

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting on Monday 14th April 2025 held at Ratham Lane, Bosham

Present: Tony Clark, Jan Copsey, Alan Copsey, Scilla Jutton-Holland, Sue Wilkins, Clare Burt, Barbara MacWhirter, Margaret Edwards and Gill Lambourn

Apologies

Richard Sanderson

Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted.

Matters Arising

Scripts ordered for the autumn production of *Enlightenment* by Shelagh Stephenson have still not arrived though they were ordered four weeks ago. Scilla was asked to continue to contact Concord every few days as the delay is causing us to risk losing potential actors who wish to read the script prior to the audition.

Treasurer's Report

Tony is not able to report on finances relating to this production until all the claims for expenses have been submitted. Scilla reported on the bar takings: expenses amounted to £433.20. Takings by card were £164 and cash were £713.50. Total takings were £877.50. Profit was £444.50. (20 pence not taken.) There are 19 bottles of wine left to be carried over to the next event which is AWD.

Media Report

Barbara reported that there were 389 site sessions on the website. Some of them doubtless were people looking for tickets. A reporter from the *Ems* magazine attended the production and sent in a glowing report congratulating all involved so this person is now a useful contact Barbara said.

Health and Safety, Technical Matters

It was suggested that a temporary small fridge would be useful to keep the milk cool and perhaps the white wine too as the hall is not so cold as it used to be. Tony might be able to help here as he has a small one that is not being used. Cool bags or cool boxes were also suggested.

Members Update

Pat's granddaughter Natasha has joined so that she can write a script for AWD but she is not able to take part further due to not living in the area.

Major Productions

Last Tango in Whitby

Gill gave a full report on each area of the production. The set was simple and well realised. Lighting was left largely to Alan without much involvement from Gill but it was well within his comfort zone. Sound was very demanding as it was changed throughout rehearsals but Jan created an excellent backdrop to the action. Stage management all ran smoothly. Props were done very well by Jason and prompting was done very competently by Sue, who also coped with the mammoth task of Box Office and FoH. Kim did a brilliant job of costume which was very challenging. Pat and Margaret were congratulated on their excellent efforts for publicity, posters and art work. The cast were quite stressed by the demands of the dancing and there were also a lot more absences than Gill would have wished for. In spite of this they quickly developed their characters so that they were all well realised.

Carpeting in the wings was suggested to minimise the noise. Tony said that there were pieces down though most of the stage area was floorboards. We have a large carpet for the whole stage but it was not appropriate this time.

Low levels of lighting backstage were discussed as it is difficult for the cast to see in the complete darkness. Lighting strips at floor level would help without impacting on the stage lighting. Kim wishes to catalogue and photograph all costume held in members' homes. This was discussed. It is a very big task and it was suggested that holding a lot of costume is often not worth it unless pieces are particularly in demand. Kim will visit Scilla to see what might still be useful in her collection.

Autumn Production

Enlightenment by Shelagh Stephenson was discussed. The rights have been paid and 6 scripts ordered four weeks ago but they still have not arrived despite several enquiries to Concord. Alan is in the very difficult situation of trying to interest potential actors without having scripts to offer them prior to the audition. Scilla will send a strong message to Concord outlining how serious the situation is now.

Playreads

Whose Life is it Anyway? will be read on 25th April. This will be a rehearsed reading that Barbara is managing. It will be in WAVH. The cast will arrive at 7 that day for the only rehearsal that is needed. The bar that Jan will manage will be in the Committee Room so that audience arriving will not interrupt the preparations. It will begin at 8. Scripts have been distributed already.

The 16th May playread will be *Hidden Laughter* by Simon Gray.

Future playreads could include *The Playboy of the Western World* by J Synge that Jan would manage on 13th June and *Second From Last in the Sack Race* by David Nobbs that Gill would cover on 25th July. Scilla was asked to check the availability of these as sets to hire.

AWD 6

Margaret and Pat will hold an initial meeting of all who are interested in AWD 6 to discuss possible themes on 2nd May in the Church Room. Funtington.

Weald and Downland Immersive Theatre

Barbara has discussed this with Hilary at length. The suggestion was that FP s present something at W and D in the summer. It has been decided that this should take place next summer as there is no play immediately available and Tony pointed out that a lot of details and logistics need to be discussed with W and D. As the production is site specific it is not going to be possible to present further performances of the play in WAVH so it would be a one off.

Social Events

Sue said that several people will go to Wimbourne Theatre to see Heather in *Calendar Girls* on Saturday 24th May, the matinee performance. She envisages three to four cars. Heather came to see our production last week and remains supportive though she lives in Dorset.

Newsletter Items

Playreads as above TBC

Social Events: *Calendar Girls* as above

AGM 22nd July

AOB

Further publicity was discussed relating to casting the young man in *Enlightenment*.

Scilla is looking to move the collection of costume she holds and will discuss this with Kim.
It was suggested that a photo is taken of the backstage team to be added to publicity for plays.

Next Meeting Dates

19th May, 16th June and 14th July