

Wells Operatic Society Limited
Minutes of the meeting on
Monday 1st June 2015 at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE

Chris Briton (chair), Gerald Evers, Richard Wright, Pauline Perrin, Ken Edmonds, Alisa Creaser, Graham Brown, Lyn Jones, Sharon Edmonds, Gina Cleverley

1. **Apologies** – Lyn Jones, Sharon Edmonds
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** - agreed
3. **Matters Arising** -
 - Carnival Night payment. – **CB** to follow up

4. **Correspondence**
 - Alan Hooley has offered to direct the musical farce 'Act Your Age' in September 2017. There are a number of other show options that AC and the reading group are considering. RW to write to Alan thanking him for the offer.
 - Wells City Band want to put on a concert in the spring of 2016, to raise money for the Little Pit Bigger project. KE to say yes please, they should contact the secretary for possible dates.

5. Treasurer’s Report

- Show budgets discussion (GE). The following targets were agreed -

2016	Play -March	£1,950.00	15%
	Forbidden Planet	£1,040.00	8%
	Twelfth Night	£1,950.00	15%
	Pantomime	£8,060.00	62%
	Running cost per annum	£13,000.00	

- Spend Spend Spend sold 621 (65%) seats, box office income is £5878 - looks like loss of £750

6. Membership

- Civic Night - **Monday 18th May 2015**. Review – a calendar clash made things difficult. GE to avoid this next year. The initial number of Patrons reserved seats maybe too many, this restricted other sales, LJ to consider this next year. Catering and other arrangements were really good.
- New members – none
- Dinner Dance **Friday June 12th** tickets £20 and £25 for non-members. NODA Awards etc. Concern about low numbers. Louise and Alisa are trying to push numbers. Committee agreed to review at the next meeting.
- Cinderella Awards run by the Somerset Fellowship of Drama for pantomimes in the county. 26 shows were entered this year and thanks to all your amazing hard work and incredible dedication, we did rather well.

Stars of the future awards were given to William Creaser, Chloe Creaser, Honey Hann, Mia Hann, Henry Boulton-Roberts, Amy Cleverly, Imogen Allen, Florence Milner, Tilly Davis, Rebecca Knott, Ryan Cooper, Mollie Spraggon, Charlotte Carey and Deanna Symes.

They also won ‘Young Team of the Year’ which is absolutely brilliant.

We were also nominated for Best Properties, Best Original Costumes, Best Musical Director, Best Theatre Stage Management, Best Theatre Design, Best Chorus, Best Sound Effects, Best Animal Act for Tris Hann as Scruff, Comic of the Year for Tris Hann, Best Villain for Emma James, and Best Director.

If that was not enough, we won as I said before Young Team Of The Year, Goody of the Year for Sandra Marshall as Fairy Serafinia Melisandrina, Best original script for Vicky Orman, Best UV scene (the Force is strong with this one), The Eddie Bowker Trophy for best performance from

anybody for Sandra Marshall as Fairy Sera.. Ser.. Fairy Bob and we won the Cinderella Trophy itself for the best overall pantomime. Wowsers!

I just want to say once again thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard to make the show the success it was and who put up with me throughout it all.
We rock! Well done. **Ken**

7. **Publicity**

It looks like a new banner is needed for the high street. **KE** to Look at costs of new banner, talk to Mark Wall about the hanging details. Possibly try an option for LLU3.

8. **Theatre Renovations**

- Orchestra Pit Development – collecting are good so far. It was agreed that those donating outside *indiegogo* will also get the perks. The pit subcommittee will meet this week to look at progress; a fund raising chart; the Variety show (see 9 below).
- Ongoing items taken from the **maintenance minutes are –**
 - a. Bar lighting and music system – **GB - ongoing**
 - b. Auditorium seating – **KE ongoing**
- Building Paintwork – **GE** get quotes and look at the front porch sign.
- Dressing room heating – **GE** there are some problems but it was agreed to leave this for the time being.
- Rostrum to go in Bar. **GB** has looked at costs and storage space. It was agreed to go ahead with these. **GB** will build 3, 6'x4' folding rostra at £115 each (plus paint or varnish finish) for September. Storing these looks best in the RR behind the chairs, **GE** and **GB** to look at this.

