

BRISTOL OLD VIC THEATRE CLUB Minutes of
71st Annual General Meeting Held in the Theatre,
Bristol Old Vic, King Street, Bristol Saturday 11 November
2017 at 10.45am

Over 30 members were present (sufficient for a quorum)

Fran Havard (Chair) welcomed everyone to the 71st AGM of the Theatre Club.
The meeting was preceded by a commemorative minute's silence.

1. Apologies for absence were received from John Luckes, Jane Newton, Pamela Conway-Jones, Gill Mowforth, Ruth Johnson, Frank and Maureen O'Neill, Ray Price, Barry and Sylvia Williamson, Jon Thorne, Pam Welch, Sylvia Matthews, Irene Amor and Eileen Togneri. **2. Minutes of 70th AGM** held on 12th November 2016 and published with the Newsletter were proposed as a correct record by Julia Foxwell and seconded by Barry Moore. The minutes were agreed by all present. **3. Committee Report and questions or comments arising from it**

Those present had been given a table detailing the club's activities over the preceding year. The following committee members delivered elements of the report: Fran Havard (FH) summarised progress on the areas highlighted at the last AGM, and some of the committee's priorities for the next year. She thanked both committee members and many club members for their active involvement in running the club. It was observed that there are vacancies for committee members. Pam Turner (PT) spoke on the membership, noting the need for a focus on recruitment in 2018; Guy Keith-Miller (GKM) spoke of the increased use of emails as well as the monthly newsletter to communicate with members. Andrea Harrington (AH) summarised the range of In Conversations and InHouse Days; Gary Hall (GH) referred to the successful lunches and trips held this year; Alex Turasiewicz (AT) reported on links with theatrical venues including BOV's engagement work; John Bedford (JB) commented on the programme and good relationships with the Theatre School. FH said that Jo McDonald hopes to resume her roles but is currently unwell and in hospital. Good wishes have been sent and we keep in touch with her progress. A summary of the report would be published in the December newsletter. **Questions**

- Martin Parsons observed that parents of the Young Company could be encouraged to join the club.
- Peter Leppard asked where sound recordings of In Conversations would be held. GKM responded that arrangements are being trialled with the intention that recordings will be archived and placed on the Theatre Club website. All guests have a final say in what is held.
- Gary Gostelow proposed a vote of thanks for the committee members, their hard work and what they organise throughout the year. This was supported by the meeting.
- Pauline Peck noted that the Wardrobe Ensemble, the first 'Made in Bristol' cohort established by Bristol Old Vic in 2010, has a Blue Plaque erected in their honour. They received early support from Bristol Old Vic Theatre Club.
- Barry More asked for the current number of club members. PT replied that after a cull of

lapsed members, particularly those who joined around the time of the Lesley Manville/Jeremy Irons offer, the current number of paid up members is 316. Members who do not renew are asked why. The reasons given are varied, but many relate to age and poor health.

- Patrick Roach asked for the age range of members. This inquiry is not made of members but FH observed that the audience age was diverse but many new club members seem to join at the end of their working life.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Gary Hall spoke to the accounts. **Adoption of the Accounts 2016-2017:** the accounts had been circulated. GH explained that unlike 2016, club activities had not been in deficit; and the account was in profit to £307. The accumulated fund is £10,353. Of this £6,000 is a reserve for donations and the remainder is for cash flow/running costs and unforeseen expenses. GH is considering how best to gain interest on this money. Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Patrick Roach, seconded by Val Pearce, and was unanimously agreed. **Annual Subscription from 1st April 2018:** GH on behalf of the committee recommended that subscriptions increase from £18 to £20 per person and from £32 to £34 for joint membership..

- Peter Leppard asked if young person's rate remained static. GH confirmed this (£8).
- Ernie Peck asked if the proposed increase was due to the drop in membership. GH said the membership fee no longer quite covers the cost per person of receiving the Newsletter by post, annually, and with costs rising, the subscription rise is to ensure that the basic cost of newsletters is covered.
- Peter Leppard asked if Gift Aid could apply, or if members could be invited to make a donation on top of their membership fee. GH explained that some voluntary donations are received when members join / renew and are much appreciated. There is currently no Gift Aid facility.
- Peter Leppard stated that the club does not have to be a charity to request Gift Aid. GH said he will investigate if the Theatre Club could benefit under Gift Aid rules.
- Dorothy Stubbs suggested that there should be fewer pages in the Newsletter, to save postage. JB replied that weight is not of concern when using 2nd Class postage.
- Wendy Withers suggested that leaving members could become patrons, for a reduced fee. GH said the committee will consider this suggestion.
- Patrick Roach observed that in the 1970s there were 1,000 members and 26 annual productions. GH said that now a different time with differing attitudes and interests.

• AT noted that Bristol Old Vic will be reintroducing Season Tickets, details awaited. The increase in subscriptions was proposed by Peter Leppard, seconded by Val Pearce and agreed unanimously. **Appointment of Auditor 2017-2018:** David Chalmers was thanked for auditing the accounts for 2016-2017 and recommended to continue as auditor. The appointment was proposal by Arthur Turner, seconded by Bob Havard and agreed unanimously.

5. Nominations for Election to the Committee JB reported that the following committee members were eligible and willing to stand for re-election: Fran Havard and Pam Turner. Ruth Watson and Carol Bryant were also appointed during the year. All had been proposed and seconded. They were all unanimously elected by the meeting.

6. Consideration of any Resolutions received: none 7.

Any Other Business:

- Gary Gostelow appreciated the restyled presentation of the Committee Report and the introduction of the committee's membership.
- Margaret Cartledge suggested the use of a roving mic at the next AGM.
- JB applauded the tremendous amount of work that is put in by Fran Havard to ensure the club's success
- FH reported that a member with restricted mobility is having difficulty in attending Theatre Club events due to the re-positioning of bus stops in the City Centre and has asked for help with lifts to enable her to attend. Ralph Togneri kindly offered to provide transport for the member.

The meeting ended at 11.55am.