

YEOVIL AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022 AT EDWARDS HOUSE, BUCKLAND ROAD, YEOVIL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

1 (a) **Present:** 43 members 1 Patron

Members present: M & J Rudd P White C Musgrave M Batterbury S Lowery S Ball L Cannon L Clark P Warren R Lodge G & S Burgess J Curry E Driver N Riva L & F Whitchurch C & L Hooper J Holland-Brewer R & G Bullock P Withers B Rees P & C Holdway-Bradley M Parker J Ayres N Mountjoy L Stallard S Long K Smyth V Hallett P Perry S Watts D Hallett S Hansford G Osborne E Gray P Budzynski

Patron C Musgrave

(b) **Apologies** were received from: A Hardcastle D Wright A Cottrell S Matthews A Enticott R Basrtlett L Thomas N Riglar C C & J Jesty H Long S & L Driver L Capes J & S Westaway

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 18 OCTOBER 2021

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting had been previously read, confirmed and agreed as a correct record. (proposed Lorna Clark, seconded Pauline Warren, unanimous)

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

4 SECRETARY'S REPORT

Paula read her 33rd report to the meeting.

Appointees/Members/Friends.

Paula was delighted to welcome Charles, our President, who had agreed to stay on for another year.

Mark was thanked for undertaking the role of Chairman; Lucy Capes for undertaking the duties of Vice Chairman and Lorna Clark for undertaking the role of Business Manager...

Pauline Warren and Erin James were standing down from the Committee; Mary Nichols as Membership Secretary and the floor heard that Di Jamieson and Nick Mountjoy would be relinquishing 'Wardrobe' sometime in the near future (hopefully a replacement would be found reasonably quickly). All were thanked for the wonderful contributions they had made to the Society.

Sponsorship/Charities/Funding

The Hub was the chosen charity for 'Kinky Boots' and they benefitted by £350 from the bucket collections and seats sold. During 'Kinky Boots' there were bucket collections for Ukraine which raised £5,000.

The car boots on Hendford Hill also continued to be lucrative and brought in money for Society coffers.

In November the Society received 2 Rose Bowl awards – best musical for 'Sound of Music' and Nick Harris, best actor for 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. Well done Sheila and well done Nick!

Edwards House

Edwards House continues to thrive thanks to Mr Nick. Because of spiralling costs in gas and electricity it had been decided to put the hourly rate up to £15 from September.

The Shows of the Year

What about 'Kinky Boots'? Everyone enjoyed it – cast and public alike! It was slick and dynamic with energetic dancing and took 74% at the box office over 10 shows as 2 were cancelled because of covid. We had closed auditions for the first time for a long time which were deemed successful.

You will probably remember that the Society planned to do 'Chess' in the Autumn of 2022 but thought it inappropriate so this was changed to 'Legally Blonde'. What a physically energetic and happy show this

was, bringing in a lot of new younger members which we hope will stay with the Society. It took 79% at the box office.

Further into the future 'Anything Goes' would be the Spring 2023 offering with – 'Into the Woods' for the Autumn – another first for the Society.

Paula finally commented on the great changes that would be taking place at the Octagon – with the proposed new theatre – and the move for the next couple of years to the Westland Entertainment Complex. Should the Society be thinking about a different plan of action??

Paula was thanked for her report and for all her hard work during the year.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

David Hallett gave his report on the YAOS accounts for the year ended 30 April 2022.

'Kinky Boots'

It was sad that two performances had been cancelled due to Covid. Some ticket holders were able to move to performances later in the week, but having the cancelled shows meant the Society missed out on potential ticket revenue but still had fixed costs already paid for costumes, scenery and theatre hire, although The Octagon very kindly waived the cancellation fee for the second of the two performances saving YAOS over £1100.00. Overall ticket sales hit 79.7% but the cancelled shows meant the result was a loss of £8,135. This equates to around 450 tickets which it was thought the Society would have sold for the cancelled shows.

'Legally Blonde'

Hal had only received the final ticket sales information from the Octagon that day, and had not had a chance to pull the results report together, but the overall ticket sales hit 78% and hopefully a small profit had been made.

General Income & Expenditure : With shows costing so much to put on and it proving difficult to turn a surplus on the productions, fundraising was now a key area of income for YAOS and for other similar groups. Car Boot parking activities at Yeovil Showground raised over £3500 in the 2021/22 year and continues to be a vital source of funds. The bonus-ball draw continues to raise much-needed revenue and show raffle income was £1200 in the year. Insurance is a large annual expense and any cancellations due to Covid are now no longer covered by the policy.

Balance Sheet : the figure for creditors is the balance of performing rights and music costs for 'Kinky Boots' which was paid after 30 April. The overall financial position remains pretty much unchanged with net assets around £250 up from the 2021 figure.

Hal was happy to answer any questions or provide more detailed financial information.

Hal was thanked for his report.

6 ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS (2021/2022)

It was unanimously agreed that this set of accounts be adopted (proposed P Warren, seconded B Rees).

7 AMENDMENTS TO SOCIETY RULES

The Society Rules had not been changed since July 2008 and over the past year Geoff, Guy and Paula had spent time revising and bringing the Society Rules up to date; these were now presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

Discussion took place which mostly centred around Rule 12 (Finance) re it not being possible to pay members. A rule change was obviously needed – the Society could no longer expect members to do things for nothing.

Some discussion also took place as to whether these Rules had been presented within the correct time scale and in conclusion it was agreed that the Committee should review these Rules once again and either present them for ratification at an Extraordinary General Meeting or next year's Annual General Meeting.

8 ELECTION OF AUDITOR

It was unanimously agreed that Chalmers & Co should, once again, be elected as the Society Auditor (proposed J Curry, seconded R Bullock)

9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were elected en bloc, unopposed. Mark Rudd – Chairman; Paula Budzynski – Secretary, David Hallett - Treasurer, Lorna Clark – Business Manager and Sarah Lowery – Stage Director. Lucy Capes had elected to stand down from the Vice-Chairmanship and so Geoff Thresh kindly offered to undertake this

10 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The retiring committee was thanked for all their help and support over the year. The following were elected to stand for the ensuing year:

Jack Ayres	Simon Ball	Lucy Capes
Carl Holdway~Bradley	Nick Mountjoy	Matt Parker

11 EDWARDS HOUSE REPORT

Edwards House Manager, Nick Mountjoy reported. The premises were being used but not to full capacity!

Vicky Hallett was thanked for looking after bookings and the finances.

Thanks also went to Daisy Reid (for cleaning). Nick was still looking for 1 or 2 ladies to make rehearsal refreshments and washup.

12 OLIVE EDWARDS AWARD

Shelley Taylor was this year's recipient.

13 THE ANNE BAYES YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

Matthew Brooks was this year's recipient.

14 TO DISCUSS THE CHOICE OF FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

A discussion took place as to what show could be performed at Westlands (there were not many). A lot of members thought that a better option would be a concert version of a show.

Adam would keep the Society informed of the changes at the Octagon.

15 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE NEW COMMITTEE

(a) **Fund Raising** If anyone had any ideas for fund Raising then the Committee would be pleased to hear them. The Bonus Ball was bringing in money for the Society as were the Car Boots on Hendford Hill.

Membership Secretary If anyone would like to take this over then they should let the Committee know.

(b) **Legally Blonde'** Tricia Perry congratulated everyone involved with 'Legally Blonde' – the young cast had been excellent and were the future of the Society.

(c) **Westlands** Sarah answered various questions. The meeting heard that the stage could be 'built out' with a front apron at the venue and the seating plans were fairly flexible.

(d) **Suitable shows for Westlands?** Kathy Smyth wondered what shows would be suitable for Westlands? Would this be the end of 2 shows a year? Maybe a 'Concert Choir' could perform a G & S?

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm