



Agenda

Date: Monday 1st July 2019
Time: 8 pm
Venue: OLEM Catholic Church, (music room)

- 1 APOLOGIES
- 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
- 3 MATTERS ARISING
- 4 REPORTS
 - i Chairman's Address
 - ii Business Manager's Report
 - iii Publicity
 - iv Accounts
- 5 SUBSCRIPTIONS
- 6 MARTIN STEELE AWARD
- 7 PRESIDENCY
- 8 ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS



Minutes

Date: Wednesday 1 August 2018

Time: 8 pm

Venue: OLEM

Present: Madeline Harmer (Chair), Jo Grantham (Acting Secretary), Chip Colquhoun, DeeDee Doke, Laura Roberts, Megan Stickler, David Bone, Dave Brown, Jan Brown, Carol Bye, Graham Bye, Gerry Crowe, Emily Garner, Helen Garner, Tom Greenhalgh, Rachel Harris-Bye, Kate Harvey, Emma Harpley, Rosemary Jolley, Lucy Rycroft-Smith, Molly Stevenson, Bryony Sullivan, Andrew Taylor, Caroline Taylor, Pippa Taylor, Kate Webster, Leslie Wheeler

10 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the following in advance of the meeting: Chris Bright, Anna Brown, Steve Doke, Alan Fitzgerald, Marshall Patten, Tommy Thomas, Linda Thomas, Hannah Veja, Caroline Wilson

11 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was pointed out that not all members had received the AGM information. Megan replied that if members had not replied to the DGP email their names and contact details would have been removed.

Madeline suggested the Minutes were a true account of the meeting, and Chip Colquhoun proposed accepting the Minutes, seconded by Megan Stickler. The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved

12 MATTERS ARISING

Andrew mentioned that there was a cost of £400 for scores that had not been returned, but he would cover this during his report.

There were no other matters arising

13 REPORTS

i) Chairman's Address

Madeline read her address, as follows:

Dear Members,

I would like to thank you all for coming tonight and for showing interest in the running of the club - your club. Pied Pipers was formed in 1951, so has a 67 year old history of entertaining Cambridge audiences. If anyone is interested later, I have with me a copy of a commemorative book that was compiled in 2001 to celebrate it's 50th Anniversary. There are some fabulous photos and you may even recognise 'long standing' members who are here tonight!

This has been my first year as Chair and it has been a privilege to work alongside an amazing Committee who have all, without exception, worked their socks off to stage 'Anything Goes' and to plan next year's programme. It has been a challenging year as our group, in common with Festival Players, had to relocate to the Mumford due to the ADC being closed for refurbishment. We also had to accept a June slot, rather than our usual April one as that was all the theatre could offer. Despite the tremendous efforts of our Publicity team, we did not achieve the box office that we hoped for, and would normally expect with a show like 'Anything Goes'. The different theatre, time of year (coinciding with the World Cup and 30*+ temperatures) and being 'sandwiched' between two other great shows - 'Cats' and 'Sweet Charity', contributed towards this.

Despite there being three good shows within six weeks, with the concomitant competition for creatives, performers and crew, our club was lucky to have the combined experience and energies of Bryony Sullivan, Andrew Taylor and Helen Garner to steer the ship. No excuses for the nautical pun! I would like to offer them the committee's sincere thanks. Not only did they produce a great show, as our audiences and critics acclaimed but, equally importantly, the cast had a great time. A very long experienced member, who has performed with various groups in dozens of shows over the years, told me that he had never experienced such a warm atmosphere and cast camaraderie before. It's a lovely thing to hear as we have always prided ourselves on being a friendly and welcoming group, and this is important to us.

I would also like to thank our Penguin crew, headed up by Ian Bruno, for managing the stage. Trying to thank everyone by name is always a risk, for obvious reasons, but I would like to especially thank Sarah DeBoys, who could be seen painting scenery with William, her baby, strapped to her! Sincere thanks also to our amazing wardrobe mistress, Carol Bye, and her team, for yet another spectacle.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the cast for choosing to perform with us and for dedicating so much time and energy into making the show the success that it was. We had a great mix of regular performers and of new ones, and I sincerely hope that you will all choose to perform with us again. I will return to what opportunities the club will be offering in 2019 when I announce next year's programme at the end of our agenda.

