

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting on
Monday 18th April 2016 at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE

Chris Briton (chair), Gerald Eyers, Richard Wright, Pauline Perrin, Ken Edmonds, Alisa Creaser, Graham Brown, Lyn Jones, Sharon Edmonds, Mike Scammell, Dave Collyer

Apologies – Dave Collyer, Sharon Edmonds,

Welcome to Mike Scammell.

1. Minutes of the last meeting – agreed

2. Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting and AGM –

- a. Future shows – Lois Harbinson is keen to direct *Hot Mikado* but is not available next spring. Sheila Ross is happy to MD most shows – but not Oklahoma! Nothing else in the pipeline at the moment. -

AC

- b. Hire arrangements – prices, organisation, use of website – **GE**

At the moment we only advertise our own productions on the website. It was agreed that other hirings can be advertised provided that there is a clear link from our website to the appropriate site to purchase tickets. GE to contact Chris Spray about adding outside shows. Agreed it will not be possible to sell tickets or use the card machine for other ‘outside’ productions / hirings. PP is going to look into the use of the Wi-Fi to check security and compliance. Changes to the hire charges are shown below, these will be agreed at the next meeting, ready for January 1st 2017.

Little Theatre charges		from 01/01/2017	
			20%VAT
Auditorium & Stage for Show	per day	£185.00	£222.00
Comedy Club	Evening 6.30-11pm	£150.00	£180.00
Auditorium & Stage for Rehearsal	per day	£145.00	£174.00
Auditorium only	per day	£125.00	£150.00
Rehearsal Room	per hour	£10.00	£12.00
Bar	per hour	£10.00	£12.00
Bar Performance	per session - am/pm/ev	£50.00	£60.00
Annual Parking	per year	£360.00	£432.00
1/2 Page Advert	per production	£30.00	£36.00
1/4 Page Advert	per production	£20.00	£24.00
Summer School	per day	£150.00	£180.00
Funeral Auditorium etc	per day	£120.00	£144.00
Coffee machine	£20 Filter 10p Coffee 80p		

- c. Open Day and recruitment. Agreed that we should plan for an open day this summer. **Sat 16th July 2pm-6pm**, tours, tea, cake and choir. GE to talk to Teresa Barlow (Liberty Choir) and get a group together to organise the event.

3. Correspondence

- a. Cllr. Alison Gibson – The Mayor Elect. Contacted GE to ask if we were happy to be one of her Mayoral Charities. This will involve some support at events throughout the year. Agreed, with many thanks. CB and RW to arrange ‘display’ for use at Mayor Making. GE to contact Alison.

- b. Question from the public over the bar opening times as shown behind the bar. **RW** has clarified that. *'Both the theatre licence and the normal licence hours are covered in the same notice. All theatrical events (whether WOS or someone else) are also covered by the theatrical licence (ie the bar can be open one hour before and one hour after the event).'*
- c. Ben Williams (Long Paws Comedy Club) is making arrangements this year's **Wells Comedy Festival**, (June 3-5). Agreed that an outside publican (with the necessary personal licence, to be checked by RW) will run the bar for some sessions. We will cover the rest (Friday night, and Saturday from 7.30). The shows are planned to run Fri. 7.30pm with an interval, then Saturday and Sunday hour-long solo shows at 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm and 9.30pm. The visiting bar would have access to the bar store over the Saturday night. They would use the rehearsal room to sell drink.

They also asked if they can use our Wi-Fi to sell and check (QR SCAN) tickets etc (GE asked Chris Spray who said it should not be a problem, PP is checking the compliance regulations).

- d. *Letter from Sid Michelmores. As a Wells resident, musician and Theatre goer, I want to see the Little Theatre in Wells thrive. I also run a stewarding team at Glastonbury Festival which raises funds for a variety of local and not so local charities. I know you are fundraising at the moment for improvements to the theatre including an orchestra pit. I have some funds left over from last year's Festival and would like to make a donation to the Wells Little Theatre.'* **PP** to write to thank him for the £1400 donation.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Box Office – the public have asked if show of their ticket on their smart phone is enough to prove ticket purchase, i.e. do they actually need to print the ticket? – It was agreed that this is acceptable.
- b. Inspector Drake – takings - £3292.70, expenses £1776.80 profit £1515.90 this is slightly below target due to low box office numbers. The show budget was for 70% but it only achieved 59%.
- c. Dinner Dance broke even.
- d. Accounts – the accountants highlighted that we did not make so much profit in the bar last year, we should have a look at prices. No 5p please. **PP** and **MS** to produce a new price list.

5. Membership

- a. New members – Danielle Clark, Michael Williamson, Paula Jane Pimblott – all Ordinary agreed
- b. Dinner Dance – Saturday 27th Feb 2016, review – A really good evening in terms of numbers, venue and times. Some questions over the menu. We will probably look to return again next year.
- c. AGM – CS went to see Jeanne Clogg (and John) and awarded her with her 60 year award. Jeanne really appreciated it and had a lovely day. GE went to see Marcel and presented him with his 65year pin and Roy Beavan Award. Next year's AGM set for **Friday 24th March 2017**.

6. Publicity

- a. Programme printing for Inspector Drake was through *stressfreeprint.co.uk* – this worked well and trying again for planet. **KE**
- b. The possibility of putting fliers into the journal was discussed. Cost is about £50 per 1000 distribution (total Journal distribution about 3000) £25 extra print. Could be that £250 will put a A5 publicity flier into every Wells Journal - Maybe have a look at it? RW to investigate for Twelfth Night. **KE**

7. Theatre Renovations

- a. The Stage and Pit Project. – update – **RW /DC**. The application to the Arts Council was submitted on 19 March 2016 – should hear by July 1st 2016 - ongoing

- b. Bar lighting and music system. **GB** ongoing
- c. Rostrum to go in Bar, this will go ahead in January. **GB** ongoing
- d. The Tree. Update. **RW**. Hopefully this week. – (Done on Tuesday 19th April)
- e. Dishwasher seems to have an intermittent fault. MS was looking into this. Agreed to get a like for like replacement at the price of £900. (The new glass washer arrived 26th April, and Angelo and MS to install.)
- f. Dressing room lighting fault. **GE** – Angelo and Chris Spray tracked the problem and sorted it.
- g. We had a small flood at both ends of the central gully. Mark Wall spotted it and has cleared the blockages, but we need to arrange for the other gutters and downpipes to be checked and cleared. Agreed to ask Mark to have a look and make recommendations. **GE**

8. Productions/Trifold/Hire

- **March 9th – 12th 2016 – *Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime*** – review - great very popular. We should do more like this. Well done to all involved.
- **Spring Show 16th-21st May 2016 – *Return to the Forbidden Planet***. Director - **Lois Harbinson**, MD - **Sheila Ross**, Producer - **GB**, Choreography - **Eden Simpson**, SM – **Graham Brown**, Set Design – **Catherine Tucker**, Lighting – **Pete Ross**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Costumes - **Louise Baker**, Properties – **Lesley Ricketts**, Prompt – **Freda Brown**, Posters and programme – **Katy Biggs**, Photographs and Videos – **Adam Lanfranchi**, Budget – **done**, Ticket Price – **£12 & £10 no concessions Fri or Sat**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed**
- **June 7th BOVTS – *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*** **GB** in charge, ticket price **£10 & £8**
- **September 21st - 24th 2016 - *Twelfth Night***, Director – **RW**, Choreography – **Tina Eyers**, SM – **Charlie Watkins**, props - **Pat Watkins**, Lighting - **GB**, Costumes – **Louise Baker**, Prompt – **Freda Brown**, Budget – **agreed**, Ticket Price – **£12 & £10**, Rehearsal schedule – **agreed**
- **December 10th - 17th 2016 – *Jack and the Beanstalk*** – Director - **Sharon Edmonds**, Writer and Producer – **Vicky Orman**. MD - **Sheila Ross**, Adult and Children’s Choreographer – **Julie Webster**, Stage Manager – **Charlie Watkins**, Lighting - **GB**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Props – **?**, Budget – **tba**, Ticket Price – **tba**, Rehearsal schedule – **tba**
- **March 2017 – Any Ideas?** All suggestions to **AC** for the reading group to look at.
- **May 2017 – Any Ideas?** All suggestions to **AC** for the reading group to look at.
- **September 2017 Any Ideas?** All suggestions to **AC** for the reading group to look at.
- **Pantomime 2017 - Director** - Ken Edmonds, Vicky to write it!

9. Training

DC - to look into Charity Commission training. **Ongoing**

PP - to contact accountants – financial information training – to be arranged

10. Show Reviews

- One Man Two Guvnors – Merriman Theatre Group, Midsomer Norton. Really good, a funny play that we could do. -**GE**
- Legally Blond at WSM, a good show, they seems to have a number of talent ‘brought in’ for the show. – **AC**
- The Importance of Being Earnest, Wedmore, good, but some cross-gender casting was odd. –**KE**,

11. Any Other Business

- a. Wells in Bloom hanging baskets £42 each, supplied and maintained by Browns Garden Centre. Agreed to get 4 this year
- b. Lock on the back door need fixing – **RW**. **GB** to ask Angelo
- c. The invitation to ‘join us on our Friday social evening’ needs to be taken off the website. **GE** to ask Chris Spray
- d. PAT testing – **MS** asked if this could be added to the next agenda.

12. Date of next meeting – Monday 23rd May then Monday 27th June