

Minutes of the LLTC Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 26th July at Little Brickhill Village Hall at 19:30

Committee members present: -	Circulated to: -
John Drinkwater (<i>Chairman</i>) Jan Hull (<i>Treasurer</i>) Josh Kay (<i>Social/Memberships</i>) Paul Wheeler (<i>PR</i>) Sara Wheeler (<i>Production</i>)	All present

Item	Description	Action
1	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME/APOLOGIES	
	The meeting commenced at 19:45; JD welcomes all members, patrons and guests to the AGM – there were 20 people present. JD announces he has received apologies from the following: Ann Skelly, Steve Brigden, Janthea Brigden, Elizabeth Rhodes, Deryn Rhodes, Dianna Moylan, Marigold Norbye	
2	MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM	
	These were accepted as true; this action was proposed by Sarah de Rousset-Hall and seconded by Maddy Toye.	
3	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE (Action points held over or outstanding:)	
	None.	
4	COMMITTEE REPORTS	
a)	<p><u>Chairman's Report for AGM 2012</u> Welcome to the AGM, and the end of our year for 2011/2012. In accordance with my normal practice, I have broken the year down into a series of points which I will attempt to quickly run through.</p> <p><u>Camp Hill</u> There is nothing new to report. We are still in a position of not being allowed to run the bars, (which not only has a financial impact upon us, but also spoils the fun for those people helping front of house) and whilst we receive a discount on our hire, we are still having difficulty making ends meet. It has been recognised by the committee that if we are to remain at The Chrysalis we will need to do at least one high profile show (such as a pantomime) that raises a significant amount of profit, say £3000 for every 2 'normal' shows. This would guarantee our future. The current committee has been looking at alternative venues, so far without success, and I charge the new committee to continue this work.</p> <p><u>Productions</u> Well this was an interesting year, and whilst we only did 2 commercial shows, LLTC appeared for the RSC at The Courtyard Theatre, Stratford upon Avon in March. All right, it was only for 7 minutes, and it was only on one night, but we got there. Hats off to all concerned both in the original production of Merry Wives of Windsor in November as well as the reduced RSC open stages version in March. We got to the last 12 out of 300 groups, and we can be rightly proud of that achievement. In May after many hiccups including changing director's (twice); plays (once, but it seemed like more) and casts (a few times) we finally put on See How They Run. Ticket sales were reasonable, those that came to see it reported they enjoyed it, and as Jan will report we even made a small profit.</p> <p><u>Fund Raising and Profile Raising</u> We didn't do much of this; mainly because there didn't seem to be enough time, energy, or volunteers. However as we appeared for the RSC, we certainly raised our</p>	

profile. Sadly we didn't manage to capitalise on that as much as we should have done.

Social Events

We had several social events this last year, including a music workshop, a Movie Night when we got together to watch the DVD we had made of Merry Wives of Windsor, a Christmas Murder mystery dinner, a trip to London to see Noises Off, and several pre-rehearsal pizza nights at The George. So I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Josh for organising all that plus looking after members and patrons. Oh yes and he was Vice chairman as well.

New Members

Quite a few of these, including some very talented actors and I sincerely hope that we will see some of them again, sadly none of the new members have showed any interest in non acting activities. I have observed these days there is a much more fluid attitude to membership of Drama groups than has been the case in the past. Actors seem to join a group that produces a show that grabs their attention, and then move on. Not everyone does this, but it does seem to be the current trend.

Other news

We have for some time now been suffering from a lack of storage space, or to put it another way suffering from too much kit! Because of this the committee decided to have another storage facility built, and Janthea and Steve kindly offered a piece of their land to build it on. This has now been completed. There is now the project of transporting a lot of equipment from Patrons Place at Alan's across to the new store, and the reorganization of our original store, coupled with the conversion of the caravan to a trailer for future transport. At this point I would like to record thanks to David Pibworth of MKTOC for letting us store flats etc at his barn at Clifton Reynes near Olney while we were sorting out the construction of the new shed. I also want to record thanks to Stave and Janthea for allowing us to build on their land.

To sum up

I joined LLTC during the rehearsals for Deadly Nightcap back in May 2001, and have served the company in a variety of roles after January 2002 when I was co-opted onto the committee. This was following a letter I wrote to the membership chiding them for their apathy as it seemed that the same few people did everything (sounds familiar?). Since then I think I have spent a goodly amount of time (10 years in fact); and effort trying to persuade people that they really should become more involved. I am now going to stand down from the committee to let someone else do this!

However, before I go, I would like to comment on a few things that I have been reminded of during my research for this report, including memories of my time with LLTC. Why? Because this is the only opportunity I have got, and I believe it is relevant.

Shortly after I joined, I commented that it would be lovely to do an outdoor production of Midsummer Night's Dream. There were various responses to this; two of which I think are worth repeating. They were; "we won't do Shakespeare it's too highbrow" and "we're not good enough". Later when a director proposed Oh what a Lovely War! It was turned down on the basis that "we don't do musicals". Since then we have done Shakespeare; well; 3 times, plus once at Stratford and a professional outdoor run at Jimmy's Farm. Two of those times with music and singing. We have produced a musical (well, a play with music) written by one of our members. So we do, do Shakespeare; and music; and singing. This group is capable of anything that it puts its collective mind to do.

There may only be a few organising members, and they may want a rest, but the problems facing us today are no different from the problems at the time I joined. If anything they are less, because I believe we have a higher profile, an enhanced reputation, better, newer equipment, more chance of attracting good actors, and undoubtedly a better bank balance.

I truly believe that if others are prepared to stand up and take the reins, LLTC will not only survive but thrive; and should be able to continue to put on high quality drama and comedy because that's what we do. It can be argued that some of the fun has gone because we are too professional; frankly I don't think you can be too professional. We

	<p>take people's money on the door, and they deserve to be treated accordingly, to a show with no prompts, no errors, slick and entertaining! That's all! Thank you for your attention, and thank you all for your support over the last year.</p> <p>b) <u>Presentation of Accounts</u> Copies of the accounts were distributed at the meeting.</p> <p>The total account stands at £15,478.18 (including assets). A total loss over the financial year of £6,047.44. This is primarily due to the construction of our new scenery store at Six Lords that cost £4,309.45 but can now be considered an asset – it can also be attributed to the high production costs involved in staging our RSC Open Stages production "The Merry Wives of Windsor." A profit of £155.29 was made on our May production "See How They Run."</p> <p>Jan Hull also announces her intention to step down as Treasurer at this AGM.</p> <p>c) <u>Questions to the Committee</u> Alan Stevens queried the dates of our financial year; 21 July 2011 to current date.</p> <p>d) <u>Adoption of Reports</u> The committee reports were proposed by Joan Airs and seconded by Wendy Gibbons.</p>	
5	CONSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER PROPOSALS	
	<p>a) <u>Proposal for Change to the Constitution</u></p> <p>The following information had been submitted to all members and patrons of LLTC over one month before the AGM date:</p> <hr/> <p>It was recognised earlier this year that if the unprecedented occurrence of insufficient volunteers to form a committee happened at this next AGM, there was nothing in the constitution to regulate for this situation. An EGM was called, and the suggestion from the EGM was that the committee should propose constitution changes to head off any potential problems. It is with this in mind that the following changes are proposed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The executive committee shall henceforth consist of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All other committee posts shall be co-opted as per all functional officers' posts as and when they are needed. • All members holding either committee or functional officers' posts shall be eligible (as is currently the case) for a waiver to be applied to any show fees during the time of their tenure. • If it is not possible to fill the three posts on the executive committee, then the AGM will with immediate effect become a special general meeting that will deal with the dissolution of the company. <p>As this proposal involves a lot of small changes throughout the constitution, a full draft of the new paper is available on request. However there is nothing in the draft that moves outside the above three statements.</p> <p>It might be considered that the final point is somewhat shocking; however I put it to the membership that if the 3 volunteers needed to form a committee cannot be found, then there is no legal way for the group to continue.</p> <p>I recommend the meeting ratify this change to the constitution, since if this</p>	

