locations that have been over the last few years been very kind of central to the country because of the maximum number of people can get to them. But anyway, it's a complicated issue.

Fin Ross Russell: Alistaire has a question.

Alistair Cheetham: That's what sorry you just basically said what I was. gonna say, the limit is, I mean, you sort of look you look at the you say about South Coast. You go much beyond Bristol, and it becomes ridiculously expensive for people to get there from anywhere, even from the south of England, especially from the north of England. Go beyond, go beyond Glasgow or Edinburgh, and it's similar in Scotland. It's just it just become you. You probably wouldn't get anywhere near your 250 people you get. It's like, it's like everything. Wherever you put it, somebody's gonna complain that it's not. It's not where they want it to be.

Simon Bennett: Yeah, yeah.

Fin Ross Russell: Tim's got a follow up point in the chat, saying at some point would it be possible to prepare something, saying how an individual is spread across costs.

Fin Ross Russell: So the question says at some point, would it be possible to prepare something, saying, how an individual is spread across costs that should be individual subscription. So basically asking some sort of graphic that says how an individual subscription is spent.

Simon Bennett: Oh, so we're back to kind of treasure report. Okay? Yes. That was published a couple of years ago. But we can do an update to that. I'll I'll do an update on that.

Fin Ross Russell: Is that us.

Simon Bennett: Okay? All right. So that was question one, question two is about event support. This is from Stephen Woodward. And it was basically about how to access money for the events fund. So I think this has been dealt with a couple of times. Basically, you just need to email someone on the committee, usually the President, and come and suggest what it is you want to do. The committee will then ask you some questions and see how, if at all, we can be of assistance. So it's just a question of contacting the committee with your idea.

Stephen Woodward: My question had 2 parts, the other was, what sort? What sort of thing can we expect? We'll get support with, you know. What is the level of support. That's realistic. you know. Can we expect you know, a couple of hundred pounds, could we? You know what?

Simon Bennett: What's available.

Stephen Woodward: Been mentioned that there's an events fund, and it's been mentioned in hustings. But again, this is the sort of 1st time that I've heard actually how one goes about saying, I want to hold an event.

Stephen Woodward: What do I need to do?

Simon Bennett: I mean, events are supposed to be self funding, but they need perhaps seed funding to get them off the ground, and things like that, and perhaps some kind of subsidy to help with them. There's only what is in the events fund at the moment. We only put into it one pound per member per year. So it's probably got about £10,000 that's available. Some of that is used in the host city for the euro social. Some of it may be used for the bash. Some of it may be used for the London parties, or something like that. Realistically. I suppose you're looking at, you know, hundreds of pounds rather than thousands of pounds, but it depends on what the proposal is really but your whatever event should not be dependent on funding from that events fund. It's supposed to be just to kind of help things along.

Stephen Woodward: Thank you.

Simon Bennett: I have to say. I don't think we've ever received a request.

Stephen Woodward: You're about to receive one. Don't worry.

Fin Ross Russell: Yeah. But but to be fair, I feel like also, although we in the committee are aware that it's there because we talk about it a lot. I think this election cycle has been a good opportunity to remind people that this is there and try and spread the word out about it. So hopefully, we're going to get more usage out of it. And people requesting stuff, particularly post Liverpool, as more of these regional groups that we have connected on Facebook, begin to kick off and develop a bit more.

Simon Bennett: I think Finn's exactly right. These regional groups are quite important, and although they're not formal OGAE groups, I didn't really understand what they were as well, and I think you know it's up to the new committee, but probably be looking to make these things more officially linked to OGAE, and then, perhaps being able to provide some money to have events in the regions based on those groups, you know, to help with hiring venues or something like that. Stephen, you got your hand up again.

Stephen Woodward: Yeah, just on the not being linked to OGAE. I found this, this came up in the in the election houtings as well, and I found it utterly perplexing. I mean, I'm 1 of the key forces behind the East Midlands Group. People will know that I'm famously the sort of euro Sheriff of Nottingham, hosting Euronotts, but we were set up as a Facebook group by the previous President, by Vaughan, who started that Facebook group, linked it on the OGAE sort of Facebook page and, you know, when we meet people, we say, Oh, we're the regional OGAE society. So we feel that we are linked to OGAE to, so to say, that we're not linked to OGAE. And we're a separate thing. You know. We were set up by the previous OGAE President, you know we operate as OGAE Sort of East Midlands.

Simon Bennett: Yeah, yeah, no. We totally accept that. The problem is, it's not consistent across the country, so what we totally, that's what the rest of us kind of thought, and I think that's what was Vaughan's intention as well. But there are some groups that are very informal that don't have a kind of leader. So it's no one we can kind of interact with. But I think it's something that we want to formalize again. I can't speak yet, because the new committee hasn't met. But it's something on the agenda for really formalizing, but absolutely your model. You're probably the most active of the regional groups. Yorkshire is very active as well, and I think it would be great if we could enhance these regional groups and make it clear how they link in to OGAE.

Fin Ross Russell: Exactly. I've noticed the question in the chat, Stephen Smith Lane said, living in Devon, feeling a little bit left out for bash. Has it ever been thought of the same venue each year for better planning. Sorry to go back to this subject.

Simon Bennett: So could you just repeat that.

Fin Ross Russell: Living in Devon, feeling a little left out for bash. Has it ever been thought of the same venue each year for better planning? Sorry to go back to this subject. I feel like we have said expressly that the reason that we stuck at Camp & Furnace this second year was because of the better ease of planning, Stephen, unless we've misunderstood that question.

Simon Bennett: Yeah, generally, what we do, because it is so complicated. And you kind of have to negotiate these. Just if we find what we were saying is, if we find somewhere that works, we usually leave it there for 2 years, because it makes it much, much easier. I don't know if that addresses that question.

Hassan Yusuf: I think, the main problem about the question is that oh you know, quite obviously, most of our membership is actually in, you know, from Midlands down South. And yet we don't seem to have any bashes down in sort of a you know, south of sort of you know the Luton Junction wherever and stuff, but it is all to do with cost, because it's far more expensive down in the sort of London and the South East. But it's something that I think that the new Bash Committee should definitely look at in the future, because the South, the South is underrepresented in the Bash. So far.

Simon Bennett: okay, so are we okay? To move on to the next question.

Simon Bennett: So this was from Simon Walton, quite a long, complicated question about the environmental impact of vision and you'll see the whole text there. Now, Lara, who's our editor in chief seems to be kind of on top of this, so I have a response. She unfortunately can't be here today, owing to a very important family commitment. But she sent a response to this, so I'll I'll read exactly what she has to say, and then, I think Hassan and myself have probably have some other things to say. But

So this is from Lara. As you know, vision functions as a Fan club magazine is a valued benefit of membership, and is also a key channel for presenting a record of club information around AGM budgets, etc. We already provide the opportunity to opt out of the print edition and for members to access a Flip book edition. In addition, anecdotally, we believe that most members who choose to receive vision in print also choose to keep and collect issues. Therefore, a full carbon footprint, including end of life, is not necessarily a reasonable exercise. If our magazines are not regularly ending up in landfill or recycling. Offering a solution for members to print their issue themselves would potentially mean losing control of our content. Meanwhile there is an additional cost to members of following this route, and there are environmental impacts to both litho and digital on demand printing. A full investigation into the impacts of each solution would be very hard to measure, especially as we would then lose even more oversight of our consequential environmental impact, that said, it's really important to ensure that OGAE UK considers the environment and social impacts around Vision

magazine and that we aim to produce the magazine in the most sustainable way available. Along with working with our printer to explore sustainable options, we would propose the following timelines and actions, so this relates to each of the 4 points in the question, so point 1 will define and publish a scope of carbon emissions reporting for 2025 will include recycling information on the print edition and will reduce the file size of online edition of the online edition of Vision to reduce digital Co. 2 E point 2 we would consider serving the membership around options for vision and investigating product end of life. Recognizing digital emissions and survey fatigue. There may be mileage to Piggyback. This into another survey question. 3. A consultation around emissions. Reduction offset against related value of vision, and question. 4. Report on vision, carbon footprint under defined scope at a minimum paper print and distribution and share future plans around Scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions and an update on carbon reduction plan for 2026.

