

**HAVANT DYNAMO YOUTH THEATRE  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2015**

**PRESENT:** Wendy Bailey, Alex Booth, Andrew Bowker, Kate Boylin, Chris Bradbury, Julia Cairns, Hugh Cairns, Lucy Fletcher, Mark Fletcher, Sam Fletcher, Graham Frost, Tony Goodbody, Jayne Green, Rob James, Teresa James, Rev Tom Kennar, John Palmer, Ethel Ray, Katie Remnant, Tricia Roberts, Linda Stimpson, Dan Stroud, Sally Stroud, Malcolm Sturgess, Wayne Thomas, Bev Wade, Nigel Wade, Richard Watts, Steve Weaver, Kevin West, Pauline West, Mo Whiting, Joe Wilcox, Wendy Willats.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Lucy Flannery

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming.

**2. MINUTES OF LAST AGM:** Agreed as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Linda Stimpson):**

Annual accounts were circulated at the meeting.

The Treasurer recapped the highlights:

- The accounts have been independently examined by Gibson Whittier, a firm based in Denmead.
- Financially the year was successful with general funds increasing by £621 and the Development Fund by £9000.
- The shows during the year all made a surplus, a third of which was allocated to the development fund. 'The Snow Queen' was a successful Christmas show, where the costs were relatively low as there were no income related royalties to pay.
- There were several fund-raising events during the year, starting with the Shield, a charity dinner and Barney Walsh's concert with the latter two both being held at the Langstone Hotel. Barney's concert was a great success, thanks to the hard work of the group. The Quiz Night held at the end of January 2015 was another success also due to the hard work put in by the older members of the group.
- The Prize Draw netted just over £500 and as long as there are people prepared to hunt out the prizes, this is set to be an annual event. We have also received some significant donations from past members and supporters during the year.
- As a result of membership growing during the year and since, the subscriptions will cover the administration and general costs of holding the sessions as long as our costs do not rise too much. Thanks to those parents who have signed up for Gift Aid. The extra 25% of the eligible subscriptions is a welcome contribution.
- Linda thanked all the members of the Committee for their help and especially Wendy Willats who has dealt with the bankings for the group this year. This was Linda's final year as Treasurer and she said that as she steps down, she knows the accounts will be in good hands.

The Chair thanked Linda for all her help during the year and for the considerable work involved in preparing the accounts. He proposed acceptance of the accounts which was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Richard Watts)**

- This year has been a successful one for the group. Membership, although not up to full capacity, has expanded during the year and continues to be enthusiastic, talented and committed. The

senior section, Dynasty, formed in 2011 has unfortunately not been active again this year but we are still hopeful that this will be restarted at some point 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 and are concerned about our tenure and the facilities we can use. Understandably, the Church want to expand the hire of the hall but this does give us problems with the availability of space for both rehearsals and performances. As a result, we continue with our fundraising effort for a new home base although the availability of possible sites in central Havant is a constraint.
- We continue to be one of the partner groups at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre and have continued our good relationship with their management. The size of the stage at the theatre however makes it difficult for large cast shows. Although we used the theatre again for the 2014/15 Christmas show, we are looking for local venues that will give cast members more opportunity to express themselves artistically on a larger stage. The Spring is ideal for small cast productions and we will continue to use the venue for our sixth form shows.
- 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, keeping up the supply of volunteers is important and plans to involve parents more are paying off.
- 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.

## **6. ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Andrew Bowker)**

- The first event of the year, the Director's Challenge in February 2014, was performed to a high standard.
- We put together another musical evening, "The Best of British" directed by Barney Walsh, in aid of the Mayor of Havant's charities. It was well attended and raised around £600 for the fund. Andrew commented that the Committee had decided that the group will no longer fundraise for causes outside of Dynamo.
- 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 the piece was mostly both written and directed by the members, the universally positive reaction from the audience was particularly gratifying. Another example of the unique opportunities that Dynamo give to the members.
- 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. As always, the small size of the stage at The Spring presented challenges for the large cast.

- It is encouraging to see the membership increased this year, but discouraging to see that help to run the company and crew the shows continues to be challenging.
- Andrew supported the Chair's remarks about concerns for our security of tenure in St Faith's Hall as there are no signs of Dynamo finding its own premises. Performance venues which are reasonably priced and can accommodate our difficult needs are increasingly hard to find.
- Andrew gave his thanks to the Officers, Committee and all who have helped with the shows through the year. He particularly thanked Mo Whiting and Mary Fletcher for their support during the rehearsal evenings.

## **7. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES & OFFICERS:**

2 trustees stood down and offered themselves for re-election. Alex Booth and Wendy Willats offered to be trustees and they, Andrew Bowker and Tony Goodbody were elected en bloc from the floor.

Richard Watts was re-elected unanimously as Chair.

The post of Vice-Chair was left open.

Wendy Willats was unanimously elected as Treasurer, proposed by Richard Watts, seconded by Mal Sturgess.

Tony Goodbody was prepared to continue as secretary.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm