

Settlement Players AGM, 19th July 2023

Minutes compiled by Jess Landy

(1.) Attendance:

Attended: Rob Evans, Hamish Robb, Stephen Charles, Brian Noble, James Barnard, Jess Landy, Alan Higbey, Jo Roskilly, Margaret Bachini, Jim Anderson, Keith Lander, Stuart Cocks, Dan Writer, Pat Baskerville, John Baskerville.

Apologies: Val Barber, Charlotte Barber, Sam Powell, Di Morrad, Sarah Rice, Lisa Cooper, Nicole Ashbrook, Claire Hogan.

(2.) Minutes of 2022 AGM

Stephen noted one amendment: current contract with Settlement is hire charge contract at £3000 in 2 instalments a year, plus 20% profit on shows. Payment will increase to £3300 in coming year (see item 5).

(3.) Chair's Report – read by S. Charles, see Appendix 1

Additional comments:

- Centenary celebrations – aim is to have celebration in Jan 2024 (Christmas party with extras), an exhibition of Players' Memorabilia at the One Act evening in Sep 2023, possibility of getting some century merchandise.
ACTION: Committee to select someone to continue to investigate merchandise.
- Matinee successful but is only possible when the dance academy does not need the space on Sat afternoon.

(4.) Treasurer's Report – read by Alan Higbey, see Appendix 2

ACTION: Alan to circulate accounts after they have been externally checked.

Additional comments:

- Increase in payment to Settlement:
 - Upcoming £3300 charge covers all payments to Settlement.
 - Players made profit of £3600 in 2022-23, so we can comfortably absorb increase.
 - **VOTE: Approved 10% increase in payment to Settlement.**
- Currently 49 paying members of Settlement Players. **ACTION: Alan to send out email about renewal of membership & to new players to get membership.**
- Question about whether we should raise ticket price from £10 to be more in line with other local AD groups.
 - May limit ticket sales amongst some of our audience (especially younger audience).
 - Others felt there was not concern in limiting sales, but as we are currently making a profit there is no need to increase ticket prices at the moment (we can keep this for later if needed).
 - Suggestion that ticket price could increase to £10.50 or £11 but include programme, or that we could ask for donations for the programme (usually raises more than selling it).
 - Less well-known play did not sell as many tickets – we like having a balance of different plays but should share more about those that are not as well known.
- Noted that this year, more spending on play resulted in more profit (although slightly skewed by not having to pay licence fee for 'Earnest'). Suggested that a budget may be helpful for directors.

(5.) Election of officers

The following officers & committee members were elected:

- Stephen Charles – Chairman
- Alan Higbey – Treasurer
- Lisa Cooper – Committee Member
- Jess Landy – Committee Member
- Hamish Robb – Committee Member
- Di Morrad – Committee Member
- James Barnard – Committee Member
- Sam Powell – Committee Member
- Jo Roskilly – Committee Member

No secretary elected at the meeting – to be decided in the first committee meeting of 2023-24.

(6.) AOB

- Massive thanks to all the backstage and technical crew who have done such fantastic work this year.
- Upcoming productions:
 - Sep underway (plays by Stuart & Claire) - £5 tickets, possibly cheaper drinks, smaller audience & online only booking.
 - Two ideas for Nov production (from Jenn/David) – committee simply needs to decide.
 - Nothing suggested yet for Mar/June 2024, although a possibility of David postponing his play until then (Jenn's is Christmas themed). Hamish suggested 'Dick Barton: special agent'.
 - **ACTION:** Stephen to send email to membership asking if anyone wants to direct.
- Frequency of committee meetings:
 - Aim to have more frequent committee meetings over the next year to hold people more accountable to their stated actions.
 - For this to be successful & useful, committee members need to come to the meetings with ideas & ready to volunteer.
 - We should also remember that it is possible to delegate certain tasks to other members not on the committee.