

Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting

held on Wednesday 16th May 2018

Apologies for Absence: Soo & Kevin Tompkins, Pat Davis, June Bailey, Pam Campbell, Helen Griffiths, Brian & Aileen Aitcheson

Present: WHIPS Committee members plus Jeremy Miles (President)

Agenda

Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting held on 17th May 2017

Matters arising

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2018/2019

Presentation of Awards

Any Other Business

CB extended welcome to attendees to the 70th WHIPS AGM.

CB referred to the Minutes of the 69th AGM that had been circulated to the attendees at the AGM. He said that they were on the website too. The Minutes were accepted and approved by everyone present, and the CB in his capacity as Chairman duly signed them.

It was acknowledged that there were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report. CB presented the Chairman's Report to the WHIPS AGM of 16th May 2018.

CB referred to Neil Fuller who is joining the WHIPS Committee and Chris Cathles said that Neil Fuller is able to give expertise in electrical regulations and what needs to be done.

Jan Hudson asked are we asking for volunteers for the entertainment at the 70th Gala. Colin confirmed that Julia McClung is organising this. It was confirmed that we do not necessarily need a pianist, but there will be music provided, e.g. by backing tracks.

CB asked for volunteers for the Horsley Arts Festival where the WHIPS will be showcasing their 70 years anniversary at Kingston Meadows on Sunday 27th May 2018, and various attendees confirmed their support.

Chris Cathles volunteered to support the WHIPS 70th anniversary event with sound/lights.

Tony Thompson asked for information on the Horsley Arts Festival. CB said that there would be WHIPS programmes and photographs from WHIPS productions over the years on display. CB suggested that volunteers could possibly wear costumes from previous productions. CB confirmed there would be a gazebo available for the day.

Jan Hudson asked about the Performing Arts Library (PAL). CB explained that we rely on PAL, and that unfortunately it was under threat of closure. He said that it would become difficult to run play readings without this source, and that it is used by many other organisations for music and drama events. CB said that the WHIPS have pledged £500. He said that a decision about the closure of PAL is yet to be taken. Jack Griffith advised that the Surrey CC will be making a decision in late May. He said that the music and drama materials may be distributed amongst existing libraries, but that all the books will be kept together. Woking Library mentioned as a possible venue. The decision keeps being delayed and there are insufficient funds that have been raised so far. He confirmed that Surrey CC cannot afford to keep the library at its present location at Denbies.

Treasurer's Report: Frances King (FK), Hon Treasurer presented a summary of the Treasurer's Report.

FK indicated that income was down because we did not have a pantomime.

Whippets and Youth Theatre slightly down on last year.

Membership fees are same as before, and that just £5 less in subscriptions had been received.

FK referred to the 3rd page of the Treasurer's Report which provides details of the overall position on various shows. Referred to cost of costumes for Lord Arthur Saville, and that attendance was down on last night. FK said that we have broken-even on other shows with the exception of Role Play which made a profit of between £450/£500. FK referred to the Whips Youth Theatre and the Gun Powder Plot production and other upcoming productions and possible profit as a result of ticket sales. Julia McClung clarified that the £450 expenditure for Annie Jr was the rights for the show and the scripts. FK referred to format of productions and the success of using supper nights to generate income.

FK gave thanks to June & Colin Bailey for running the previous Quiz Night event. She said there had been a wait list of 17 people wishing to attend the event, and that the event made surplus of £1025.

FK provided a summary of expenditure: Equipment purchases - £683 – black curtains. Commented that these work well (referred to Dogs Life). £2404 for electrical dimmer; Neil yet to submit expenses for additional items – approx. £300. Also 2 new radiators for the Coach House.

FK said that the WHIPS had made a donation of £250 to SW Surrey Physio.

FK referred to general admin costs – chaperone training costs, storage costs at WHVH, £350 to sort website, renewing domain name. £250 on electricity this year for the coach house.

FK commented that the WHIPS is still in a healthy position.

FK said that she has arranged for David Wilson to examine the accounts.

FK said that she has received replies from 9 people confirming their attendance to the WHIPS 70th anniversary event. She mentioned those who are unable to come.

There were no comments from the attendees on the Treasurer's Report.

Jeremy Miles extended his thank you to the WHIPS for the donation to the SW Surrey physio service.

Jeremy referred to the election of Officers and Committee Members for 2018/19.

Colin Bailey (CB) as Chairman was duly voted by attendees, and all other members nominations were confirmed.

CB extended his thank you to the attendees at the AGM for being nominated as Chairman.

AOB:

Jeremy said at the Parish Meeting there was a report from the Roxborough Charitable Trust. The representative, Peter Pearce, who is a good speaker, and a representative of various organisations, talked about the set-up of a cultural centre which is scheduled to be up and running in 18 months. Jeremy said there are potential opportunities that we should be aware of. Jeremy referred to the barn; this will be divided into sections and will be available as a performance space, (not a stage) with seating of up to approximately 200. There will be meeting rooms, amenities, and a round courtyard. He said there will also be a large new car park. Jeremy will invite the Director to functions. Frances King & Valerie Thompson know the representative and Frances will be at the location.

Will we use this venue as an alternative to the WHVH? Not necessarily. Cost of WHVH for the hire of rooms during the production week is approximately £1500. A question was raised about lack of flexibility in using the WHVH.

There ensued a general discussion about other venues that the WHIPS had either considered or would consider using for performances, with reference to finding a venue to replace The Electric Theatre, which the WHIPS no longer use as the cost is prohibitive. Other venues referenced included St Theresa's, The Rhoda McGaw Theatre, The Mill at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, The Leatherhead Theatre, and The Nomads Theatre. A comment was made that about ensuring that the WHIPS retain their identity which has always been closely associated with the WHVH. A more in depth discussion was held about using The Nomads facilities. It was confirmed that the cost is more expensive. It was commented that perhaps we could consider using the Nomads facilities occasionally; the WHIPS Committee confirmed this would be reviewed for future requirements.

A question was asked has the WHIPS committee got one person responsible for publicity. It was confirmed that Jan Hudson is responsible.

Jeremy proceeded to present the WHIPS Awards to the winners of the various categories.

Best Actress in a supporting role: Pat Davis as Arabella in Role Play

Best Actor in a supporting role: Phil Embury as Mickey in Role Play (not present)

Joan Fry Award: Jack Griffith for Stage Whispers, Play reading, Coach House, set building

Best First Award: Emily Ingold in Role Play

Marion Pertwee Award to Best Whippet: Olivia Fawcett as Wednesday in Addams Family

Walster Cup Award for Best Young Whip: James Stephens as Guido Fawkes

Thanks was also extended to Tony Thompson for his service of about 40 years on the Committee and the roles he has undertaken, including Chairman, Treasurer.

It was agreed there were no other matters to discuss and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm.