

WICK

THEATRE COMPANY

MINUTES OF AGM
3RD OCTOBER 2022

The Chair, John Garland, opened the meeting by welcoming everybody.

Those in attendance [20] recorded their presence.

Julian Batstone	Judith Berrill	Rosemary Bouchy	Tony Brownings*	Dave Comber
Susanne Crosby*	Margaret Davy	Emily Dennett	Dan Dryer*	Zöe Edden
Derek Fraser	John Garland*	Nigel Goldfinch	Ray Hopper*	Peter Joyce*
David Pierce	Maggi Pierce*	Sharon Theobald	Mike Wells*	Claire Wiggins

* current committee members

Agenda items

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - 19																				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Simon Armes</td> <td>Barrie Bowen</td> <td>Rosemary Brown</td> <td>David Creedon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ralph Dawes</td> <td>Amanda Evans</td> <td>Sue Goble</td> <td>Lindsay Midali</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Muzzall</td> <td>Giles Newlyn-Bowmer</td> <td>Martin Oakley</td> <td>David Peaty</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diane Robinson</td> <td>Bob Ryder</td> <td>Anita Shipton</td> <td>Peter Thompson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Di Tidzer</td> <td>Sue Whittaker</td> <td>Caroline Woodley</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Simon Armes	Barrie Bowen	Rosemary Brown	David Creedon	Ralph Dawes	Amanda Evans	Sue Goble	Lindsay Midali	Tony Muzzall	Giles Newlyn-Bowmer	Martin Oakley	David Peaty	Diane Robinson	Bob Ryder	Anita Shipton	Peter Thompson	Di Tidzer	Sue Whittaker	Caroline Woodley	
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2	MINUTES																				
2.1	Minutes of 2021 AGM had been published on line. Hard copies distributed to those without access to www																				
2.2	Chair invited questions on the minutes; no questions were raised.																				
2.3	Approval of the 2021 AGM minutes as a true record was proposed by John Garland, seconded by Maggi Pierce.																				

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2.4	All in attendance, who were members at the time of the 2021 AGM, voted and the proposal was carried unanimously.
2.5	No matters arising.
3	BRIEF REPORTS OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES - 2021 - 2022
3.1	President – Ray Hopper
3.1.1	Welcoming the 20 members in attendance RH remarked that President does not have to attend Committee and he had stepped down from attending.
3.1.2	RH advised that he will stand down from the position when the time is right.
3.1.3	RH remarked on the success of the monthly social evenings and noted that with dark evenings now upon us he and MP had discussed continuing holding an event but during daytime; Monday mornings in the Community Centre's café.
3.1.4	The first November 14 th at 11.00.
3.1.5	Through to March when a change to evenings would be discussed
3.1.6	All who hosted the Summer meetings were thanked
3.1.7	RH paid tribute to members who had died including David Dawson, John Barham and Barrie Jerram.
3.1.7.1	Barrie had been a member of Young Wick as well as being a long-time drama critic for The Argus.
3.1.7.2	RH noted both Rosemary Biggs and Barbara Isaacs had both played the part of Karen in "Plaza Suite"
3.1.7.3	RH remembered two stalwarts of Young Wick in the 1960's; Ian and Betty Elliott.
3.1.7.4	President RH took a moment to reflect on Ian Elliott's invaluable impact when, in 1962 the Young Wick Players changed its name to Wick Theatre Company.
3.1.7.5	This change saw a shepherding away from a benign dictatorship under Molly Penney to a Company run under a Constitution
3.1.7.6	Recollecting those days RH recalled asking Ian to help him and Ross Workman in its preparation and acknowledged that much of to-day's Constitution is Ian's work.

