

**Wells Operatic Society Limited**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on**  
**24 June 2013**

**COMMITTEE**

Richard Wright (chair), Gerald Evers, Mark Wall, Pauline Perrin, Sharon Edmonds, Ken Edmonds, Doreen Grant, Lyn Jones, Graham Brown, Norman Cowell, Alisa Creaser, Kate Lynch, Sarah Neale and The Mayor of Wells

1. **Apologies** - Mark Wall, Lyn Jones, (Kate Lynch & Sarah Neale, late)
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (9<sup>th</sup> April)** Agreed
3. **Matters Arising (including items from the AGM)**
  - The vacant chair, and how to fill it **RW**. The Chairman's duties were divided: General enquiries –**DG**, email enquiries **PP & GE**, Dinner Dance and AGM reports –**AC** to research for whoever volunteers to present the awards etc. Notes from the Chair –**KE**, Meeting the Civic party – tba, Chaining the committee meetings – to rotate, **GE** to provide Agenda, all other areas will be dealt with at committee.
  - Finishing the bar – new TV and performance lighting **GB / GE ongoing see 3b (iii)** below
  - New sound system, positioning the second snake **GB** – leave this until the pit is organised. However the old hearing loop needs replacing **GB** to arrange, approximate cost £400-500.
  - Theatre security policy – now finalised, all agreed to adopt this. A copy will go in the Theatre handbook in the bar. Many thanks to Alan Hooley who did most of the work.
  - Website – **RW** some changes now in place. Any other concerns or comments please feed back to **RW** who will monitor the situation.
  - Divers' Hut repairs – **MW** ongoing
- 3b. **Matters arising from AGM**
  - i. First report from Pit and Orchestra subcommittee - (Richard Wright, Gina Cleverly, Nick Furze, Maria Olteanu-Furze, Nick Barlow, Tina Evers, Sharon Upham, Jenny Hailes, Sandra Marshall, Gill Kerton, Vicky Orman, Louise Baker, Jon Sansam, Norman Cowell and Darren Kerton). Minutes on notice board, Nick Furze Chair and Sharon Upham minutes. The first step is to investigate under the stage. Builder to remove section of floor on 9<sup>th</sup> July 8am this will complete in one day. Surveyor to prep plans. Lots of enthusiasm to raise money and get the project going. Dave Collyer and **RW** to organise.
  - ii. New Social Committee – Louise Baker and group, see d)
  - iii. New Bar administrators – Sarah Briton and Emma Longley. Sarah attended the meeting to explain the various proposals and ideas. She asked for some basic changes to the layout of the bar to be made. Agreed. Roger Reeson and Mike Scamell to complete. Approximate cost £100. The Committee also asked them to look at the dishwasher salt container. Minutes of the first meeting are on the noticeboard.
  - iv. Anne Beechey asked at the AGM that the social evening (say once a month) should be re-established. Louise and Sarah B organised the first on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, very successful. Future dates to be arranged with **GE** The next one is **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July**
  - v. Marcel Wills, Tony and Kate Hathway all raised worries over the use of the car park. **GE** to remind members that they should always display their parking permit. (More are available if needed). Kate Lynch also raised concerns at the CM, especially with Divers' cars on a Thursday performance night. It was agreed to send the Divers a list of performance Thursdays in the year, so that they are aware.

#### 4. Correspondence

Only those relating to the Spring Show, see 9 below

#### 5. Treasurer's Report – PP

- **PP** proposed that we move the accounting year to finish on 31<sup>st</sup> December. This was agreed. The AGM will need to take place within 4 months of this date – i.e. by the end of April. **GE** to look at dates.
- Anything Goes income £8143, Profit £989 (target met)
- Beauty and the Beast - final costs still coming in
- Membership – Ordinary and Patron membership numbers are now lower than in previous years. There has been a concern that some people attending the Social Evening were not members. **GE** to print list of members from the website. **GE** and **PP** to encourage membership subs to be paid

#### 6. Membership

- New members -  
Emma Longley – Ordinary membership - agreed  
Helen Proudman – Ordinary membership – agreed  
Lauren Best – Associate membership – agreed  
Steve Baxter – Ordinary membership – agreed  
Michael Smith – Ordinary membership - agreed
- Discussion around membership. It was agreed we should find out more about the interests and skills of those wishing to be members. **SE** will look at amending the Membership Application Form. It was agreed to remove the Gift Aid section (it is unnecessary as any future applications will require an up to date signature).
- Civic night feedback – this went well, with all positive comments.
- Dinner Dance – feedback – good, some concerns over the quality of the food. Louise Baker to be asked to look at options for next year. **GE** to contact.

#### 7. Publicity

KE has some concerns over the efficiency of the sign writers. He will investigate alternatives.

#### 8. Theatre Renovations

- Long term plans for renovation, repair and maintenance – **MW & GE ongoing**
- Orchestra Pit sub-group report see 3b (i) above.
- Bar changes as 3b (iii) above

#### 9. Production/Trifold/Hire

Correspondence has been received from several people regarding the direction of our shows -

- Brian Epps has offered to direct '*Spend Spend Spend*' for us. He is heavily involved with Glastonbury & Street MCS with lots of experience elsewhere in the county. He can do October 2014 or anytime 2015. He charges £1250 inclusive of expenses, and his style would be to take all rehearsals.
- Bobby Bass also wants to direct a musical.
- Lois Harbinson wants to direct Sondheim's '*Into The Woods*' in Spring 2014
- Ross Johnson (Theatresaurus) has also replied. She is highly experienced, but April is not a good month. Please consider her in the future.