Simon Bennett: So I think you know, Laura is taking your question very seriously. We have dabbled in looking at the environmental impact of vision in the past. And we've done things like making sure that we eliminated plastic. And we've got environmentally friendly packaging. That's why we introduced the digital subscription. In the 1st place, obviously, your question also relates to the payments. You know that there is a universal subscription level across, whether you take it digitally or in printed form, and you point out quite rightly people who take it in digital form to some extent subsidize the ones who take it in print. However, the costs of the infrastructure that we're trying to put in place to deliver vision electronically are not insubstantial and are likely to increase considerably.

Now, there's been some related conversation around this on the Facebook page as well, and people have queried how the electronic copy is delivered at the moment it is available to everybody. That is not our intention. It wasn't our intention when this started. It isn't our intention now, but we had some technology problems which meant we had to open up access to vision. To anyone who goes onto our website. We will be addressing that in the coming months, and it will either be password, controlled or link controlled. But we have had some issues with the website and with the flipping book.

It's an awful name. Flipping book is the software that we use to put the digital copies of vision on the website. So at the moment, yes, it's available to everybody. But we want to protect our content, and that will be changing as the principal. We wanted to keep membership fees the same across all classes of membership, because vision is a benefit of membership. You're not paying a subscription to a magazine. You're paying a subscription to a club, but we hear what you say, and every year. There is a discussion about whether we should make a differentiation between the subscription rate for electronic and for printed, because obviously printed, costs us a lot. So we will

continue to do that as part of our budget process. Is there anything you want to add, Hassan.

Hassan Yusuf: No, that seems about right, Simon, and we have to remember that. I know this has been stated before that most members do not go abroad to see Eurovision live. Most do not go to the bash. So in the past what has kept the club growing? And is this vision magazine, because that's what the vast majority of members actually got for their membership in the past.

And so, you know, we have to really sort of work. Consider their needs as well, you know, because they're the ones that actually kept this club going for decades. Really so yeah, you know, lifetime says we are. You pay your subscription to belong to the club? Not to get to vision you know. So we have to treat everyone absolutely equally. You know, we haven't got a 2 tier membership system really. I wouldn't. We will look at everything.

Simon Bennett: Marcus Keppel Palmer wrote something on the Facebook group that I think was very appropriate. He wrote, you know people join OGAE for a whole list of different reasons, and get something from the club for a whole lot of different reasons. Some want the magazine, some just want access to tickets. Some want the discount, some want to just be part of the Facebook group. I think we will consider doing it. We talked a lot in the hustling. So let's talk about doing a survey. We need to update our information now that the club is so much larger than last time we did a membership survey. I think the new committee will be looking at whether we need to survey members to find out exactly what people are looking for from their club and from the magazine last time we surveyed, which admittedly, was about 4 years ago, there was extremely strong support for maintaining a printed copy of the magazine, but we will. We will check with people and see what they say. Are there any follow up questions in that regard?

The other thing I should mention is, we also do keep under review who delivers the magazine, and at the moment we're kind of content. That royal mail does represent one of the more ecological approaches. They've got their own environmental targets and CO2 reduction program with a lot more electric vehicles. And this obviously like hand delivered to the doors by usually people on foot. So we take that into effect as well. We, we take this seriously. We may not. We don't have the capability of a large corporation to, perhaps, you know, present the information in a way that others might. But we do take it seriously.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah, I mean, what we could do is actually put the that recycling image in the magazine as well, just to encourage people to recycle if they don't sort of you know, want to keep the magazines, but I would imagine you know most people and they've always recycled their magazines. But I know that's not always the case, but we will encourage that, for members.

Danny Lynch: You mean they don't keep them all forever. No. Is that just me?

Fin Ross Russell: Hannah has put a question in saying, I would think there are much more environmentally impactful elements to OGAE. Particularly people traveling to the Bash and to Eurovision itself, especially by air. I'm planning to go via rail next year and wonder if OGAE could promote and facilitate Lower CO2 travel options.

Hassan Yusuf: Well, actually, we had a feature by Ben Morris just to issue issues away about using interrail to get to us or your venue ever. Yeah, listen. We have to be practical, and, you know, going by train definitely, far better for the environment. But it's also because a lot more time, you know, and we can't so detect people how they're going to get to the Host city. But you know, it's very awkward question with with Eurovision having as an official sponsor an airline.

Simon Bennett: But certainly Basel is very easy to reach by train, but it's very expensive compared to by air, and we certainly will look into presenting some information. I think we already did a brief newsletter talking about how easy it was to get there by train. But we would do some more. And I know OGAE International has been having discussions with transport companies about, you know whether it's possible to have some kind of special deal or something we're looking into both rail and air.

Danny Lynch: I think that's something we could look at for the bash, though, especially if we get in a city we could maybe look at trying to get people together that are apart from the same area. And you, obviously, we can't. When it comes to things like insurance. We can't really organize the transport for you, because that brings a lot of things. But we can put people together, and they can try and transport themselves for things like, you know car sharing or bus sharing that type of thing, because I know that there was people there, that all came from the same area, and they all came in separate cars. And you think, you know, it'd be good if we could sort of do that to try and reduce just environmental impact that way.

Fin Ross Russell: This is one of those great examples, I think, in the context of what people were saying before about, you know, wanting to help more and wanting to get more involved, wanting to volunteer. If you have an idea for something that you know would either be great to organize, or that you'd like other members to know. Please like, please get in touch with us and tell us, and we can help with promoting it about and and doing it. You know.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah. I just noticed that Ian Taylor says that he loved Ben's travel feature. Yeah, absolutely. That was because Ben, you know, decided to send this feature into vision. So can I encourage members? If you get an idea for article, or with this subject, send it in, and you know we'll definitely consider printing it, you know, just before my membership. So you know all opinions. Welcome.

Simon Bennett: I think just one last thought on this vision is definitely our unique selling point or USP. We are not a Eurovision news organization. There are hundreds of those. We're never going to be just turn ourselves into a website that gives you Eurovision news. So, vision is an important part of our identity. But we will speak to the membership and see what they say.

Any follow up, Simon, are you on the call? Did you want to raise anything? Are you happy with that answer.

Danny Lynch: And Simon has to leave earlier on, so he's not on the call, but he said he'll be back later on. Thank you.

Simon Bennett: Okay? Alright. So the next question, which is a kind of flip of last year's question. So about the online meeting. I'd like, basically, I'll read it out. I would like to know why this year's AGM is online only for people unable to use this facility. This is unacceptable. Last year, the AGM, we were told that no online was available because it couldn't be done. As there was lack of reception. So basically, so last year we did it in person. People complained, wanted it online this year. We've done it online. People complain. They wanted it in person. Obviously, to please everybody. We would have to have a hybrid that is extremely difficult to organize. It just really is complicated and difficult. Online offers an opportunity for the most people to attend. Yes, I saw there was a hybrid one a few years ago, and it was living hell because it was really difficult to identify. You know, people asking questions. We had people afterwards complaining that their questions hadn't been responded to. So you know, it's very, very complicated. It will be for the new committee, and I have to say you know, opinions on how to do this on the old committee were very divided.

But it will be up to the new committee to decide how we should do things going forward. But we note the the comment. And we, yeah, we will do our best.

Danny Lynch: I think you also have to look at. Cost is aspects of well, when you've got maybe 2025 people going to the wrong to in person event, and it's costing X amount of money, including travel for the committee members. Whatever is that really value? Is that really giving value for money. So I think that's 1 thing you have to look at as well.

Simon Bennett: I mean. The only thing I'll say is, it's interesting. We've got 52 participants on this meeting, which is roughly the same, if not a little less than when we have it in person, which is interesting, I think. But anyway. But it's something that we will certainly be discussing next year.

Fin Ross Russell: Although, just to be fair, I think it's that should also be caveat with the fact that today is Junior Eurovision Day. And so some people will be in Spain, and have plans and various other bits. There were comments online about people saying, Why is

it a Saturday afternoon as well? But that's something we can discuss as a new committee about. Is this the best time to have it.

Scott Ross: I think with all these things it's going to be very difficult, please everyone, because there'll be people that can manage evenings. It can be people that can manage weekends. Yeah. But the this has been approached with with me this week, and when I read this question, I'm thinking the focus really, here is on drinks and snacks And I'm thinking, if we're to put on a separate event with 52, let's just say it was a maximum of a hundred. Are we providing that snacks and drinks? Because I think that agent itself? We just need to get through the facts and figures to keep everyone like on board, so it will be discussed. I'm not sure necessarily. Well, I know where my position would be, but that's something to be discussed, and for the committee to say, maybe take it forward from there. But yeah, I wasn't too sure about that one. It's a lot. It's a lot of work.

Simon Bennett: Okay. And the last question that was sent in previously was about the UK logo, and this question was actually raised a few years ago. But anyway, so back in 2017 there was a competition to design a new logo for all OGAE clubs. The competition was won by one of our members, and the logo was designed, then a version for each club. We asked at the time if we could change the international logo which should be adopted by it, says most clubs. We were told that a change to the UK Logo could only happen with a vote of members. However, a couple of years ago, without any consultation, the logo changed to a pink glitterball, which I do not feel is representative of the club and is not in line with other clubs.

Okay, first off. This is complicated. So, yes, there was competition. A few years ago an emblem was designed, and the idea was that it would be available to all national clubs to use a few clubs adopted it. So I did a check this morning, so only Israel, Norway, Finland, Estonia, and Latvia adopted it. Others have kept their own identity, and some don't even use the OGAE name. Now, in 2019, some issues arose and it's connected, it was connected to Israel and OGAE International was concerned. Actually, they then realized that there was a need to differentiate OGAE International from local clubs, because sometimes there's not always harmonious relationship with local clubs. Some broadcasters don't like their local clubs and things like that, and OGAE International wanted to keep a very distinct identity. So at that stage permission to use the international logo was withdrawn. Those countries that had adopted it were allowed to continue using it. But no new clubs were allowed to change to the international logo. So that was just a change to protect, I think the identity of international. The current UK Logo was introduced. Yes, in a hurry, because we needed to update the image and it wasn't done in the way that perhaps we had envisaged doing it, and I think it will be. It's on the agenda for the coming year to look again at our branding and to see if we make

another change to the logo, but we accept that. People want to have a say in any such big change. So we will see what the incoming committee decides to do about that?

Simon Bennett: Any questions? Okay, I think that's what is there anything else? Anyone? Oh, sorry, Sylvia.

Sylvia Rook: Sorry I've got you on a phone. So it's a little bit mobile. Can you just explain more about this thing with the identity. Confusion is because each one has its own logo.

So as in the flag in the middle of the and, by the way, Italy and Malta, I know, were another 2 that did have it. But I think there were more. I'm just I mean it doesn't matter to me at all. It was just there were the 2 things one I can't really understand this thing about. We're not allowed to. How are we not allowed to? Who says we're not allowed to do anything. And if it's international, where was the edict that came out? But but also, yeah, this, we've also got to look at this thing about the voting, and and how it was chosen, and all sorts of things.

Simon Bennett: So the edict comes from OGAE International. There was a decision by the Bureau of OGAE International that clubs should not use the intellectual property of OGAE International. So that was agreed with the Presidents, and they were told. It's a very delicate reason why this happened. It's to do with Israel and wanting to differentiate ourselves. You know I don't really want to get into this in the public forum, because it's a little bit delicate. It was all connected to Eurovision in Tel, Aviv, and some problems with the host broadcaster, and it was all a bit unpleasant, and there was legal issues going on, and there was threats of legal action. And that's why a decision was made by OGAE International. The logo is the intellectual property of OGAE International, which is an organization registered in France which is controlled by an elected bureau and they have the right to decide what to do with that logo and so that's why clubs were asked not to use it. In terms of the process for us having a logo. Unfortunately, it's not written down anywhere, so there is no requirement in the Constitution for this to have a vote, and, as I say, it will be up to the new committee to decide what approach they want to do.

Sylvia Rook: But we were told it had to be voted on, so I don't quite get that.

Simon Bennett: Well, I don't think it was something it had to be voted for. I know that a few years ago we said that it would be voted on. But then other things happened.

Sylvia Rook: Yeah, it's just that we were told we couldn't change it. And obviously because it was one of our members who won the competition and so it was a big kudos thing. That's why we wanted to change it at that time, when there were no legal issues, and we were told that we couldn't. And I mean, yeah, if it's fine for anybody to propose a new logo and and get it in, then great, we can do that, I mean, that's fine, but I don't think a pink glitterball is really our image. Somehow.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah, no, yeah. Change. Your logo in due course will still be a definitely.

Simon Bennett: Be on on I think Scott's agenda to look at the branding of the whole organization, and, to be honest, there's a move at OGAE International to change the name of the whole thing anyway. So there's a consultation going on at the moment.

Fin Ross Russell: Anymore, for anymore.

Hassan Yusuf: Steve reckons that we should have a logo competition. Yeah, why not? That's certainly on the ball.

Fin Ross Russell: Alistair, I see your hand up.

Alistair Cheetham: Yeah. It's a different question with regard to this one. It's raising the get together that is always each year in the city the whole city, the fact that it's always on a Thursday. It's always on a live show night when you've got a position of the fact that it's running into a time when people are what also already waiting to go into the venue. And the question is, why it's always a Thursday rather than picking a night where there is not a live show, cause you but you know, as was seen by, you know, it's seen each year there is a larger and larger amount. So yeah, if you don't mind going to the live show and being standing area fine. But if you don't for whatever reason it just seems straight. The fact that we pick it's always been a live show night.

Danny Lynch: I know for this year that we had it on the Thursday, because a lot of people were staying in Copenhagen, and we didn't want to have them to come back and forth, you know, the next day, because obviously there was quite a large proportion. So that's why we decided to have it on the Thursday, because people were coming into Malmo for the live shows, and we thought that would be the best, and we had it in sort of mid afternoon time, so that people that were going to the live shows. It only really affected those that were going to the to the family rehearsal, because that was on at the same time. But obviously that was still.

Alistair Cheetham: And it's it's been Thursday year in, year out, I know, because I've had to check.

Simon Bennett: Thursday was always picked, because the idea was to have it in the afternoon, and then people would go on to the show.

Fin Ross Russell: Exactly. That was, that was precisely Alistair to your point. That was precisely the intention is that the thought was that if we had it on a different day, and people live very far outside the city, as can often be the case, that they would be making a specific dedicated trip to come all the way to the host city when that may not necessarily be what their plans were, whereas the idea in terms of how we've organized it has always been. We have it in the afternoon before the main event, and then you could go straight to it. And as someone who was in the standing area in living in Liverpool, and who went from the event straight of the standing area. Yes, you have to

leave the event a bit earlier than you probably otherwise would, but you know it's 1 of those situations where there is no perfect option that's going.

Alistair Cheetham: There's no, there's no perfect option but the I would, you know. Generally there are more people, and I know, because I'm in the queue. Leslie's another one who can vouch for this. The queues on live on live show days are larger earlier than they are. So you're saying, yes, you can go in. But the point is there's obviously, you know, if it's starting as it was 4, you know, half past 3 quarters to 4. It doesn't just affect the family. Show this. There's queues from earlier than that for the evening show.

Danny Lynch: But that doesn't mean you have to stand in the queue for that length of time, does it? You know.

Alistair Cheetham: No, it's not. But you have to choose. It's basically you choosing one or the other. Basically.

Danny Lynch: Yeah, I mean, we have to have it sort of mid Wednesday sort of there, unless we can have it really, because a lot of people don't arrive till before, you know. I say we could have it any time during the week. But most people tend to arrive going by sort of things. Some people arrive in full package, but then you've got other fans that have not got packages. So because there's a lot of people don't buy packages for everybody. So I would say, sort of Wednesday, maybe, is the earliest that we've ever really considered doing it. We could do it early, but in Thursday, Friday, Saturdays, and all go for sure. So really, you're sort of given a limited, maybe 2 or 3 days that you can actually really have it.

Alistair Cheetham: It's just comments just being made there Friday afternoon when there's when there's.

Danny Lynch: But then a lot of people to the dress rehearsal for the Friday as well. I know it's difficult to say. I know it's difficult to know, you know, I would say it's not all about. It's maybe maybe that's something we can look about. Maybe we can look at doing a survey to see. When would you like to have it? That's something that we could think about.

Sean Bookless: I think Liverpool was on Friday.