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3.1.7.7	Ian elected as our first Chairman.
3.1.8	RH thanked ‘hard working’ Chair John Garland both for his Committee work and his administration responsibilities of The Barn Theatre.
3.2	Chairman – John Garland
3.2.1	2021/22 has seen some return to normality as COVID restrictions have enabled us to return to almost normal operations. We have been able to produce a full season of shows - which our Theatre Coordinator will feed back on shortly - and re-start social gatherings, beginning with a really enjoyable evening last August.
3.2.2	The committee re-convened face-to-face for the first time in September 2021. I can't tell you how much this pleased me - although necessary, communicating by Zoom is not my favourite, and makes meetings so much harder to chair as I can't necessarily tell who is itching to speak!
3.2.3	Although I have remained as Chair this year, I will fully admit that I have not been involved with the day-to-day running of the company as I would have liked, as sadly my own work commitments do not seem to have reduced as yet despite the reported end of the pandemic. It still seems to be taking its toll on the nation's emotional wellbeing, in addition to the well-reported Cost of Living rises.
3.2.4	Of course, that is why we need to have hobbies and interests to distract us from depressing events and even for a short time spend time with theatre Colleagues.
3.2.5	Because of this, I have decided to chair the AGM a little differently this year and allow the officers of the committee to report to you on what they have been doing - starting with our Theatre Coordinator, Dan Dryer.
3.3	Theatre Co-ordinator – Dan Dryer
3.3.1	We finally were back on stage!
3.3.2	The season commenced with <i>Clue</i> , directed by Julian Batstone. This hilarious Whodunnit, based on the well-known board game, was well received by audiences. Critics said “Julian Batstone’s direction hits exactly the right note, between seriousness, tomfoolery and excellent drama.
3.3.3	But the stage management (Gaby Bowring) and lighting and design (Marin Oakley) provide the steady bass line behind the 11 strong cast. Doing silly on stage is never easy but this production hits exactly the right balance”.
3.3.4	At the annual Brighton & Hove Arts Council Awards Evening <i>Clue</i> was rewarded

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	<p>with two awards, Guy Steddon received the award for best actor and Peter Joyce and Cast won the award for best stage crew. The awards didn't stop there as Julian carried off a well- deserved Accolade of Excellence from NODA.</p>
3-3-5	
	<p>Our January production was <i>Pygmalion</i>, directed by Mike Wells. The story of Higgins teaching Eliza to speak 'like a lady in a flower shop' went down a storm.</p>
3-3-6	
	<p>Audiences commented, "What a joy to be able to go to the theatre and experience some real culture! The whole play swept us along with the story. My favourite was Mr Doolittle. He had the capacity to appear in 'Yes Prime Minister' with lines that were clearly delivered and went on and on with a conviction that was totally real! And that top hat and tails!!! Fabulous!"</p>
3-3-7	
	<p>And "Thank you very much for getting me a ticket for last evening's performance of <i>Pygmalion</i>. I thought it was a superb production. The acting was brilliant – some long speeches that must have taken some learning. I thought it was one of the best plays I've seen at The Barn."</p>
3-3-8	
	<p>March saw a dark and powerful production of <i>Frankenstein</i>, directed by Diane Robinson. This performance combined live music, dance and movement pieces with terrific acting throughout.</p>
3-3-9	
	<p>Due praise was given to Phil Nair-Brown in his central portrayal of the creature. "A special mention to Phil Nair-Brown whose performance as the creature was breath-taking and entirely flawless. A very special performance in a very fine play." "Amazing show. Phil Nair-Brown is sensationally outstanding. Powerful stuff from beginning to end." And "I thought the emotional questions were very important and came over really well. I'm so glad I went and very much enjoyed the evening. The whole production was terrific and one of the best I've seen from The Wick."</p>
3-3-10	
	<p>Our final show of the season was <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>, directed by Guy Steddon. Proclaimed by Stephen King as the scariest ghost story of all time, this production terrified audiences, but in a good way.</p>
3-3-11	
	<p>NODA wrote "Wick Theatre Company has certainly tapped into the human fascination with things that go bump in the night! The set was well designed and worked very well. The impact of the double-doors closing as if by some supernatural force was most effective. The 'smell of the fire' was particularly realistic if a little scary for some members of the audience.</p>
3-3-12	
	<p><i>The Haunting of Hill House</i>, which was really well directed by Guy Steddon and Suse Crosby, was a production that delighted in putting people on the edge of their seats and it certainly did that. Congratulations to you all for scaring and entertaining a very rapt audience in equal measure."</p>
3-3-13	
	<p>And so on to the 2022 – 2023 season. This has just opened with the hilarious <i>Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)</i> and we will be presenting <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> and <i>A Woman in Mind</i>.</p>

	Chairman – John Garland – continues
3.2.6	Thanks Dan, it's good to hear that all our productions this year have been so well received and that we have an exciting programme already planned for this financial year. Of course, <i>A Christmas Carol</i> is already underway and <i>Merchant of Venice</i> will begin preparations with a reading and auditions in November. Both are being directed by new directors for the company which is nice, and both have big casts, so it will be all hands-on deck!
3.2.7	It was nice to see a dozen new actors on stage throughout the season, as well as many of our regulars but of course, no production goes ahead without support backstage and around the theatre. Dan mentioned we won an award for our stage crew for <i>Clue</i> and there has also been a lot of positive feedback for our sets. Big thanks therefore go to our Workshop Team, headed by Dave Comber.
3.2.8	Also, to those who help with the technical aspects coordinated by Julian Batstone, now ably supported by Suse Crosby who has spent the last year learning the dark arts of lighting from Martin Oakley.
3.2.9	Wardrobe has also figured prominently this year, as ever managed brilliantly by Maggi Pierce & Cherry Fraser, and we remain grateful for the organisation of props by Di Tidzer, Doffey Reid and Lauren Brakes who has joined that team: great to see some young people joining us.
3.2.10	Equally, no production goes up without a FOH Team and we are indebted to Emily Dennett and the scores of members who volunteer for that role. Box Office is also now "in-house" and thanks to Peter Joyce for organising that.
3.2.11	Finally, we need an audience for every show - following the return of "live" theatre, we weren't sure if they would come back. Thankfully our Publicity department have encouraged them to do so, and my thanks go to Suse Crosby, again, and the many that support her to publicise our shows. We'll hear how successful they have been when we get the Treasurer's report!
3.2.12	Of course, we don't just produce shows. It is just as important is that our members feel part of our group and have the opportunity to socialise together. We have continued to have monthly play-readings, some on Zoom ¹ and some face-to-face to give participants flexibility and these have been coordinated by Mike Wells, who is also responsible currently for licencing our productions.
3.2.13	As I said earlier, we relaunched social evenings last summer, coordinated by Ray & Maggi, and I thank Ray for his comments about these.

¹ 'Zoom' software is a videotelephony software enabling concurrent participants to conference across the internet

3.2.14	So, let's have a report about our current membership numbers
3.4	Membership Secretary
3.4.1	Membership number at 91 [last year 93]
3.4.2	Full Members 54
3.4.3	Associates 31
3.4.4	Honorary Life Members 6
3.4.5	Since 2021's AGM we note the deaths of present members
3.4.5.1	Barbara Isaacs - 06/22 Sheila Wright - 08/22 Rosemary Biggs – 05/22
3.4.5.2	and past members Betty Elliott – 04/22 Ian Elliott – 07/22 Peter Carpenter – 03/22 Fiona Cameron – 10/21 John Barham – 01/21 David Dawson – 11/20
3.4.5.3	SC advised meeting of 899 'followers' on <i>Facebook</i> 225 'followers' on <i>Instagram</i>
	Chairman – John Garland – continues
3.2.15	I think now might be a good time for the Treasurer's Report, so we can get some idea of how we are doing as a Company.
4	FINANCIAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF 2020 - 2021 AUDITED ACCOUNTS
4.1	Tony Brownings presented audited accounts for 2021 – 2022 and walked through the salient points

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4.1.1	Production Account: £6,324.87
4.1.1.1	All productions delivered a positive return – <i>Clue</i> £3,085 – <i>Pygmalion</i> £687.99 – <i>Frankenstein</i> £1,101.69 – <i>H of HH</i> £ 783.26 – totalling
4.1.2	General Account: [£9,308.18] ² - reflected annual outgoings and commitment to investment – particularly projector and associated equipment mitigated by subscriptions and sundry income
4.1.2.1	Company loss: [£2,983.31]
4.1.3	Balance Sheet: £70,960
4.1.4	Treasurer proposed acceptance of accounts, MP seconded; agreed unanimously
4	PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2021 - 2022
4.2	Given current financial position with general expenses of the company being covered by subscriptions and fundraising, Treasurer proposed that subscription rates remain unchanged - ie £25 Full adult membership; £15 Student/over 65/Associate membership.
4.2.1	Peter Joyce seconded
4.2.2	Agreed unanimously
5	ELECTION FOR 2022 - 2023 POSTS
5.1	John Garland handed the meeting over to President Ray Hopper to conduct the election of Office of Chairman.
5.2	RH thanked JG for everything he does for the company.
5.3	Election of Chairman
5.3.1	John Garland proposed by Claire Wiggins and seconded by Judith Berrill
5.3.2	John Garland duly elected to the Officer Post of Chairman

² Parenthesis indicate figure is deficit

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5.4	John Garland, as newly elected Chairman, conducted the rest of the meeting.
5.4.1	Prior to starting the election process for committee, let me start by saying that sadly Mike Wells has decided to stand down from committee. Mike joined committee 4 years ago, and as stated earlier, has taken an important role in keeping play-readings going through COVID.
5.4.1.2	Mike has a busy year planned and feels unable to commit the time necessary to remain committee.
5.4.1.3	Although no longer continuing on committee, Mike will of course remain active in the company and has agreed to direct for us once more next summer - so thanks to Mike for all he has done and will continue to do.
5.5	<p>Election of President</p> <p>Ray Hopper proposed by John Garland and seconded by Peter Joyce</p> <p>Ray Hopper duly elected to the Officer Post of President</p>
5.6	<p>Election of Vice-President</p> <p>Maggi Pierce proposed by Nigel Goldfinch and seconded by Tony Brownings</p> <p>Maggi Pierce duly elected to the Officer Post of Vice-President</p>
5.6.1	JG says: Both Ray and Maggi are long-standing members of the company. As you have heard they are taking an active lead in the social side of the company (thanks also to Maggie for the refreshments!) and of course Maggi is still involved both on and back -stage in practically every production we put on.
5.7	<p>Election of Secretary & Membership Secretary</p> <p>Peter Joyce proposed by David Peaty and seconded by Margaret Davy</p> <p>Peter Joyce duly elected to the Officer Post of Secretary</p>
5.7.1	JG says: Due to a lack of nominees, Peter has also agreed to remain Membership Sec also - I think it is only fair that Peter has 2 titles, but he could have a lot more as he manages the Box Office, volunteers in the Workshop, and of course runs our website.

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5.8	<p>Election of Treasurer</p> <p>Tony Brownings proposed by David Comber and seconded by Martin Oakley</p> <p>Tony Brownings duly elected to the Officer Post of Treasurer</p>
5.8.1	<p>JG says: You've already heard Tony's report and as, I understand, he made a small profit on the last show, I think we should vote for him to continue!</p>
5.9	<p>Election of Committee Member with Theatre Co-ordinator remit</p> <p>Dan Dryer proposed by Emily Dennett and seconded by Maggie Pierce</p> <p>Dan Dryer duly elected as a committee member</p>
5.9.1	<p>JG says: Although unable to attend committee as often as we would like, Dan continues to plan excellent seasons of theatre and, together with his sub-committee , is already planning for 2024!</p>
5.10	<p>Election of Committee Member with Publicity Co-ordinator remit</p> <p>Suse Crosby proposed by Anette Sheridan and seconded by Laura Brakes</p> <p>Suse Crosby duly elected as a committee member</p>
5.10.1	<p>JG says: I think I've already sung Suse' praises for everything she has done for our publicity machine, not least the increase in social media posts</p>
5.11	<p>Election of Committee Member with Technical Liaison remit</p> <p>Martin Oakley proposed by John Garland and seconded by David Comber</p> <p>Martin Oakley duly elected as a committee member</p>
5.11.1	<p>JG: I think everyone knows Martin. He was on Wick committee before a few years ago and takes a lead for lighting design for most of our productions. We are very glad to welcome him back</p>
5.12	<p>Election of Committee Member with Newsletter Editor remit</p> <p>Rosemary Bouchy proposed by John Garland and seconded by David Pierce</p>

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	Rosemary Bouchy duly elected as a committee member
5.12.1	JG says: So glad that Rosemary has agreed to remain on committee for another year. She started editing the newsletter in December 2012, so this will mark her 10 th anniversary in the job.
5.13	Election of Committee Member with Safeguarding & Technology remit Julian Batstone proposed by Sarah Frost and seconded by Tony Brownings Julian Batstone duly elected as a committee member
5.13.1	JG says: With Martin's appointment as Technical Liaison, we had to find a new title for Julian - quite difficult as he is involved in so many of our departments. But we settled on this due to the increased responsibilities we have in Safeguarding and adhering to Data Protection and other protocols.
5.14	Election of Committee Member with Wardrobe remit Maggi Pierce proposed by Amanda Evans and seconded by Di Tidzer Maggi Pierce duly elected as a committee member
5.15	Election of Committee Member with Workshop remit Vacant
5.15.1	Apart from needing a membership secretary, the 12 th and final place on committee is currently vacant. It was previously held by Nigel Goldfinch, representing the Workshop, but he is reluctantly standing down and no-one from the Workshop team feels able to take his place.
5.15.2	We are very grateful to Nigel, not least for his hard work, but also for his infectious sense of humour. He is very much a team player and has agreed to send committee a report from the Workshop team each month until a replacement is found - as long as Dave Comber tells him what is going on!

	Chairman – John Garland – continues
3.2.16	So that concludes the formal business of elections. As you will note, we have 2 empty spots on committee, but we can co-opt others if there is anyone interested in dipping their toe in the water and finding out what they can help with. Also, if you think you can help in any of the departments already represented, I'm sure those people will appreciate this.
3.2.17	As I said last year, COVID made us realise that we need to have back-up in every area in case of an emergency - and we rely on our members to volunteer to help us when we need them.
3.2.18	We are in a strong position financially, but that means nothing if we don't have the resources to continue to operate and that, for a charity organisation, is primarily having available manpower or womanpower to continue to manage the company and its productions.
3.2.19	To finish on a Happy note, it is our 75 th Anniversary this year, and hopefully we can celebrate in style - any ideas welcome!
6	APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR 2022 - 2023
6.1	Tony Brownings proposed Malcolm Gough continues in this appointment
6.2	Peter Joyce seconded
6.2.1	Agreed unanimously
6.3	TB advised that the 2021 – 2022 accounts had not been examined; expected in November
7	PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE
7.1	There were no formal proposals received
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
8.1	Emily Dennett – FOH administrator – asked for guidance with handling program sales-takings in-between performances

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8.1.1	Matter to be discussed at first Committee Meeting of 2022 – 2023; ED invited to said meeting
8.2	PJ noted that season’s productions have all come in under budget
8.3	PJ noted use of 3D printer to deliver a property used in “The Complete Works of Shakespeare [Abridged]” and remarked on opportunities this technology could deliver
8.4	RH advised of plans to meet for Christmas lunch in Community Centre’s café; December 7 2022
8.5	PJ advised Brighton & Hove Arts Council’s Full-Length Drama Competition’s Awards Evening will be December 13 2022
8.5.1	Invitations to be sent when more information available
8.6	DC advised SCA Forum – open to all – November 15 2022
8.6.1	SCA has drafted a 3-year plan and intends to discuss at Forum
9	The Chair thanked all who attended and meeting closed at 21.20