	<p>proposal is rejected, and there are not enough volunteers to form a six person committee, then the company falls into limbo, and can no longer function in a correct and legal manner.</p> <p>John Drinkwater Chairman</p> <hr/> <p>This action was proposed by Paul Wheeler and seconded by Carl Defriend and was ratified by a general vote with 0 opposition.</p>	
6	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR MEMBERS AND PATRONS	
	<p>In accordance with the changes to the constitution as outlined above, the current committee was recommending that we enter a period of up to 12 months as a resting company with no shows being produced for the foreseeable future; as such, there would be no changes in either membership, patron or shows fees and all members who had currently paid for 2011/12 financial year would simply be carried over into the 2012/13 year.</p>	
7	PLANS FOR 2012/13 SEASON	
7.1	<p>The current committee had intended on creating the first pantomime for the Chrysalis Theatre in December 2012. Due to lack of interest from the membership, discussions had been held with MK TOC (Milton Keynes Theatre of Comedy), a professional production company, in June about creating a joint production; unfortunately MK TOC did not feel the dates were suitable for their collaboration, but they would be happy to help in an advisory capacity.</p> <p>Shortly after these discussions, MK TOC were invited by The Venue at Walton High School, to put on a professional pantomime production over the Christmas period. MK TOC invited our members to put forward applications to be involved, which Paul Wheeler forwarded to the whole membership.</p> <p>Due to lack of interest by the majority of our membership in doing a pantomime ourselves, at the most recent committee meeting held in July, we made the decision to cancel our reserved dates with the Chrysalis Theatre for December 2012 to ensure that we were not charged any cancellation fees.</p> <p>It is suggested by the out going committee that the company will continue but in a resting status for the next 12 months, so that members may have a rest.</p> <p>However it is strongly noted that social events will still be advertised and continue and that if any members of LLTC would like to put together a proposal for a production, the new committee will be in a position to evaluate the possibility and support it.</p>	
8	ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2012/13 SEASON	
	<p>A brief reminder of the recent changes to the constitution was given and that we would now only be voting for 3 positions;</p> <p>Ann Skelly, Sara Wheeler and Jan Hull decided to step down from the committee and John Drinkwater stepped down from the role of Chairman.</p> <p>Voting for committee posts took place as follows: CHAIRMAN Paul Wheeler Proposed by John Drinkwater Seconded by Maddy Toye There being no other nominations, Paul was elected by a show of hands.</p>	

	<p>SECRETARY Josh Kay Proposed by Andrew Schofield Seconded by John Drinkwater There being no other nominations, Josh was elected by a show of hands.</p> <p>TREASURER Sarah de Rousset-Hall Proposed by Wendy Gibbons Seconded by Maddy Toye There being no other nominations, Sarah was elected by a show of hands.</p>	
9	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	
	<p>Alan Stevens asks what will now happen to Patrons Place storage shed over the next year, specifically what will happen to the scaffolding, caravan and concrete?</p> <p>The new committee determines that this will be a high priority as this now represents a good time, since we will not be producing shows, to look at the company's property/inventory and to move it around and dispose it as necessary to either the new scenery store or other.</p> <p>Paul Wheeler also reaffirms a commitment to keeping the company going socially with upcoming open-air theatre events and potential meals.</p> <p>Alan Stevens suggests that the new committee looks at taking the group back for the time being into smaller settings with village hall appearances; if we have less members willing to be involved we can do smaller scale.</p> <p>There being no other business, the meeting was ended at 20:20.</p>	<p>PW/JK/ SDH</p>