

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting on Monday 20th January 2025

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

Apologies

None

Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted

Matters Arising

- Sue was thanked for managing the 12th Night Dinner. It was agreed that smaller tables than last year worked well. There are other venues offering good deals at competitive prices that we might wish to consider another time.
- Tony will buy a Wifi extender plug to enhance the signal to the Hall during production week in the hope that the card reader in the bar will work more consistently.

Treasurer's Report

Tony has paid the tax bill for the last financial year.

Media Report

Barbara said that a QR code is now used to access the app that allows groups to submit and to access publicity in *The Observer*. She pointed out that this is updated much more frequently than the printed paper. It requires an annual subscription of £30 but would allow us to post information about our activities each month instead of just twice a year as we do at present. She suggested that a video relating to the current production could be made to extend publicity for it. Rehearsal photos are also needed so that Pat can put them on Instagram. She has sent brief submissions to all the local parish magazines for February. We have also had a good article published in *The Ems*.

Health and Safety, Technical Matters

Nothing to report.

Members Update

Three potential new members attended the recent playread. All three expressed how much they had enjoyed the evening. One had come from Brighton and said he would explore possibilities there. The other two ladies were interested to become involved but do not have transport. Margaret said that she had not received membership forms from anyone recently. Barbara told us of a youth group that John Gleadall was involved with who meet in Havant, the Dynamo Youth Theatre. This could perhaps be a source of young actors in the future.

Major Production

Last Tango in Whitby

Gill reported that the set had been discussed and she asked Margaret to consider doing the art work involved. Gill will send more detail to her showing what she would like. The store at CFT will need to be visited to see what can be hired from it. Gill does not plan to look for an organ that is mentioned in the script but she has been offered the use of a keyboard if it is required.

Playreads

Blue Heart, two one-act plays by Caryl Churchill will be read on 21st February.
Play reads on 14th March and 25th April TBA.

After reading *The Summer of the 17th Doll* by Ray Lawler, it was felt not to be doable though it is a very good play, perhaps just too Australian for us.

The Cabinet Minister was suggested as a playread but there is not a set available for hire from either NewSPAL or Hants Libraries. We own a set of *Whose Life is it Anyway?* by Brian Clark and copies were given to the committee to see if it would be a suitable one for the members to read. A copy of *The Perfect Murder* by Hugh Janes is being passed round the committee. Some of those who have read it have been enthusiastic about it but not everyone. Some other plays were suggested but nothing further was decided.

AWD 25

Margaret and Pat would be happy to manage this and the committee was pleased to agree. Timing was discussed with an autumn date being the best fit, after the main production. There will be an initial planning meeting in spring and casting will be after the main production has been cast. If that uses a large number of members it will impact on the number of actors involved in AWD and it will make constraints on how many characters the writers can create. It can be particularly relevant if a number of men are taken up with the main production, leaving very few for AWD. Tentative performance dates were 17 and 18 October but this may change when hall bookings are looked at. AWD will need time in the hall before this for tech and dress rehearsals so regular bookings by other groups will need to be considered.

Social Events

A Skittles Evening was discussed but the Barley Mow is now closed. Various other venues were searched for but nothing was resolved.

Newsletter Items

Playreads as above

Bolton Twill 22nd February 2025

AOB

- Barbara produced a very smart briefcase that she had been given as a possible prop. There was some discussion about whether or not it would serve as a stimulus for the AWD writers.
- Margaret mentioned a local writers' group who were looking for two people to perform in their sketches. She will contact FP members who are in the right age group to see if they are interested.

Next Meeting Dates

17th February, 17th March and 14th April