I would now like to give sincere thanks to Hannah, DeeDee and Chip for all their hard work for the club. Hannah has been endlessly supportive and patient with my lack of techno knowledge and has 'nursed' me through various hiccups. DeeDee, assisted by Steve has revolutionised the way Publicity is approached and has worked diligently to maintain a smart website. And Chip- well, where to start! Chip has been

a great Business Manager and his departure from that role will be the club's loss. He brings so much energy and enthusiasm to everything he does. I only need to give you one example of how Chip goes over and above. He played Billy, the leading man in 'Anything Goes', a huge role. He then devised and gave the 'awards' after the last performance and drove the van containing scenery and props that same night, then did another run the following Tuesday. It would be hard to see how the theatre would have been cleared without his efforts and I thank you sincerely Chip.

Now to welcome your new Committee. I can tell you now that an incredibly exciting and challenging year lies ahead, which will require every member to work extra hard. For the observant, earlier I referred to next year's 'programme', rather than next year's show and, for the first time within my experience, we plan to stage two full shows-both at the ADC theatre. In April, the show will be Green Day's American Idiot. This punk rock musical collected a Grammy and two Tony awards. This show is quite a different venture for Pied Pipers, but it's good to 'shake the tree', and this choice should appeal to young performers and audiences.

Another first for next year is that our September show will run for two weeks. The reason - we got the licence for 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang! Amateurs are being allowed to perform the show for one year only, so we feel thrilled to be chosen to stage it in Cambridge.

We will be inviting applications for the Creative Team for both shows very shortly.

ii) Business Manager's Report

Chip informed the meeting that he had done both shows on Saturday on 1 hour's sleep as his father had been rushed into hospital. He added that he had been Acting Chair for the Committee as no-one else had wanted the position, but he had not found this too onerous with help from the Committee. Chip pointed out that the Business Manager had a lot to do for Anything Goes, so he found that the position was very similar to the previous year. He thanked Ian Bruno who had done so much to make the show happen technically and had approached the Festival Players' team to use some of their set. Chip also offered thanks to the Mumford Theatre staff who were very accommodating, especially Glen, the technical person, who had a lot to deal with, especially the neighbours and the get out. Chip added that a lot of work had gone into minimising the cost of the show and everyone who came to see the show only had good comments to make, which seems to have been the same for both cast and crew. Chip told the meeting that they should all be commended as they helped to make this happen.

iii) Director's Report

Bryony first thanked the Committee for taking a bit of a risk with her. She added that she has a lot of experience with choreography and was encouraged to apply as Director for Anything Goes, and she thanked these people for their support. Bryony said how grateful she was to have her mother Helen and Andrew who have so much experience, and if she had any problems or concerns, they were available to reassure her. She found the positive feedback from the cast very encouraging, and had been very pleased to see so many new faces in the cast.

iv) Publicity

DeeDee delivered her report as follows:

Anything Goes printing costs:

- 275 programmes, £320.00
- Four A2 posters, for use at Mumford Theatre, £18.00
- 50 A3 posters. £19.50
- 175 A4 posters, £31.50
- 300 A5 handbills (including c150 for 'Combinations') £18.00
- 500 A6 postcards (double-sided) £36,80

Poster distribution through Cambridge City Council Distribution Service, £115.00

Paid coverage:

- Festival Players programme, £40
- 'Combinations' £12
- Facebook boosts and advertising £46.15

Outlets providing free coverage:

- Twitter
- Facebook
- 'Combinations' for auditions, show announcement and post-show coverage
- Encore Radio
- Star Radio
- BBC Radio Cambridgeshire
- NODA web site
- AmDram web site
- VisitCambridge.org
- Various listings sites throughout Cambridge and East Anglia

NOTE: fewer 'premium' outlets published material this year in comparison to the outlets that took up both 'Singin' in the Rain' and 'The Full Monty'.

What do we know about ticket buyers from the Mumford Theatre?