9. **Productions/Trifold/Hire**

- **May 18th – 23rd 2015 - *Spend Spend Spend*, review – opinions seem to be split between those who liked or disliked the show. All agreed that the production was very good. There were recognised lessons to be learnt. Well done to all involved.**
- **June 25th BOVTS** return with *Beau Stratagem*. **RW**. **GB** to let them in, **GE** to lock up
- **Wells Variety Show** in aid of the Pit Development Fund **11th & 12th July 3pm** ticket price £10. **SN** - director. This may not now run, or will be postponed, Pit committee to discuss – see 8 above.
- **September 23rd – 26th 2015 – *Little Lights Up 3*** Director -**Tina Eyers**, Producer - **GE**, MD - **Nick Barlow**, SM- **Chris Spray**, Set Design – **GE** and **Gareth Luxton**, Adult Choreography – **Judi Neale and Tina Eyers**, Children's Choreography – **Sarah Neale**, Sketches coordinator – **Doreen Grant**, Costumes **?**, Lighting- **Rob Rogers**, Sound – **Adrian Mitchell**, Props – **GE**, Budget – **agreed**, Ticket Price – **£10 and £8**, Rehearsal schedule – **done**
- **December 12th – 19th 2015 – Pantomime - *George and the Dragon*** written by **Matthew Maisey**, Director – **Matthew Maisey**, Producer – **Vicky Orman**. MD - **Sheila Ross**, Lighting - **GB**, Sound - **Pete Ross**, Props – **?**, Budget – **tba**, Ticket Price – **tba**, Rehearsal schedule – **tba**
- **March 16th – 19th 2016** – **Doreen Grant** volunteered to arrange something
- **Spring Show 16th-21st May 2016 – *Return to the Forbidden Planet***, Director - **Lois Harbinson**, MD - **Sheila Ross**, Rights have been agreed. **GB** - producer and Lighting
- **September 21st- 24th 2016 - *Twelfth Night***, Director – **RW**, auditions and casting are likely to be in January.
- **December 10th - 17th 2016 – Pantomime** – Director - **Sharon Edmonds**, Writer and Producer – **Vicky Orman**. MD - **Sheila Ross**, Adult Choreographer – **Kim Fisher**, Children's Choreographer - **?**, Stage Manager – **Charlie Watkins**, Lighting - **?**, Sound - **?**, Props – **?**, Budget – **tba**, Ticket Price – **tba**, Rehearsal schedule – **tba**
- **March 2017 – Any Ideas?**
- **May 2017 – Any Ideas?**

10. Training

11. Show Reviews

- CATS, Strobe – PP, GC and others. - Amazing and Mark Wall's set was top quality.
- Pirates of Penzance in Bath. All male version, very funny and a great production – PP
- Long Paws Comedy – WLT, very good, really good to see so many people who are not our normal customers, in the theatre. GE, CB, KE etc.
- Pride and Prejudice at the Crucible theatre in Sheffield, a black and white cast, really interesting in the round, clever, teasing stage movements - CB
- Pioneer by Jess Briton, which is a multimedia Sci fi thriller, in the smaller studio theatre, Sheffield. CB

12. Any Other Business

- There are some stage 'Trees' temporarily stored at the back of the stage – **GE**
- Ladies Toilet making a noise – Peter Beechey will fix.
- Sandy, our amazing cleaner would like a hand vacuum cleaner. Agreed **RW** to arrange.
- Sandy may not be able to continue her full cleaning duties, if anyone else knows of someone who might take this on please let RW know.
- Nick Barlow and Sheila Ross have agreed on the particular type of keyboard they would like. (Some time ago we agreed that a new one is needed). Cost £2000 including stand and speakers. Agreed to go ahead and purchase. **RW** to let NB and SR know. **GE** to look at storage – probably the small dressing room can be fitted with a lock. This could then be used for music stands, portable music players and keyboards. – It would probably be empty during a show.

13. Date of next meeting - **Monday 6th July and then Tues 1st September**