

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2014**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2015. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company Number

6757807 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity Number

1132045

Registered Office

29 Mill Close
Fishbourne, Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 3JW

Trustees

A C Goodbody
A F Bowker
Mrs M Whiting
Mrs L G Stimpson
K West
R Watts
S Weaver
M Rowlands

Independent Examiner

Gavin Whitter ACA CTA
Gibson Whitter
Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hants
PO7 6XP

Bankers

Clydesdale Bank
Business Direct
40 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2HL

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 3rd November 2008. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The organisation was an unincorporated association, known as Dynamo Youth Theatre, founded in 1981 and controlled by a constitution. A new Charitable Company limited by guarantee was incorporated on 25th November 2008 with the name Dynamo Youth Theatre. A resolution to change the company's name to Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre was passed on 13th July 2009 and the company was then registered as a charity on 8th October 2009. The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association with the same area of benefit as the unincorporated association.

The charitable company started to trade on 1st November 2009 at which point all assets were transferred from the unincorporated association to the charitable company. The unincorporated association has been wound up. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 per member.

The Trustee Directors of Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre form the executive committee and are legally responsible for the overall management, control and strategic direction of Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre. The executive committee meet quarterly. There is a general committee consisting of the trustee directors and volunteer members that deals with the day to day running of the charity and has monthly meetings. There are also various sub-committees dealing with publicity, fundraising and future developments that meet whenever required.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Under the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the trustees are elected to serve for a term of three years. A third of the trustee directors will put themselves up for re-election at each Annual General Meeting to promote even changes of the executive committee.

Trustees are encouraged to become familiar with their legal obligations under charity and company law.

Risk Management

The executive committee is responsible for the management of risks faced by Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre. Risks are identified and assessed and controls established throughout the year.

There is a child protection policy in place and DBS (formerly CRB) checks are carried out on all trustees and on volunteers as necessary.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Purposes and activities

The purposes of the charity are:

To advance the education for the public benefit by the promotion of the arts, in particular, but not exclusively performing arts.

To help young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities involving performing arts so as to develop their capabilities so that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

Review of Public Benefit

In shaping our objectives for the period and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging. Havant Dynamo Youth Theatre currently relies on the income from tickets and fees to cover its operating costs. In setting the level of fees, charges and concessions, the trustees give careful consideration to the accessibility for those on low incomes. The executive committee have instituted a bursary scheme, open to members with issues that meet the eligibility criteria.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The first event of the year, the Director's Challenge in February 2014, was performed to a high standard. This annual competitive event divides the group into teams to write and produce a short piece to a theme given by the Artistic Director. The pieces are then performed to an invited audience with the Liz Goodbody Shield being presented to the winning director.

We put together another musical evening, directed by a senior member, in aid of the Mayor of Havant's charities. It was well attended and raised around £600 for the fund.

In July 2014, the group wrote, directed and performed a play about the First World War, "Where the Poppies Fall", to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the War. As it was mostly the work of our members, the universally positive reaction from the audience was particularly gratifying.

The sixth formers, who left the group in September, successfully performed "The Foreigner", a comedy by Larry Shue, at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, Havant. The four performances were well attended and resulted in a healthy profit, with a third going into our development fund.

Our Christmas show was "The Snow Queen" which we performed at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, Havant. This was exciting for the Company as much of the direction and choreography was done by the older members, further broadening their theatrical experiences.

New participants to the group are invited to join in September and after the production run in early January, when the weekly workshops resume. The membership is now 49 in the 11 to 18 age group, which, although quite a way short of the maximum of 65, has improved since last year. Following a number of new initiatives by our Membership Secretary, we expect to be back to healthier 60+ levels in September when the next group of new members start.

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Chairman's report

This year has been a successful one for the group. Membership, although not up to full capacity, continues to be enthusiastic, talented and committed. The senior section, Dynasty, formed in 2011 has unfortunately not been active during the year but we are still hopeful that this will be restarted in the future.

The programme has again been varied over the year, allowing members new opportunities to learn and grow, with many of the older members again helping out with directing and planning of shows.

We continue with the same short-term hiring agreement for St Faith's Church Hall but there is still the threat to the continuing existence of the hall as result of the possible development plans for this area of the town, and we continue with our fundraising effort for a new home base.

We continue to be one of the partner groups at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre and have continued our good relationship through their change of management. The size of the stage at the theatre however makes it difficult for large cast shows although we hope to use the theatre again this coming Christmas so that the cast members can experience performing in a real theatre environment, and continue to use the venue for our six form productions.

We have again been very fortunate this past year and received some very kind and generous donations from past members and friends of Dynamo.

Our hardworking committee and increasing number of regular volunteers at show times are the key to the success of the group as without this work, there would be no productions or on-going organisation and planning. However, we recognise that we do need to increase the number of volunteers and are looking at plans to involve parents more.

As Chair, I would like to thank the Officers, Trustees, Artistic Director, Committee and all volunteers for their work in supporting Dynamo during the year, making the Dynamo experience so memorable and important to our young people's lives.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial performance

The charitable company began the year with a sound base. There have been several fund-raising events during the year, notably the concert in March organised by Barney Walsh. All the productions in the year realised surpluses.

Reserves Policy

The trustees consider that the charity needs to maintain a level of general reserves approximately equivalent to the cost of putting on one year's productions, plus the shortfall of administration costs against subscription income for the previous year and a small equipment purchases buffer. The trustees therefore consider that the ideal level of general reserves as at 31st January 2015 should be in the region of £15,000. We have maintained the required level of general reserves during the year and as at 31st January 2015.

There are two designated funds: one fund for the future development of the group, specifically in respect of property costs. As at 1st February 2014 the development fund stood at £28,282. During the year a third of production surpluses, together with fundraising income was allocated to the development fund and rounded up at the end of the year to £6,176.79. The balance at 31st January 2015 stands at £34,459.06.

The second designated fund is for the senior section "Dynasty": As at 1st February 2014 and at 31st January 2015 the Dynasty fund stands at £1,456. Unfortunately there has been no action in the senior section this year.

There are two restricted funds as at 31 January 2015, one relating to a donation from Hampshire County Council for the purchase of equipment and a second fund arising from a quiz night for a bursary for members of the group.

Plans for future periods

The trustees consider that St Faiths church hall will only be available for our use for the short term. As a result the fundraising drive will continue so that we can realistically pursue alternative venues as a permanent rehearsal base.

Artistically we intend to continue with a varied programme of plays and shows to broaden experience for the group. The trustees are looking at strengthening the directing team with a view of expanding into the 7 to 11 age-group.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

A C Goodbody
Trustee

