

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting on
26th September 2011

COMMITTEE

Richard Wright, Gerald Eyers, Mark Wall, Pauline Perrin, Gordon Scott, Alan Hooley, Sharon Edmonds, Ken Edmonds, Doreen Grant, Elly Milln, Graham Brown, Norman Cowell and The Mayor of Wells

1. **Apologies** Alan Hooley, Gordon Scott,
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** agreed
3. **Matters Arising**
 - Improving pit and orchestra area - **AH** ongoing
 - An Alternative heating system for the dressing room and workshop area - report and estimate from Paul Bartlett, the quote seemed quite expensive, RW to ask another company for quote and MW to look into looking under the floor area at the back to possibly use this space. Agreed priority is a cooling system. **RW ongoing**
 - Bar repainting - organisation of colour and painting then have a look at the blinds. A quote from Ron Thompson for venetian blinds, with tapes, wood finishes £300. **SE, MW Ongoing**
 - Outside bar door repairs - **MW ongoing with Angelo**
 - Smoke curtain - RW has written to Mendip District Council informing them of risk assessment and decision to remove fire safety curtain and seeking consent. Letter received (27 Sept) confirming that we can continue with the alteration i.e. the removal of the Safety Curtain. Volunteers needed.
 - Box Office - report back on Brenda Bly - **NC**
 - offer from CS for additional software to allow for re-sales and returns, agreed
 - PayPal and VAT element of ticket costs - PP clarified situation - The costs associated with PayPal should be recorded as 'office costs' and not be tied to a specific show. Over the next 12 months PP will monitor costs, payments and the use of the credit card machine.
 - Production teams producing a show budget should be encouraged to fit the price of the show tickets to the expected audience.
 - Other 'teething' issues such as the speed of ticket provision on show nights, and the warning that online tickets must be printed, were discussed. RW to write to **CS**.
 - Paper for the billboards - **GE** (**AH** has reported that Thales did supply 2 x AO (@ nil cost) posters which seemed to do the job admirably **AH** is willing to contract them if we want them to supply for the Panto. **GE** has also research poster materials and printing. It was agreed to try an online company for Robin Hood. **GE** to produce artwork. MW to arrange for the outside boards to be remade / repaired.
 - Purchase of new rehearsal piano - **GE & Sheila Ross ongoing**
 - Lighting desk and window replacement - MW has a quote 4' wide x 3' high £240+VAT agreed to go ahead, **MW to arrange with GB**
 - DVD show recordings - **RW** has written to Tony Moon to inform him of the Committee decision to abandon video recording of future shows for the time being. **Done**
4. **Correspondence**
 - **AH** has written to report a complaint by Peter Ross about the programme for Brenda Bly which did not credit him as sound effects man. This was discussed. It was agreed that this was an unfortunate mistake, and not for the first time. It was agreed that the director and producer for each show must check carefully the procedures we have detailed in the guidelines.

Cast or crew who are not available to check their own entry should make this known to the producer.

Everyone agreed that the quality of the programme was excellent (well done Sarah Kendall)

- AH Photographs for shows. AH was disappointed with the limited photos produced for Brenda Bly. Our previous photographer is now not available. GE to talk to Lisa Willetts to see if she is happy to deal with the photos for Robin Hood. Anyone who knows of someone else who might be interested please get in contact with the committee.

5. Treasurer's Report - PP

- Brenda Bly has made about £500 profit. This might be adjusted because there have been some problems with scores returned and no deposits taken.

6. Membership

- New Members - Cosmo Thelwall - Ordinary Membership, agreed
- New Members - Poppy McCarthy - Ordinary Membership, agreed
- Patrons - **EM** has written to all and sent the latest trifold
- Dinner Dance date now confirmed as Friday 25th May. 7pm for 7.30 start, formal dress code, possibly buffet meal, possibly subsidised, keep speeches to a minimum, final details to be agreed next meeting.
- AGM - Friday 11th May.
- Child protection update - for January, SCC have increased some of the paperwork (photos and references) involved in the procedure. **DG** has been keeping up to date with this and will give support and guidance.

7. Publicity

- Mailing list card - **KE** ongoing
- Sponsorship options - **RW & KE** have considered this and have suggested a two-tier system. The first option is for sole sponsorship at £500 and the second option is for an association at £300. All agreed. Copies of the options to be placed in the handbook and on the website, **RW to ask CS**
- Banner- ask if we can be supported / sponsored by H W Signs - **KE**

8. Theatre Renovations

- Solar panels - **GS** ongoing
- Annual Car Park clear up 30 October - **RW** to remind membership

9. Production/trifold/hire

- **Robin Hood** - 10-17 Dec 2011 written by Vicky Orman, Director - **Tina Evers**, MD - **Sheila Ross**, Choreographer - **Kim Fisher** (adults) **Ella Upham** (children) SM - **Charlie Watkins**, ASM - **Catherine Tucker**, Lighting - **Graham Brown**, Sound - **Pete Ross**, Make-up - **Helen & Julie Makin**, Producer - **GE**, Prompt - **Sue Scott**, Costumes - **Sarah Briton & co**, Rehearsal schedule done, Budget done, Ticket Price is £9 & £7
- **Feb 2012 Two one act plays - February 23 to 25 2012 - MW & DG** directing, titles and team to be arranged. Budget? Rehearsal Schedule? First Reading October 3rd, **Producer? SM? Sound? Lights?, ticket price tba**
- **The Sound of Music 16-21 April 2012** Director - **Gill Kerton**, MD - **Darren Kerton** - Choreographer - **Kim Fisher**, Producer - **Vicky Orman and Katy Biggs**, SM - **Chris Spray**, Set design/ASM - **Catherine Tucker**, Programme and Publicity - **Katy Biggs and Mark O'Callaghan**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway, Leslie Roach and Sophie Kerton**, Lighting - **Adam Killey and Rob Rogers**, Props - **?**, Prompt - **?**, Rehearsal schedule TBA, Budget TBA, Ticket price £12 and £9? tba, no concessions Friday and Saturday. It was agreed to audition the full cast. prompt - **Sue Kerton**

- **The Wiz - Youth Theatre Production** - 6-9th June 2012. Director **Sarah Neale**. Ass Dir - DG, SM- MW, Other details to follow.
- **4-7th July 2012** - play. Lois Harbinson will direct if nobody else comes forward. Other details to follow.
- **A Little Night Music Sept 5 to 8 2012** - Director **Lois Harbinson**, MD -**Sheila Ross**, Producer - ?. Other details to follow.
- **Play?** 24th-27th October 2010 any volunteers?
- **Panto - December 15 to 22 2012**. Anyone interested? Possibly **RW** any volunteers?
- **Spring 2016** - Ken Edmonds has suggested that we consider 'Kiss Me Kate' as this is the 400th year after Shakespeare's death. Other Shakespeare productions might also be considered for this year. **Ongoing.**

10. Training

Music workshops on 20th November all day see Anne Beechey for details.

11. Show Reviews

- Brenda Bly. **AH** reports happy cast and crew and a good audience response although a disappointing audience turnout at about 54%. He suggests discussing further the possibility of flexible charging. (see 3 Box Office above) MW (and others) very good and enjoyed the evening, some comments about sound balance. Some speed of delivery and projection difficult to follow, often difficult with American accent. Good performances. GE Everyone was clearly working really hard well done!
- Madness of George III with David Hague, Bath Theatre Royal very funny excellent, manic, RW
- The Opposite Sex by David Tristram, Red Line Theatre Company, (on tour) Strode Theatre hilarious adult comedy MW

12. Any other Business

- Concerns that there were too many non-membership cars in the car park. All members are asked to display their parking permit, and park efficiently. (from Hotbox)
- Please look after your parking permits GE has had to replace quite a number this year.
- After rehearsals would glasses and rubbish please be cleared away? Please wash up after rehearsals. (from Hotbox)
- The car park tree is under constant observation, we are very aware of the problems it causes. (from Hotbox)
- Emergency lighting in bar & emergency exit in auditorium by wheelchair exit, both have stopped working. MW to investigate

13. Date of Next Meeting - CHANGED TO

Monday 31st October then Monday 28th November 2011