

**MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TODMORDEN AMATEUR OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY
HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT THE HIPPODROME THEATRE, TODMORDEN**

Members present: President George Mitchell and 60 members

George Mitchell, President introduced the society's guest, Christine Hunter-Hughes, National President Elect of NODA.

He asked members stand in silence to remember Sylvia Thomas

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from 30 members.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 19th July 2018**

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed M Cook seconded C Stott.

3. **Matters arising – None**

4. **Correspondence**

5. **Finance report – Adoption of the Balance Sheet**

The Finance report was circulated and presented by Dave Badrick.

- These figures have been submitted for audit but not yet processed by the auditor (WYCAS). When audited the accounts will be publicly available on the Charity Commission website.
- The 2017 – 18 accounting period covered 1st June 2017 – 31st July 2018 (14 months) to facilitate adjustment of our financial year. The 2018-19 accounting period covered 1st August to 31st July 2019.
- £5,000 Community Foundation for Calderdale grant spent towards Lite Deck stage platforms. £2,000 Community Foundation for Calderdale grant restricted to improvements on pet Shop frontage.
- Additional payments of £4425 due to society for hire of facilities by various external organisations.
- In 2017 – 18 claimed several previous years Gift Aid, no claim was made in 2018-19.
- Additional payments of £1220 due from TIC ticket sales.
- Figures include cost of improvements to Pet Shop/Props Room, refurbishment of circle seating, new lightweight stage platforms, new lighting desk and new backstage comms equipment.
- Includes payments for the Jon Richardson evening of £8190 where receipts were shown in 2017-18 and advance payments for royalties and publicity for future events.
- Includes payments for external acts like Manford's and the Jerseys.
- Includes the consultant's fees for work on changing the society to a CIO status and fund raising.

The report was accepted unanimously. Proposed J Sutcliffe seconded D Cook.

6. **Admin Report**

Carolyn Hall gave a big thank you to S Clarkson and R Rogers for taking over the box office and to Alison Foster for taking over the membership database.

7. **Creative Report**

The audiences have really enjoyed the society's shows this year and Justine said that the society is very lucky to be well supported by NODA and their reps. NODA awards will be put onto the website. She then gave a review of the year June 2018 to July 2019.

June 2018

- **Merchant of Venice** – very well received by the audiences.

July 2018

- Schools and Dance schools used the theatre for their own shows. They are all regular users who put money in our coffers.
- HYT Junior Presentation. Simon Dewsnip will be joining the HYTs team
- Hosted a very successful Jon Richardson event.

September 2018

- Good turnout for the IMPROV evenings
- Voices of Tod will take place in 2020, alternating with Hebden Bridge Little Theatre.

October 2018

- Wind in the Willows (HYT) – a fantastic week with great reviews.

November 2018

- Manford's Comedy Club continued this year
- The Book Festival has booked for 2019 and 2020. Visitors came from a distance for this event and were impressed by our building.

December 2018

- Hobson's Choice – a really funny, old fashioned play

January 2019

February 2019

- Pyrenease – this play was resurrected following its cancellation due to the floods
- NODA District awards.
TAODS nominations (winners highlighted in bold): **Wind in the Willows** Best Comedy Role: Callum Roberts, **Best Supporting Youth**: Ellie Spooner, **Best Lead**: Callum Roberts, Best Youth Ensemble: Wind in the Willows, **Best Production Team Member**: Martin Cook, **Best Youth Show**: Wind in the Willows.
The Merchant of Venice Best set/staging: Hippodrome technical team, Best Supporting Male: Brendan Barclay, **Best Female Lead**: Justine Sutcliffe, **Best Male Lead**: Richard Holley, Best Direction: Elizabeth Holland, Best Play: The Merchant of Venice, we also won the Representative's Award **for Best Overall Performance of 2018**
The Memory of Water (Feb 2018): Best Supporting Female: Rachel Doyle-Richards, Best Supporting Male: Richard Holley
Hobson's Choice Best Supporting Male: Brendan Barclay, Best Female Lead: Katrina Heath, Best Comedy Male: Patrick Smith, Best Lead Male, Patrick Smith, Best Direction: James Claxton, Best Play, Hobson's Choice
Jesus Christ Superstar Best Female Lead: Victoria Brown, Best Ensemble: Jesus Christ Superstar, Best Set/Staging: Hippodrome technical team, **Best Supporting Male**: Joel Brown, Best Lead Male: Chris Stott, **Best Musical Direction**: Helen Clarkson, Best Artistic Direction: Emma Cook, Best Musical: Jesus Christ Superstar

March 2019

- IMPROV Night

April 2019

- West Side Story – WOW! Such a buzz, Very successful. The show was also on at the same time at the Royal Exchange and Tod Hipp's production was best!

May 2019

- NODA North West Awards
TAODS nominated for (winners highlighted in bold): Best Supporting Male in a Musical: Joel Brown, Best Musical Director: Helen Clarkson, Best Overall Youth Production: Wind in the Willows, Best Artistic Direction of a Youth Production: Martin Cook, **Best Musical Direction of a Youth Production**: Helen Clarkson, Best Lead: Callum Roberts, **Best Supporting Role**: Ellie Spooner, Best Male Lead in a Play: Richard Holley, Best Female Lead in a Play: Justine Sutcliffe, **Best Play**: The Merchant of Venice

June 2019

- Hound of the Baskervilles – Cast 3 women for this play where it should have been 3 men – but it worked!

July 2019

- HYT Presentation

Justine thanked all who had made this a phenomenal year.

8. Hospitality Report

Chloe McNeill thanked all the volunteers – in VERSE.

Bar Report from Rowena Green

We have once again had a busy year on the bar, in previous years I would always announce doing bars for TAODS own productions and our long standing visitors like the Gang Show, dance school performances, school talent shows, St Joseph's pantomime, however we have over the past few years branched out in many directions and welcomed to the theatre the Annual Burlesque, comedy nights, book festivals, opera's and other theatrical productions. I know there are also many other community groups that have also used our facilities for events and my list could go on forever. We still very occasionally have foyer bookings for private birthday parties and also family celebrations but actually if I am truthful we have very few dates to be able to offer to accommodate these due to the ongoing success and popularity of the theatre. We are quite fortunate in having volunteers however we still struggle immensely staffing some events and the phrase 'many hands makes light work' springs to my mind so if you can help out behind the main bar at an event or at a social 'props room' evening we would gladly welcome you on board. I would however like at this point to say thank you to those members here tonight who never let me down doing an odd shift on the bar. I feel a special mention must go to Maureen and Andrew for all the extra's shifts that you pick up along the way, and my notes wouldn't be the same if I didn't mention David for his shopping trips to bookers and endless visits to re cycle the copious amounts of empties, so once again David thank you.

Also by no means least I must mention the props room, although I can't confirm the input this has had financially has it is still in its infancy I think we can certainly see its profit in being the jewel in our crown 'socially' and certainly celebrate the re birth of club nights so I thank Chloe and her team for the events they keep on organising at the end each month. I thank our members who have created this relaxing space for us to indeed relax and enjoy each other's company not only on stage or front of house but in another socially setting. Please do try to come along on a Thursday eve to chat and get to know other members. I truly feel 'our theatre' is all about team work and working together for something we has volunteers believe in which gives us our very own 'Todmorden Hippodrome Family'.

So finally the important bit

This year I am pleased to announce that our total takings were £32,500 making our sales profit 45% With a value stock of £3,700 this has enabled us to hand a total of £14,800 to the General Fund. So with my report coming to a close all that's left for me to say is once again thank you to everyone for their continued support.

9. Technical Report

- Technical support has been given to all shows. Productions have been complex with widely different sets.
- Costumes have appeared miraculously, thanks to that team.
- Light and sound has been available to all our own plays and to outside productions. Special thanks to Aysa, the two Toms and Greeny.
- Soon to install lighting and sound in the foyer. This has been mainly funded from contributions in memory of Sylvia.
- There has been a grant towards the new lite deck so that now able to reconfigure the auditorium.
- Finally thanks to all those involved in back stage roles.

10. Buildings Report

- The theatre is in a better state than a year ago. Thanks to all those who helped with the removal of seats and repainting of frames.
- The Props Room has been admired.
- The stage floor surface has been repaired and painted black.
- All domestic lighting is to be replaced by LED bulbs.
- Looking to replace the shop front for the Props Room.
- Spent a thousand pounds to make the theatre as flood proof as possible particularly as we no longer have flood insurance. Please can all members do their bit to assist when the flood warning sounds.
- Finally thanks to all members who help to keep and improve our theatre.

11. Fixing of the subscriptions for 2020/2021

David Winslow gave the background to the current system of collecting subscriptions and explained that the society is hoping to set up a system to allow direct debit payments. The Executive Committee proposes that subscriptions should be increased to £48 per annum for adults and £24 per annum for seniors and juniors. They are also looking to increase the member's benefits especially Bar Discount. 40% on work nights, club nights and member's socials and 20% at public events. The changes to subscriptions was proposed by C Stott and seconded by H Sutcliffe. Carried unanimously.

12. Presidents Address

Once again we have had a very busy year in the theatre presenting a wide variety of musicals, plays and other events. All of them have made a profit and are significant contributions to the wellbeing of the Society. Again we must pass on our grateful thanks to our Creative Officer Justine and her team for ensuring that all these events are not only interesting for our members to take part but are organised to a professional standard both on and off stage. Our grateful thanks must go also to Helen, the Directors and their teams, the stage staff and all the front of house staff. All these volunteers give up a considerable amount of time to ensure that every performance is backed by a dedicated team to give our audiences a comfortable and memorable experience when they visit the Hippodrome. On the stage the performances have been to such a high standard that they have been recognised on many occasions by awards from NODA. The backing orchestras for the musicals have been first class and many congratulations to everyone involved in both the musicals and the plays and may the high standard achieved continue in the future.

Our grateful thanks go to Robin Ward, Steve Clarkson and Jeannie Robertson for the many hours of work they have put in to bring the Pet Shop up to a standard whereby our members can enjoy socialising on a Thursday night in a comfortable and atmospheric environment. We are hoping that in the not too distant future we will be in a position to replace the frontage of the building to complete the refurbishment.

As Dave our Treasurer has outlined, we have had a successful year financially, although regarding the accounts it has been made more complicated by the fact that we now have a new year end i.e. 31st July. This change was to facilitate the transfer of the assets to the new CIO on the 31st July last year. The Hippodrome Theatre and the Pet Shop have now been transferred to the new CIO during the year.

During the year we have made some major purchases and have extended thanks on behalf of our members to the Community Foundation for Calderdale for some major grants. The refurbished seating in the Circle is now almost complete with just a few rows left to do. A new lighting desk was purchased together with the back stage communications equipment. We have also purchased a set off light weight stage platforms. Again all these major purchases are not only for the benefit of our patrons but also allow our technical team to produce a more professional background to our productions. We are always on the lookout for sources of grants and this will continue so that we are able to make the necessary improvements in the future.

I would just like to mention the appointment of new Trustees. Along with myself, David and Helen, Justine and Alan Sutcliffe have now been appointed and, it goes without saying, that the appointment of Justine and Alan augers well for the future of the Society.

Thank you all for attending tonight and we look forward to another successful year.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our distinguished guest for this evening, the National President Elect of NODA, Christine Hunter-Hughes. I would like Christine to say a few words and then present the Society awards and the NODA long service badges.

Address by Christine Hunter-Hughes, National President Elect NODA

Thank you so much for inviting me to present the awards this evening. I feel truly honoured to have been invited. For many people their hobby is all consuming and the time and effort put in by every member of the cast and crew of every production that finally 'hits the boards' is phenomenal. The time and effort from your recipients is directly related to the number of years' service and certainly deserves thanks for us all.

Everyone within the Society is a small cog in a big wheel – so from the Committee and the production team to the person who makes the tea at the rehearsals, via set designers and makers, stage management and crew for the production, sound and light technicians, costumes, make-up, props, musicians, chorus members right up to the solo performers and leading actors- each one plays a part - then what have you got? You've got a show. The friendship, camaraderie and sheer good fun that our hobby affords us includes everyone.

Our NODA strapline is BE INSPIRED by Amateur Theatre. Our aim at NODA is to help and support our members as well as giving opportunities for training.

Thank you so much for inviting me and making me so welcome. Long may you continue to enjoy and promote our wonderful hobby whilst at the same time entertaining your audiences so very royally.

Awards

- Eileen Hartley Memorial Trophy – Amelia Gregory
- Producers Award – Ellie Spooner
- Phillip Greenwood Memorial Trophy – Justine Sutcliffe
- Peter Howard Memorial Trophy – Jade Schofield
- Hubert Town Memorial Trophy – Carolyn Hall

The long service NODA badges are awarded to the following members

- 25 year badges – Emma Cook, James Claxton, Alexandra Townend
- 25 year plus 5 year bar – Liz Holland
- 30 year bar – Steve Clarkson
- 35 year bar – Helen Clarkson, Justine Sutcliffe, Alan Sutcliffe
- 60 year Diamond Bar – Brian Binns

The Committee proposed the award of Life Membership to Brian and Winifred Rogers which was carried unanimously.

13. Thanks to the retiring officers

The vote of thanks was given by Andrew Howard.

14. Election of officers

President	G Mitchell	Minute Secretary	A Greenwood
Chair of Exec Committee	D Winslow	Creative Officer	J Sutcliffe
Vice Chair –	H Clarkson	Hospitality Officer	C McNeill
Admin Officer	C Hall	Technical Officer	Vacancy
Finance Officer	Vacancy	Buildings Officer	Vacancy

All stood unopposed and were elected.

There were no nominations for Finance Officer, Technical Officer or Buildings Officer.

15. Election of Members of the Executive Committee

A Sutcliffe and Rowena Green stood unopposed and were elected.

16. Election of Auditor

George Mitchell proposed that WYCAS continue in this role. Seconded by A Sutcliffe and carried.

17. Activities and Future Productions

Justine reported that the new season started on the 1st August following which the Theatre hosted the European Natural Building Conference with representatives from various countries.

- **September** – The Haunting of Blaine Manor and Pramkicker. Both these productions are by professional companies.
- **October** – Imaginary, HYTs production
- **December** – Grimm Tales – 6 short fairy stories told in a perfunctory manor and delivered in the round.
- **February** – The Kitchen Sink to be directed by Tilly Sutcliffe and Jack Wagman
- **April** – Guys and Dolls
- **June** – Much Ado about Nothing. Directed by Liz Holland

18. AOB

- On behalf of the Society, Carolyn Hall wished the very best of luck to those HYTs members Callum Roberts, Hannah Stobbs and Noah Bimul-Hilton leaving to go to university.

The President thanked those in attendance and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.