

NQSC Annual General Meeting November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

Maths Classroom, Rawlins Academy at 7:15pm

21 members attended. Dave May acted as Chairman

1. Gillian Bexon offered to be Minutes Secretary
2. Apologies were received from Janet and Derick Harrison and Jacynthe Barnes.
3. The Minutes of the AGM of 2015 had been sent earlier online and were approved – proposed by Stella Keenan and seconded by Sharon Scott (all in favour)
4. Matters arising –None.
5. Chairman's report

Dave told members that this was his last meeting as Chairman. He thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their excellent work and hoped all members would offer support by being in the audience or joining the committee. The production side of a show was very important and also could be rewarding. Often members got more out than they put in. He mentioned the year's shows – Dick Witless, She stoops to conquer, the Elizabethan evening, the GCR and May Day appearances, the Hallowe'en evening and the Blue Sky meeting at Teresa Budworth's house. The new costume store in the Old School was ready for use.

On behalf of the Company, Gillian thanked the Chairman for his work over the years.

6. Membership report

Ken currently had 12 full members paid up and Ivan had 9 on his online list, plus one associate and one junior. Last year there were 31 full members at the end of the financial year. More members of the pantomime cast had yet to pay.

7. Treasurer

Ivan said that the accounts showed a healthy surplus in 2015/16, an increase in cash assets of over £1400, largely from 3 successful productions. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 we held £4502.75 in the current account, and £3432.59 in the reserve account, a total of £7935.34. In his full report (appended) he mentioned that the Company had purchased a cyclorama and some wardrobe items which could be used again, a proportion of the cost therefore being taken out of the general account. Electronic Bank transfers (BACS) could be paid much more conveniently and most members claiming expenses had provided Ivan with their bank account details. The Company's banker is now Lloyds (formerly Natwest) and we have a Paypal account for ticket sales and subscriptions. He thanked Elizabeth Walling for auditing the accounts for 2015/16.

The accounts were approved by members (proposed by Pat Young and seconded by Emma Smith – all in favour.)

The current subscription rates were approved for 2017/18 (unchanged) from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 (proposed by Sylvia Fall, seconded by Stella, all in favour.)

Auditor: Elizabeth Walling's offer to audit the accounts for the current financial year was accepted, proposed by Steve Womersley and seconded by Emma Smith (all in favour)

#### 8. Directors' reports

Admirable Crichton and Dick Witless – Sharon said the *Crichton* play had been great fun to do, although the set changes had proved a challenge. She thanked Cathy for her excellent costumes, which took the shows to another level. A preview meant that the cast had learnt their lines in good time, and Sharon advised all directors to hold one if at all possible. She had done the same promotion for both *Crichton* and *Dick Witless*, though the latter was slightly better supported and made much more money. There had been a very short rehearsal time for the pantomime so costs for room hire were much reduced. She thought it was strange that people who bought tickets online for *Crichton* did not, on the whole, buy them again for the pantomime. However Ivan pointed out that having an online database was a good way of publicising shows. She suggested that directors put out 'tick sheets' for the audiences, asking them for information about where they heard about the show etc. Stella commented that tickets for the current pantomime were apparently not yet available.

She stoops to conquer - Gillian had been delighted that she had been able to cast this play after her failure to do so the year before, and had been very pleased with cast attendance and the way the cast had coped with difficult circumstances for rehearsals, including having to use different venues. Ticket selling she thought was a problem as so few had been bought in advance. She wondered whether the committee could look at the idea of charging less for tickets bought in advance. The Parish Council had helped to pay for the cost of hiring an apron stage. Gillian concluded by saying how pleased she had been with the new cyclorama which had given the show a lift as soon as the curtains opened.

#### 9. Election of Officers for 2016/17

There had been one nomination for Chairman – Pat Young, proposed by Sharon Scott, seconded by Gillian Bexon – who was elected with all in favour.

Ivan and Gillian were willing to stand again as Treasurer and Secretary respectively and were elected – Ivan proposed by Mary May, seconded by Sylvia Fall; Gillian proposed by Sylvia Fall and seconded by Ken Eldridge – all in favour.

#### 10. Election of Committee for 2016/17

Ken Eldridge, Emma Smith, Steve Womersley and Sharon Scott were willing to stand again and were re-elected unopposed. (all in favour)

New members elected were Teresa Budworth (proposed by Ken and seconded by Gillian) and Alice Templeman (proposed by Dave May and seconded by Gillian) – all in favour.

Dave and Mary May agreed to continue on the committee – all in favour.

(full details appended)

The first committee meeting of the new committee is Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in The Blacksmith's Arms, Quorn.

11. Any other business

- a) Website management – Ivan and Sharon both wanted to ask Dave if he could manage to continue editing the website once he was away from Quorn and the Company. He replied that it should be possible but it might require someone else to come forward in the future. Ivan suggested that members look at the NQSC's website and Facebook entries which he said were very good. They needed to be kept up to date.
- b) Entertainment evenings – Sharon reported that she and Nigel had been exhausted after the Hallowe'en evening because there was not enough support with clearing away after the event. More help was needed before they would consider running more events like this.
- c) Sharon suggested we look at putting on a Jane Austen evening in 2017 to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the author's death.
- d) The costume store – a date was needed for moving costumes in the lock up to its new venue, and helpers would be needed. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm was chosen. Cathy could not attend herself but could then organise the new venue at her leisure. Costumes for a production could be left on a rack in the storage container both before and after each show, and moved to and from the new store when convenient. Cathy wanted time to consider this suggestion as she feared the lock up might be damp. Covers for the garments were suggested. Sharon would be removing lighting equipment from her loft into the container once there was space, and making sure that the Phoenix Players did not take over the NQSC side.
- e) Summer Shakespeare – Sharon mentioned her proposal for performing Comedy of Errors outside in late July/August 2017 in Stafford Orchard. She had contacted the Parish Council and the Village Events group. The biggest expenditure would be on a marquee; she hoped to obtain grants for this.

There was no further business and the meeting closed. There was then a panto rehearsal in the Old Gym.