**GE** suggested that the rehearsal time leading up to the Spring Show was very intense, generally productions were very congested and members were struggling with their commitment; casting was difficult and back stage crews sometimes difficult to assemble. Maybe we should look at a slight change to the shape of our year. This would also help the financial changes suggested in 5 above, agreed. **GE** will produce a draft calendar for 2014 looking at spreading our productions more evenly.

- It was agreed to ask Lois to direct *'Into the Woods'* in May or even June 2014.
- RW will contact Brian Epps and ask him to come to the next meeting and present 'Spend Spend Spend'.
- Anything Goes – and Beauty & The Beast were seen as successful shows for the Theatre. Congratulations and many thanks to all those involved.

## Productions planned

- **July 3 – 6 2013 – *Mort*** by Terry Pratchett – KE Directing, Producer – **Vicky Orman**, Stage Manager – **Charlie Watkins**, Costumes – **Sarah Briton**, Lighting – **Pete Ross**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Props – **Lesley Ricketts**. Budget – Agreed, Ticket Price £9 and £7,
- **July 26 and 27 2013 – *Endgame*** – Director - **Maria Olteanu-Furze**, Producer - **DG**, Set Design - **Catherine Tucker**.
- **September 11 – 14 2013 – *Pajama Game*** – AH Directing, **Sheila Ross** – MD, **Carol Applegate** – Choreography, Lighting – **GB**, Sound - **PR**, Stage Manager – **Chris Spray**, Budget – agreed, Ticket price - £12 & £9, Rehearsal schedule - agreed
- **October 23 – 26 2013 *Rumours*** by Neil Simon – **DG** Director, **MW** – Set Design, Stage Manager – **Georgia Wall**, Lighting & Sound – **Bill Hayward**, Props – Sophie and Emma Longley, Budget tba, and read on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Ticket price – tba. Reh schedule - done
- **December 14 – 21 2013 *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*** – Director – **SE**, MD – **Nick Barlow**, Producer – **Vicky Orman**, SM – **Charlie Watkins**, Costume – **Sarah Briton**, Adult Choreographer – joint / group, Childrens' choreographer – **Ella Upham**, Lighting - **GB**, Sound - **PR**, Prompt - **FB**, Props – **Lesley Ricketts**, Budget – TBA, Ticket price – TBA, Rehearsal schedule - TBA
- **May 19 - 24 2014 – *Into the Woods*** – Director – **Lois Harbinson** Producer –?, MD – **Sheila Ross**, Stage Manager – ?, Costumes – ?, Lighting – ?, Sound – ?, Props – ? Budget – tba, Ticket Price tba,
- September / October 2014
- December 2014 – Pantomime
- March 2015 – a play
- May/ June 2015 – Musical?
- Spring 2016 – **Ken Edmonds** has suggested that we consider 'Kiss Me Kate' as this is the 400<sup>th</sup> year after Shakespeare's death. Other Shakespeare productions might also be considered for this year. **Ongoing.**

## 10. Training - ntr

## 11. Show Reviews

**Habeas Corpus** – Street Theatre – using a fairly bare stage it was 'alright' but nothing really special, not sure. DG and KE

**Outside Edge** – Ditchat, very good, enjoyable DG

**Top Hat** in the Aldwych theatre, London. Real fun. excellent show, GB

**Proof** – Theatre Royal Bath, By David Auburn. Excellent. Story of a mathematical genius and his daughter's struggle to understand his mental demise. GE

**A Man of No Importance** at Salisbury playhouse – Ok but slow, a musical based on a theatre group putting on Oscar Wilde's Salome. 1960's Dublin. Resulted in a reflection on the RC church and its views on pre-marriage sex and homosexuality. GE

**Sleeping Beauty**, Bristol Hippodrome. Matthew Bourne's interpretation, excellent, funny, creative and wonderful, you forget how beautiful the human body can be. Great! GE

**Our House**, Exmouth Pavilion – totally excellent. Amateur production that was fun from beginning to end. Something we could do. GE

**Relative Values**, Bath Theatre Royal, directed by Trevor Nunn, Noel Cowards humorous reflection on the class distinction in the 1950's. Patricia Hodge, Rory Bremner and Caroline Quintin. Excellent, we could do this. GE

**12. Any Other Business**

- Back of the auditorium / FOH – RW has received a complaint that people coming in and standing at the back during a production disturb the audience. Marcel will be asked to remind all FoH staff to control entry to the back doors.
- Bristol Fire report has been received, some fire appliances need replacement. Agreed to go ahead. – **RW**
- Title deeds of the Theatre these have been investigated, it was agreed that we should complete the land registration process, approximate cost £400 – **RW**
- The 'Night on the Town' event this year will be on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. We agreed to support it again - **KE**
- Bar shutting after the show. This was discussed. The new Bar Committee will be asked to arrange for the bar to be kept open after our productions - **KE**
- Sweets and soft drinks sales during matinee productions. This seemed to be limited during Beauty and the Beast. The new Bar Committee are to be asked to take this over - **SN**
- Divers parking in the C park after a show. See 3b (v) above - **KL**

13. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 22nd July (Chaired by DG)  
Tuesday 3rd September (chaired by GB)

**Meeting finished at 11.00, many thanks for your attendance.**