Hassan Yusuf: No, no, yeah. We actually didn't have it on the Friday once. Some years ago.

Danny Lynch: I've been to all of them virtually, you know, definitely, was a Friday.

Hassan Yusuf: Also, we had requests from the TV companies sometimes to actually have a certain time, so they can actually share their views, live, and wherever.

Simon Bennett: I mean, I think we've been. You know the the show starts at 9. So what time do people start queuing? 7 at the earliest

Alistair Cheetham: You're joking, aren't you?

Simon Bennett: But that's that's what makes it hard. Not everyone's going to queue at 7.

Danny Lynch: Not everyone's gonna queue at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There's quite a small number of people would do that.

Alistair Cheetham: Bearing it, bearing in mind that the 1st gate at for example, at Malmo, was opened at 5. That's where it was opened up and people got and people going through. That's when it actually opened. Then then the the queue was being moved through the the process from 5 o'clock onwards.

Fin Ross Russell: And so is yours. Is your suggestion specifically to have it on like a Friday afternoon.

Alistair Cheetham: The Friday just suggested the Friday might be. You know. There's no there's no win situation, but it's just the fact that it's it just seems odd that it's on a live show night, that's all.

Scott Ross: Thanks, Alistair. I just wonder whether you could maybe message me a proposal and then I can bring it, and then we can discuss it. There could be such a thing as a Basel breakfast. Who said we need to have it an afternoon? We can I know there's so many of you come out of Euro Club in the early hours, Let's meet for breakfast in Basel, or also go 2 h, and then that's it. But, hey, I'm open to hear folks suggestions. So if you've got something, come up with a proposal.

Alistair Cheetham: Yep.

Scott Ross: I can bring it forward. We can think about it that way. It's the same as we say, like the people that arrive at different times they'll queue up at different times. People prefer something in the evenings. People prefer something at lunchtime mid afternoon. It's never going to please everyone, but it's also, what do you want in a social? Are you want an event, or you just wanting the chance to a meet and greet, hey? Nice to see you grab a drink together. Yeah. So come up with a proposal. Let me know.

Alistair Cheetham: Yeah.

Scott Ross: Yeah. And we'll do that way. Thanks, Alistair.

John Partington: Yeah. Personally, I think it's it's the best time you can do at the Mo. At the moment. I don't think there's any better time, and you won't please everyone. But I think you gotta bear in mind that the number of people who know want tickets means that a lot of people are going on a Friday evening when they don't have the the final

tickets for the Saturday, so I think Friday would be would be just as difficult if you wanted to move it, that's all. Thank you.

Simon Bennett: I think one of the reasons Thursday was picked originally was people commented that, like Friday was their day off, that they would go and do something. And so, you know, that's why they wanted it on a night when they were definitely going to the arena. Perhaps the key is to make it earlier. So it's only supposed to be an hour, 2 h. So if we make it a bit earlier, so that people can get to the queue by 5 o'clock, then fine. But right. Is there anything else anyone would like to raise under any other business?

Simon Bennett: There's something I'd just like to just mention. And that's Euroviscom. Okay, the dreaded Brighton Eurovision Convention, and there were a lot of comments on the Facebook group about this, and how it was a con and blah blah blah

Alistair Randall, Vaughan and myself had a lot of meetings with the people behind that EurovisCon. And it was a very genuine attempt to create a really great Eurovision event, it was very genuine. It was never a con. They lost their shirts, I think on well, they certainly lost money, having to cancel the thing, and it was cancelled simply because not enough tickets sold. Now I think we can all discuss whether the lineup of people that they had prepared was appropriate, and certainly we had given a lot of advice on sort of guests they should get, and they weren't able to get the sort of people that we thought would be a big attraction. But I just wanted to mention it here that you know it was not a con. It was a very genuine attempt to set up what they wanted to make a regular event, but it just didn't sell in adequate numbers. So I just wanted to make sure people realize that. And also some people wrote some very horrible things on the Facebook group. And the guy, the promoter was actually on that group. So he saw those things. But yeah, so it was genuine.

Yeah, I understand you didn't get a full refund. But I'm afraid every one of these events, the the blasted booking fee is never refunded. You know the same thing has happened for Eurovision on tour. You know this. This is always the risk we all take with these bookings. I'm afraid.

