

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday 9th February 2016

MS Centre, Huntingdon, PE291UL

**Present**

**Committee Members:** James Rowe, Chair (JR), Graham Crouch, Treasurer (GC), Marion Stribling, Secretary (MS), Dean Laccohee (DL), Edd Welsh (EW), Scott Hutchison (SH), Nathanael Spalding (NS)

**Members:** Ann Monk, John Morgan, Michael Black, Milton Travesty, Maggie Redgrave, Mark Hebert, Michelle Gibson, Rachael Goodwin, James Fell, Guido Paoluzi Cusani, Paula Spalding, Annie Welsh, Roy Bellass

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from committee members Josephine Hussey (JH) and Rebecca Hutchison (RH).

**2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM (18th February))**

The minutes were ***agreed*** as correct.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. Chair’s Report**

JR introduced the Drama Club’s 2015 Annual Report highlighting the goals that had been set by the committee for 2015:

* Continue to produce high quality shows
* Engage with the local community
* Increase audience and membership numbers

Jane Green designed a re-brand for the club which included a colour palette and fonts. Jane continues to design the club’s marketing materials.

The committee had been divided into an artistic side responsible for the productions and a business side responsible for increasing audience numbers. JR reported that all objectives had been met but there was still more to do to reach full houses at productions and grow.

Looking ahead to 2016 the committee aimed to hold a free reserve of £5000 in the bank, the amount it costs to put on 3 shows. The three productions for 2016 had been chosen with directors in place.

There had been a calendar of varied social events during 2015 which included local and London theatre trips, meals, play readings and workshops.

“The Club” had been created as a membership offer giving money off ticket prices and member rates for social events.

JR thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work during 2015.

Annie Welsh requested the club to advertise two Patch productions, Ghost Story and Summertime in England. DL ***agreed*** to add details to the newsletter.

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

GC introduced the Treasurer’s report which was available in the Annual Report. Budgets were now set for each production to keep a better check on expenditure. Ticket prices had been increased and there had been an increase to the member subscriptions which had all helped to increase income. GC pointed out there had been a couple of items of exceptional expenditure with two subscriptions paid out in 2015 to NODA and the first payment made towards billboard advertising in 2016. JR pointed out that the billboard advertising would only have to bring in 50 extra tickets sales per production to break even. An extra matinee performance would take place to accommodate extra ticket sales.

JR thanked GC for all his hard work over the year keeping the club’s accounts in order.

JR added that the club had saved quite a lot of money in 2015 using different venues in Huntingdon:

* Rehearsals were taking place at the Tesco community room which is available to local groups free of charge. This had saved the club around £600-£800.
* Committee meetings had taken place at the MS Centre which the Centre offered free in return for some advertising in the programmes.
* Play readings were taking place in a room at the Falcon Pub which was provided free.

35 tickets had already been sold for the spring production, before rehearsals had even started.

JR thanked the volunteers who help out on production nights with front of house.

**6. Election of Officers**

JR reported that the three current office holders had agreed to continue for 2016. Members ***agreed*** the re-election of:

* James Rowe, Chair
* Graham Crouch, Treasurer
* Marion Stribling, Secretary

**7. Election of Committee Members**

JR reported that Scott Hutchison, Rebecca Hutchison and Nathanael Spalding would be stepping down from the committee. JR thanked SH, RH and NS for all their hard work on the committee.

Members ***agreed*** the re-election of current committee members:

* Dean Laccohee
* Josephine Hussey
* Edward Welsh

Nominations for the vacant places on the committee had been sought in advance of the meeting via email. Members agreed the election of new committee members:

* Caroline Molony
* Michelle Gibson
* Guido Paoluzi Cusani

JR welcomed Caroline, Michelle and Guido to the committee.

**8. Subscriptions for 2016**

JR reported that subscription for 2016 would remain at £15. Payments could be made online or in cash/cheque to GC.

**9. Motions**

No motions had been proposed by the committee and there were no motions proposed from the floor.

Annie Welsh asked if there would be a banner on the ring road gate. JR reported that the council had cancelled the club’s banner space at very short notice last year. Following this the committee had agreed to look at alternative marketing ideas.

**10. Any Other Business**

DL reported that the club would be performing an act from the Madness of George III at the Cambridge Drama Festival on 28th April.

JR reported that Breaking the Code had been nominated for the NODA Best Drama (E1 region). The winner would be announced on 3rd April.

Michael Black proposed a vote of thanks to James and the Committee for a very successful year for the club.

On behalf of the Committee and membership, DL thanked James for the inspiration and encouragement he has given the club as Chair of the Club.