- 45.3% of ticket buyers responded to questions about how they had found out about the show
- 53.6% of respondents to the survey heard about the show through work of mouth; this does not include the multiple respondents who said they had heard about it through having a family member or friend involved, etc
- 7.1% said they heard about it through Facebook
- 7.1% also said they heard about it through the Mumford Theatre website
- 4.8% said they heard about it through the Mumford's brochure
- 4.2% said they heard about it through leaflets
- 4.2% also said they heard about it through posters
- 3.6% said they heard about it through Mumford emails

The other answers reflect various broadcast outlets and the 'word of mouth' offshoots with different wording.

This is good to know but remember that fewer than half of the number of people attending responded to the questions.

Rosemary asked if the Council charge a lot to which DeeDee replied that they do, but added that actors do not want to spend their off time going out to put up posters, although some will as they feel it is worthwhile.

v) Accounts

Andrew circulated a copy of the club accounts for the 2017-2018 year at the meeting, and a copy has been filed with these minutes. Andrew pointed out the £400 for non-returned scores. Andrew also informed the meeting that Carol continues to do a tremendous job with the hiring of costumes, especially Beauty and the Beast which are still being sent out, and also thanked Pippa for her help with the administration.

Caroline asked the cost of the hire of microphones, to which Andrew replied that they cost approximately £350.

Caroline mentioned that Publicity seems to be expensive and asked about securing sponsorship for advertisements which had been mentioned previously. Chip replied that we publicise to get people to audition, which is not normally included in the publicity budget, and felt that more needed to be invested to make it a separate budget and not part of the production budget.

Caroline wanted to know if people are asked where they heard about auditions, to which Chip replied that this information was collected. Madeline said that she and Megan had been meeting and greeting at auditions, and Bryony added that this question was put on the audition form. Madeline informed the meeting that the Committee will need to draw on this information, and Chip replied that he will pass it on to the Committee.

Helen said that she would have taken out an advert in the programme if it had been available and suggested a broader view of social media should be considered and other platforms to reach other audiences. DeeDee pointed out that with social media there is a tendency to only talk to people we know, and suggested that as the Club goes forward, the challenge will be to reach people we do not know.

Leslie suggested billboards at Tesco and hotel foyers. DeeDee replied that hotels and schools are on the Council distribution list, and that pubs and restaurants are also a good starting point.

Bryony informed the meeting that other committees have set up a publicity sub-committee and thought this might be something Pied Pipers might want to consider.

Caroline suggested that it might have made a difference to ticket sales if it had been possible to let people know that the Mumford Theatre now has air conditioning. DeeDee mentioned that ticket sales in the last week doubled.

Lucy suggested some sort of public performance in Cambridge, for example the Grand Arcade. Madeline replied that permission is required and it is phenomenal. Lucy then suggested some promotional activities between shows. Laura asked if anyone else has any other suggestions to please pass them on the Committee.

Madeline felt that she had to draw this section to a close but thanked everyone for their thoughts.

14 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Madeline informed the meeting that subscriptions have always been £10 and the outgoing Committee sees no reason to increase these, so they will remain at the current amount.

15 MARTIN STEELE AWARD

Madeline asked David Brown to briefly give the background to how this Award came to be.

David said that Martin joined the Pied Pipers in 1983 and was a very friendly student at St Catharine's College, who became the Club's Secretary. He was very sadly killed in a car crash, and his parents wrote to the Club to ask if there was any memorabilia we could send them. Someone had videoed 'Half a Sixpence' which was sent to his parents in Devon. They were so overwhelmed that they sent £150 to the Club funds; as this was a reasonable amount, the Committee decided not to just pay it into the bank but to set up the Martin Steele Award, created by a wood worker in Northampton, and would be presented to someone people who have made a significant contribution to the Club during the year. David added that, about two years later, Martin's sister was also killed in a car crash in South Africa.

Madeline thanked David.

Andrew added that the Award is for someone who made a significant contribution, sometimes backstage, sometimes for general worthiness, as is the case for this year's recipient. Madeline informed the meeting that it was her pleasure to present the Award this year to Bryony.

Madeline added that the Committee had decided that she made a fabulous job of directing, but she put so much into it, pregnancy and high temperatures notwithstanding, and she has been a member of the Club for a long time.

16 PRESIDENCY

Madeline informed the meeting that the current President is Marshall Patten, who has sent his apologies. The Committee has asked him to stay on for a further year, as he has been an excellent President, coming to one of the rehearsals and speaking to cast members. Marshall sent an address, which Madeline read, as follows:

Madeline has been kind enough to read my thoughts to you. As President of the Pied Pipers I should, and would, have been at the AGM, but as it has been delayed from June because of the production of Anything Goes, my presence is not to be as I am on holiday.

When asked if I would like to become President of the Club, I was quite humbled and also very proud. The Pied Pipers has been in operation for many years, 57 I believe, and started in 1961.

I joined in 1982 and have never regretted it, as I have had so many good times during rehearsals and first nights. The camaraderie that has been created by the current Committee is second to none and we must keep this going.

It has long been my belief that 'superstars' have to start somewhere, so it is essential that we attract younger actors into our Club, so that we have a continuing development. I ask you all to look out for younger people you believe can develop and ask them to join our Club.

We all know that 2018 was going to be awkward as the ADC was not available and the choice of theatre was limited, and other companies were in front of the queue with good shows. However, we presented a great show. I would like personally to

thank all those involved – Costumes, Backstage, production and choreographers for a wonderful effort. The organisation of the production was second to none, and for this I would like to thank the Committee and their Chairperson Madeline for their efforts.

I have been asked to continue as President and feel honoured to do so. So thank you for the support.

The coming year I am sure will, without doubt, bring forth an exciting production, and I ask you to support, gather young talent and enjoy the lights, the music, the dance and the people around you on 'the boards'!

Thank you all, Marshall Patten

17 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Madeline invited the current Committee to stand down and Jo has agreed to act as Secretary. Jo informed the meeting that the only nomination for Chair is Madeline, she is elected unopposed.

Madeline said that during her first year as Chair she had made mistakes, but she has learned a lot and looks forward to doing better in the role in the coming year.

Madeline reminded the meeting that Hannah decided not to stand for re-election as Secretary but added that Jo has agreed to stand and as there are no other nominations, Jo is elected unopposed.

Andrew was willing to stand again as Treasurer, and as there are no other nominations, Andrew is elected unopposed.

Madeline informed the meeting that Chip has been an excellent Business Manager but has decided to step down from that role. Megan has been Social Secretary but is willing to take the nomination as Business Manager, and as there are no other nominations, Megan is elected unopposed.

Madeline announced that Megan stood down as Social Secretary to become Business Manager, but she is delighted to welcome a new member to the Committee as Social Secretary, Emma Harpley. There were no other nominations for Social Secretary, so Emma is elected unopposed.

Madeline informed the meeting that DeeDee has decided not to stand for re-election as Publicity Manager, and after three years has revolutionised the position. Having felt that he has gone as far as he can as Business Manager, Chip has decided to stand as Publicity Manager, and as no nominations were received before the meeting, Chip is elected unopposed. Madeline pointed out that nominations from the floor can only be taken in the event of no nominations before the AGM.

Madeline went on to the election of the two general members; Laura is willing to stand again and has been a member for a few years now. The second position goes to another new member, Tom Greenhalgh, who agreed to be nominated and both are elected unopposed.

Madeline was pleased to inform the meeting that we now have a full Committee and she thanked Hannah, DeeDee and Steve for all their efforts over the year. Madeline added that Hannah has been very patient with her and that Steve and DeeDee have worked so hard with the website.

Andrew mentioned that Chip had gone over and above his main role playing Billy, he had given the awards after the last performance and driven the set and props from the theatre, especially considering his father's illness. He added that the theatre would not have cleared so well without his efforts.

Madeline informed the meeting that there was an incredibly exciting and challenging year ahead for the Club. She was referring to the plan in 2019 to do two full shows: Green Day's American Idiot in April; the Committee felt that things needed to be shaken up to attract a younger audience, and a punk rock musical is a very different venture for the Pied Pipers. Then in September we will be doing a show for two weeks: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang has been released for one year only.

Madeline added that we will be inviting applications for the creative teams.

18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

David proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee, to the new Committee and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

The meeting closed at 9.30