Fin Ross Russell: And I think that is a thing to remember. And I remember around some of the Eurovision on Tour gigs getting cancelled, that this discussion popped up in the Facebook group, as well, obviously from an OGAE perspective like, we try as much as possible as a committee to have the conversation about the event, and what the intention is, and like what kind of partnership we might be able to do to support them like best intentions of the fans all that sort of thing. But ultimately all of these events are not organized by OGAE. They're organized by people who are trying to put these events together, and you know, may or may not be trying to do a good thing, or may or may not be trying to make a quick buck. However, you want to see it, but I think it's worth keeping in mind with these events that, like we can, we can do our best in terms of trying

to point people in the right direction. But ultimately you kind of go at your own risk, with with difference.

Some of these events, particularly the new ones, and particularly as Eurovision becomes more and more of a mainstream thing that more and more people want to come to, and more and more people are aware of, and where there's more of a common sense, it's more and more of a thing that people want to pay to come and be part of and do things around.

Danny Lynch: Yeah, I think there's a lot of reluctance sometimes of people with new events, because obviously things go wrong with certain things like like the con the universe, con. But Eurovision on tour is a perfect example that didn't really sell amazingly well, and it was reduced tickets which really should not have been advertised anyway, because with those seat filler tickets you're not actually allowed to be telling people you've got seat filler tickets, which but that's fine. But that event went really well. Everybody that went thought they had a fantastic time, you know, and it's things like, maybe next year, when there's a fisher vision on tour that might sell a lot better. Sometimes these events take a bit of time to bed in, and that's the thing is, I think sometimes that the Fans we need to give we need to give things a chance. And it's great that I think that we have this because 5 years ago we had. I mean, we had Eurobash, and we had Eurovision. We had some pre-parties, but now we've got more pre-parties each year that are coming up, and I think it's fantastic that we've got all these events that you can come to, that you can travel to. As as you said, Eurovision gets more mainstream that I think we should be able to grasp these with both hands.

Simon Bennett: Okey Dokey. So anything else anyone wants to raise? Okay, well, with the end of this meeting as that marks the end of Sean's Presidency. Thank you very much for your hard work over this year and congratulations to Scott from his election, and to Bonnie, who's joining the committee as well. We also thank Robin, who served on the committee this year, did some great work. Thank you for your contribution as well.

As soon as this meeting is over, Scott will take over as president. And yeah, we move on to bigger and better things for next year, hopefully, and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible at either in ball or at other events around the country.

Fin Ross Russell: Can can I say one other quick thing, yes, on the subject of moving on to the new committee and the elections having just happened. We're all human. And we're all around and we have emails and Facebook or whatever. So if you have a question about something, and you have a concern about something, or you want to know more about something rather than posting about it in the Facebook group, and that creating a whole thing. Get in touch with us like we're happy to respond. And we're

happy to answer questions. We've got nothing to hide or stuff that we're specifically containing.

You know, and we're here to serve you like, you're right. There are 7 of us, and that's a lot to manage in terms of the 3,000 members we have, but we're really keen and committed to doing that. So the more that you can be proactive with telling us what we can do to better support and serve you the more we can be better at ensuring that we deliver your needs and everything you'd like.

Simon Bennett: Absolutely.

Fin Ross Russell: Happy Junior Eurovision Day.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah. Big report on the next vision.

Simon Bennett: I think that's something to include in a survey who's interested in Junior Eurovision.

Alistair Cheetham: Yeah, can you? Can you can. You have a pull out section on the so you can take it out. And it's nothing to do.

Hassan Yusuf: It! Unfortunately, we're square bound so no sorry.

Alistair Cheetham: I'm old enough to remember the the Channel 4 thing with kids singing it was still frightens me. The fact that the idea of it.

Hassan Yusuf: Yeah, you're you're not the only one out of the yes.

Simon Bennett: So thank you to everyone who's participated. Thank you for your time. And yeah, as been said, if there's anything, just get in contact with us.

Alistair Cheetham: Yeah. And thank you. Simon.

Simon Bennett: Thank you.

Fin Ross Russell: Take care bye.

Danny Lynch: Bye, bye, now.