

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting held on
28 November 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

Richard opened the meeting by presenting Gordon Scott with his 25 years NODA award and wishing him well for the future - we will miss him very much

1. **Apologies** from Elly Milln, Gerald Eyers
Alan Hooley
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** - approved
3. **Matters Arising**
 - Improving pit and orchestra area - **AH - on-going**
 - Alternative heating system - a second meeting with Wheelers has taken place with MW present and time was spent examining possibilities. If the air conditioning is put underneath the seats at the back there is no definite guarantee that it would reach the front rows but this may not be a major barrier. Putting it into the ceiling along with heating would be a very big job. A more detailed estimate will arrive shortly - **RW**
 - Bar repainting and consideration of change of curtains to blinds - We decided that we will look at this again in the New Year once a colour scheme has been decided. **SE and MW**
 - Outside bar door repairs - on-going **MW**
 - Smoke curtain - **RW** contacted Dave Papworth for removal after Christmas but **GB** has removed it at the request of **GE**.
 - Box Office - ticket exchanges and refunds are possible within the system and **CS** is including sponsorship information on website - There has been one glitch in the exchanges and refund and **NC** will bring this to the attention of **CS**. There were some concerns about the online booking being open at midnight on the night before the first public booking day. The committee decided that in future the first online booking session should be at 2p.m. after the box office closes to the public for the first time. **RW** will relay this to **CS** The first Saturday booking went well this year. The committee need to discuss at a future meeting our policy on exchanges and refunds. **RW**
 - Billboards to be made to fit online posters - **MW** suggested we need posters a size up next time and have a border round it.
 - Purchase of new rehearsal piano - this is fairly urgent as the one in the rehearsal room is not working - On-going **GE & Sheila Ross**
 - Lighting desk and window replacement - On-going - **MW & GB**
 - Photographs for shows - on-going **GE**

- Emergency Lighting in Bar and Emergency Exit in auditorium by wheelchair exit - this needs sorting out before the show - **MW**
- Online subs payments and car park tickets - RW has checked with Chris Spray who confirms this can be done - in hand
- Youth Theatre - GE has written to Sarah asking for confirmation that the Youth Theatre will be going ahead, but has not had a reply. Concerns that parents are ringing up asking how to put their child's name on the waiting list and then ringing back to say they haven't heard anything. Suggestion that we put a message on the website saying the list is closed at the moment. If the Youth Theatre folds we need to consider as a committee how we can encourage young members - possible one off workshops run by us **RW**

4. Correspondence

- Request from Lucy Plant for the loan of the car from Brenda Bly - we think this was broken up after the show but Lucy has Dave Papworth's number
- RW has written to the Police concerning uninvited visitors to car park - no reply received yet
- Request from Sarah Briton to run sewing workshops at the Theatre after Christmas - **RW** to tell **SB** she will have to formally book the rehearsal room but it will be free of charge

5. Treasurer's Report - PP

- **PP** asked if she could sell the small amount of shares we hold with Barclay's Bank - this was agreed
- **GS** handed over his keys to **PP**

6. Membership

- New Members - no new members this evening - **DG** has two in hand - one with a form and no cash and one with cash and no form
- Patrons - **EM** - Letter received from **EM** letting us know that regretfully she is unable to continue in this post. **RW** to email members to ask if anyone would consider taking this on
- Patrons - Approach by John Lover, President of Wells Rotary, wishing to show support for the Theatre as Friends or in some other appropriate way. RW discussed the possibility of a block patrons membership with him, and said Committee would discuss this as one way forward. The Committee agreed with this in principle - possibly call this a 'corporate or associate patron' **RW** will meet with **PP** to discuss money and take this forward
- AGM and Dinner Dance dates and arrangements - 25 May 7pm for 7.30pm start, formal dress code, possibly buffet meal, possibly subsidised, keep speeches to a minimum, final details to be considered - nothing to add - **AH**
- AGM Friday 11 May 2012 - nothing to add
- Youth Theatre - Sarah has confirmed that she will not be able to do The Wiz next year but she is hoping to run the Youth Theatre on the usual monthly arrangement - discussed in matters arising

- Carnival Curry - a very successful evening with about 70 people attending. RW to discuss with Alan whether he needs more support from Committee on this evening. There is also some concerns that people brought extra people on the night so should we consider tickets for next year? Another concern was that people didn't pay promptly on the night and Alan had to chase this up. **AH**
- Show Launch & Mulled Wine Evening - Wednesday 21 December - nothing to add
- There is a gap in our system between collecting membership fees and entering data on the website and issuing cards - PP confirmed that she is happy to take this on by herself so it just goes through one person. **PP**

7. Publicity

- Mailing list card - in hand - **KE**
- Banner - possible sponsorship by H W Signs - on-going - **KE**
- Programme Advertising - arrangements and invoicing - on-going - **KE**
- **KE** will book banner slots in the New Year

8. Theatre Renovations

- Downpipe - in hand **MW**
- Light in workshop has started working again after **GB** changed the bulb!! **GB** will look at costs for putting lights in some of the dark corners- **GB**
- Stage Halogen Light needs replacing - done by **GB**
- Code Lock on Front Door and remove crash bar - on-going - **MW**

9. Production/trifold/hire

- **Robin Hood** - 10-17 Dec 2011 written by Vicky Orman, Director - **Tina Eyers**, 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** The Last Bread Pudding & Last Tango in Little Grimley - **February 23 to 25 2012** - **MW & DG** directing, titles and team to be arranged. Budget - DG will send to **GE** and **RW** Rehearsal Schedule - in hand - Producer **DG MW**, SM ?, Sound ?, Lights **GB**, Ticket price £6 across the board
- **The Sound of Music 16-21 April 2012** Director - **Gill Kerton**, MD - **Darren Kerton** - Choreographer - **Kim Fisher**, Producer - **Vicky Orman**, SM - **Chris Spray**, Set design/ASM - **Catherine Tucker**, Programme and Publicity - **Katy Biggs and Mark O'Callaghan**, Costumes - **Kate Hathway**, **Leslie Roach & Sophie Kerton**, Lighting - **Adam Killey and Rob Rogers**, Props - ?, Prompt - **Sue Kerton**, Rehearsal schedule TBA, Budget TBA, Ticket price £12 and £9 TBA, no concessions Friday and Saturday. The full cast to be auditioned.

- **Youth Theatre Production - June 2012 - The Wiz.** This production has been postponed but Sarah Neale wishes to take this on as soon as her health will allow.
- **Animal Farm - July 4-7 2012** Director - **Lois Harbinson**, Producer - ?, SM and set design - **Catherine Tucker**, Programme and publicity - ?, Costumes - ?, Lighting - **GB ? ?**, Props - ?, Prompt -?, Rehearsal schedule **TBA**, Budget **TBA**, Ticket price **TBA**. **RW** to send out email to ask if anyone would take on the producer role as it is important this is in place
- **A Little Night Music Sept 5-8 2012 -** Director **Lois Harbinson**, MD -**Sheila Ross**, Producer - ?. Programme and publicity - ?, Costumes - ?, Lighting - **GB?**, Props - ?, Prompt - ?, Rehearsal schedule **TBA**, Budget **TBA**, Ticket price **TBA**.
- **Panto - December 15-22 2012.** Anyone interested? **RW** will direct if no-one else comes forward.
- **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.**
- **MW** reminded us that we need to start thinking about the Spring 2013 production
- **GS** reminded us that someone needs to take over the liaison with Bristol Old Vic for their tour date - **RW** agreed to do this and **GS** handed over file - **GS** will email his contact and copy **RW** in

10. Training

- Mamma Mia Music Workshop - hearsay is that this was a very successful day - **RW** to send a letter to Anne Beechey to thank her for organising this. As many of the people attending this were non-members we should have considered two-tier pricing system

11. Show Reviews

- **Brassed Off - Street Theatre** GE KE DG - it worked well on stage with good set
- **End of the Rainbow** GS MW - story of Judy Garland in her final years - excellent show, deep and sad, lead was brilliant
- **Hard Times Tobacco Factory** GS followed by a revue - 'What the Dickens'- very enjoyable
- **Midsummer Night's Dream - Tobacco Factory** GS - brilliant
- **Me and My Girl - Edington - KE** - acting by leads was good - too much furniture on stage

12. Any other Business

- Thales printing and costs
- The safe in the Bar has failed - Peter Beechey has looked at this and believes there is a circuit board fault. He comments that it is hardly worth getting it repaired since these safes are very reasonably priced - **MW** has already purchased a new safe and is waiting to fit it when he gets the master key to take the other one out

- Cover for Gerald on Saturday 3rd December (f.o.h. for Jazz night)- RW will e-mail to ask if someone else can cover this.
- Sandie will be on holiday and won't be cleaning this week - DG to contact Ella to ask her to make sure that the bar area and toilets are ok after the children have been in on Sunday in preparation for the Jazz Night on Saturday
- GB told us a lighting strip is missing from the cupboard in the foyer (GS has since found this)
- GB - we need to discuss how we manage to up voltage in the theatre for LED lights
- Little Theatre Guild contacted us to ask if we wanted to become members but we did not feel they were offering anything more than NODA
- It has been reported that on occasions during shows Marcel has been the last one to leave the theatre - be mindful of this during Panto

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9 January 2012

Meeting finished at 10.p.m