

YEOVIL AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023 AT EDWARDS HOUSE, BUCKLAND ROAD, YEOVIL COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

1 (a) Present: 44 members

Members present: S Hansford R Lodge P Withers J Rudd J Ayres N Mountjoy L Clark M & L Francis M Parker L Capes H Long L Driver S Driver S Long L Thomas C & J Jesty K Smyth J Burt S Peaty D Jamieson N Toop L & F Whitchurch S Ball S Westaway K Nichols G Burgess C Hooper E Hooper P Waterhouse A Meldrum S Meldrum T Prerry R & G Bullock C & C Musgrave M Rudd G Thresh D Hallett P Budzynski T Deacon

(b) Apologies were received from: R Howell L Murphy Durran A Enticott E Driver S Matthews N Lawson C Riglar T Rock T Dyke V Hallett E Wilson P Warren J Curry J Holland Brewer

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 presented her 35 report to the Society.

Appointees

Therr were very few changes. With Mark and Geoff at the helm, everyone had worked well together. Particular thanks went to Lucy for taking on the role of Membership Secretary. Thanks also went to Di and Nick who had now relinquised Wardrobe which was now under the supervision of Beth nd Steph. Tash had now undertaken Social Media for the Society. Thanks to all.

Charities of the Year

Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's charity benefited by £2,500.

For 'Into the Woods' the Octagon benefited.

Stewarding at the car boot sales on Hendford Hill had raised £3,000 during the year. Our thanks to Lucy for organising these.

Jenny Holland-Brewer was now organising Fund Raising.

Awards

3 Rose Bowl nominations had been received – one for Jenny Holland-Brewer (Reno) and for both musicals 'Legally Blonde' and 'Anything Goes' Awards wold be presented on 26 November.

NODA Awards

These were presented to Tricia Perry, Gerry Bullock, Pauline Withers and Louise Thomas (medals for Roger Howell and Derek Bourne were not presented as they were unable to attend)

Edwards House

Edwards House continued to thrive - our thanks to Nick and Jack for all their help in this respect.

Death

The Society was saddened to learn of the death of long standing member Ray Bartlett at the age of 89. Ray will be remembered with great affection by us all.

Shows of the year – ‘Anything Goes’ and ‘Into the Woods’

The Society’s 2 recent shows had been contrasting ones. Unfortunately ‘Into the woods’ had been a financial disaster, selling only 44.8%. ‘Anything Goes’ was a little better.

Octagon

The theatre had now closed and there was great uncertainty about it’s future.

Conclusion

So another year had gone by with 2 super shows, although, unfortunately, neither were financial successes!

Thanks to all.

5 TREASURER’S REPORT

Times have been hard and financially difficult. For every show a budget was prepared and costs & ticket prices aimed to at least break-even but inflation, Covid, and interest rate increases meant that disposable income had been reduced, The show reports saw that neither Legally Blonde nor Anything Goes were profitable shows.

The difference between making a loss and breaking even was around 300 tickets or half a theatre. The audience numbers remained stubbornly reduced compared to pre-Covid levels.

The move from The Octagon brought with it additional issues, as Westlands is not a theatre in the traditional sense of the word, the seats aren’t particularly comfortable and shows need to be adapted o fit the space available.

Hal did not have the final figures available for ‘Into the Woods’ but it was certainly going to be loss making, despite making great savings in costs for set hire and costumes.

Edwards House : Hal was still waiting for some information from HSBC bank regarding Edwards House and so the figures were partially provisional. Hopefully the final details would result in an improvement to the current year deficit.

General Income & Expenditure : Fundraising icontinued to be a key area of income for YAOS given that it was so difficult to make any profits from productions these days. Car Boot parking activities at Yeovil Showground, the bonus-ball draw and show raffle income plus the addition of a quiz earlier in the year raised significant sums to contribute to the running costs of the Society and partially offset the losses made by the productions in the year. Insurance was a large annual expense, around £4000 each year, and the hikes in energy prices plus repair and maintenance of Edwards House all needed to be paid for.

A bucket collection at ‘Anything Goes’ raised over £2k and the Society was able to make a presentation of £2500 to Roald Dahl’s Marvellous Childrens Charity.

6 Agreement of Amendments to Society Rules

There were no objections. (proposed N Mountjoy, seconded L Capes, agreed)

7 ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS (2022/23)

It was unanimously agreed that this set of accounts be adopted (proposed P Warren, seconded G Thresh)

8 ELECTION OF AUDITOR

It was unanimously agreed that Chalmers & Co should, once again, be elected as the Society Auditor (proposed S Ball, seconded K Nichols)

9 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following Officers were elected en bloc, un opposed. Mark Rudd – Chairman; Geoff Thresh, Vice Chairman, Paula Budzynski – Secretary, David Hallett - Treasurer, Lorna Clark – Business Manager and Sarah Lowery – Stage Director.

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
Shelagh Meldrum	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, and Jack Ayres for all his help.

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

Lucy Capes and Lorna Clark were this year's recipients.

13 THE ANNE BAYES YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

Amelia Meldrum was this year's recipient.

14 TO DISCUSS THE CHOICE OF FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

A concert was suggested for Autumn next year. Jenny Holland Brewer suggested Sherrborne Girls School which was a venue seating 300.

It was suggested that the members/local community should be quizzed as to what they would like to see the Society do. Roger Bullock suggested a concert version of a G & S; others suggested a concert version of a musical.

15 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE NEW COMMITTEE

There were no questions raised.

Geoff was thanked for all his help during the year and thanks were extended to Guy Burgess for maintaining the website for the Society.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm