

COSMOPOLITAN PLAYERS – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2022
HELD AT THE CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE, LEEDS

PRESENT: Rachel Bickerdike (Chair), Lara Woodhouse (Vice Chair)
Gillian Myers (Treasurer), Carolyn Craven (Press and Publicity), Leah Hamilton, Elaine Jackson, Emma McGrath, Jan Morrell, (Committee Members), Bryan Craven (Life Member)

APOLOGIES: Louise Bullock

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF AGM 2021

The proceedings of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on the 9th September were video recorded and written minutes were also produced. Both were e.mailed to members at the time and posted on the ‘Members Area’ of the website.

It was proposed by Gillian Myers and seconded by Jan Morrell that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

2. CHAIR’S REPORT

Please find attached a written copy of the Chair’s report. Rachel advised the meeting that she was standing down as Chair and thanked everyone for their support during her term of office.

Lara gave a personal vote of thanks to Rachel for the support she had given her as Vice Chair of the society.

Elaine thanked Rachel on behalf of the Society for the work she had done during her term of office, wished her well for the future and presented her with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

3. TREASURER’S REPORT

Gillian circulated an audited statement of accounts and a copy of the Show Accounts as at the 30th June 2022. (copies attached to these minutes).

- Gillian advised that details of the final charges were still awaited from the theatre in relation to the ‘Health Spa Murders’, and it was likely that when the accounts could be finalised we would be showing a loss of around £600 for this production.

With regard to the overall Statement of Accounts Gillian highlighted the following:

- we had a current membership of 24
- our membership of NODA was an invaluable source of support which should be maintained. NODA contacts had proved very useful recently particularly in relation to the last production.
- With regard to the level of subscriptions for the coming year Gillian advised that the society currently had the lowest society membership fee of LCan societies but suggested that it was probably not the tight time to consider an increase and that we should leave these at the existing level of £40 for the coming year but that we should possibly consider reintroducing a non-playing membership.

Bryan raised two issues for clarification with regard to the accounts.

The first was in relation to the significant difference in the cost of rehearsal rooms for the Murder Mystery Dinner and the Health Spa Murders. Gillian advised that this was due to the fact that The Carriageworks had not yet invoiced the society for the hire of their rehearsal rooms for the Health Spa Murders.

The second query was in relation to the entry for uncashed cheques. Gillian explained that these were cheques which had been drawn for payment of services but which had not yet been presented for payment through the banking system.

It was proposed by Jan, seconded by Lara and agreed unanimously that the audited accounts be accepted.

A note of thanks was expressed to the auditor, Carole Holmes.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising for further discussion.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Chair advised the meeting that there had been no nominations received for either the post of Chair or Secretary or for the General Committee. All General Members of the outgoing committee and the Vice Chair had however agreed to continue in office. With regard to the position relating to the Chair and Secretary of the Society, Elaine made a statement to the meeting as undernoted:-

As you may or may not be aware we have not received any nominations for the positions of either the Chair or Secretary of the society and obviously this needs to be addressed if we are to function as a Society.

As I am sure you will be, as much as myself and other members of the committee are, concerned that we cannot function without certain officers in post or for someone or a group of people to manage the situation. As a result of our concerns Carolyn, Gillian and myself have been giving consideration as to how we as a society can move forward.

*We have looked at the Constitution of the Society, which contains a clause headed **'The application of Constitution'** which states:*

'The committee is the final arbiter of these rules and is empowered to deal with any matter which may arise and which is not specifically provided for in this constitution'

This gives the committee the option to address specific situations as they arise and we felt that the present situation in which we find ourselves is something which comes into this category.

In view of this we have a proposal which we would like to put to the AGM, that the three of us, Carolyn, Gillian and myself act as an interim Management Committee and take on responsibility of the management of the Society for the time being. We would however state that we cannot do this without the support of the committee members and may from time to time need to call upon committee members to take on specific tasks. Carolyn wishes to continue to act as Press and Publicity Officer, and Gillian to continue as Treasurer, both of whom manage these positions admirably. They are both willing to

retain these positions whilst serving as members of the Interim Management Committee. It is also suggested that the situation is reviewed after six months.

In effect what this means is that all the officer post of the committee will be taken on by the Management Committee with Gillian taking overall responsibility for financial matters and Carolyn for press and publicity, with secretarial issues shared between the three members. Committee meetings will be chaired by one of the named persons of the Management Committee."

Considerable discussion ensued with regard to the situation in which the society finds itself. Bryan raised the question as to whether it was viable to keep the society functioning, bearing in mind the problems there had been with regard to casting the last show and the appointing of stage crew, lighting, sound, etc., a lot of which was done at the very last minute. It was emphasised that we were in the process of organising a fundraising event, the closing date for expressions of interest being the 15th September, and were also awaiting confirmation of the licence for a play in February next year. Acceptance of this proposal would mean that the society would have a breathing space for the time being and could press forward with arrangements for the fundraiser in November, in respect of which Leah had already done a tremendous amount of work, and the play in February, subject to sufficient interest to cast the play and support with regard to the staging of the production. The situation would be reviewed in six months which would take us past the staging of the February production, subject to it going ahead, and a decision could be made with regard to the future of the society.

Bryan asked if any consideration had been given as to how the viability of the proposed arrangements would be assessed and it was confirmed that the success or not, as the case might be, of the two proposed productions would be a major factor in coming to a decision.

The proposal submitted by Carolyn, Gillian and Elaine was seconded by Jan and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

It was essential that in order to move things forward a good communication system was set up with members and that membership lists be brought up to date in accordance with GDPR requirements. This would be looked at by the Management Team, utilising the support of the committee members if necessary.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting and opened the OPEN FORUM discussion.

- Leah confirmed that three people had expressed interest in the fundraiser but rehearsal venue/timing might be an issue
- Lara confirmed her willingness to direct one of the plays but confirmed that she would be away in October
- Carolyn circulated information with regard to the social media platforms held by the society and confirmed that she would set up a 'What's App' group for the new Management Team/Committee
- A password for access to the 'Members Only' area of the website would be given to members following payment of the subscription fee.