



Shiplake and Dunsden
Dramatic Organisation
www.shaddo.org.uk

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Monday 5 April 2004 at 8.00pm in
the Plowden Arms Shiplake**

Present

Hilary Tucker, Gareth Jones, Terry James, Liz James, Pam Hudgell, Angela Jones, Angela Cadman, Neil McAdam, Chris Irons, Mark Manson, Liz Thomas, Rosemary Appleby, Steve Watkins, Fredric Lawson, Beryl Lawson, Neil George, Jane Edwards, Barry Edwards.

The following apologies had been received by the Secretary (Hilary Tucker) prior to the AGM

Fran Bodenham, Carol Wilde, Chris Bichard.

1. Adoption of Chair for the AGM

Gareth Jones was confirmed as Chair for the AGM.

2. Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee

Hilary explained the process under the constitution in respect of election of the new committee/officers.

She reported on the nominations received both from existing committee (in respect of re-election) and new nominations.

A copy of the nomination list is available on the SHADDO web site.

The following were duly elected for 2004-2005 according to the constitution:

Chair: Gareth Jones
Vice-Chair: Liz Thomas
Treasurer: Neil McAdam (to act on interim basis)
Secretary: Hilary Tucker
Committee: Liz James
Neil George
Mark Manson
Fredric Lawson
Steve Watkins
Angela Cadman
Chris Bichard
Angela Jones

Hilary Tucker asked each officer/committee member to sign the appropriate consent to act.

3. Chair's Report

Gareth Jones delivered the report. (Copy below).

Gareth added special thanks to Neil McAdam for agreeing to continue as treasurer on an interim basis.

4. Treasurer's Report

Neil McAdam delivered the report. A copy of the Summary Cashflow Report 2003-04 will be posted on the SHADDO web site.

Neil went through each item in turn.

Neil thanked Steve Watkins for auditing the accounts. Steve was subsequently confirmed as auditor for the forthcoming year by the meeting.

5. Confirmation of Annual Fees and Subscriptions

This issue was discussed and it was agreed that there would be no change to annual fees or subscriptions for the forthcoming subscription year.

There was discussion about whether to add a separate category of 'student' SHADDO member, and how this might be defined. It was decided that this would not be done at present, but that it remained a possibility for the future and would be kept under review.

6. Any other business

Neil McAdam asked whether the SHADDO web site address could be given greater prominence in letter headings etc. so that everybody would have a reminder of the site address. Hilary will add the site address to all correspondence sent out, and to minutes etc. This is also a consideration when the logo is used on other materials.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm and was followed by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

AGM 2004 – Chair’s report

So, we’ve made it through our first year as a fully constituted society. We’ve had some successes, but we’ve had some frustrations too. We knew last year was going to be very challenging – to keep up the momentum of a very successful first three years, but as a formally constituted society wasn’t going to be easy; and perhaps in hindsight our ambitions occasionally exceeded our capabilities.

Last year was the first for which we raised subscriptions – so to give something back to the membership we put a programme of events together. We ran a couple of very enjoyable ones – a play reading evening and a combined dinner and theatre presentation at the Kenton. Both were well attended, though mainly by committee members! Other events fell by the wayside because of lack of time or other problems, but hopefully more will follow this year.

We’ve talked about expanding our repertoire but we haven’t taken this beyond the Murder Mystery evenings, and we’ve got nothing currently in rehearsal.

But what of our successes. As well as performances for the Gillotts and Shiplake school PTAs we ran a Murder Mystery evening using our original Dracula theme for HAODS members. Performing before peers (or perhaps even superiors) really challenged our team of players – but the evening went well and we’ve had nothing but praise.

Once again our main event was the Christmas pantomime. We decided to forsake our normal scriptwriters and to review the wider field of panto writers. That was a braver move than we realised at the time and we ended up with the most challenging panto yet from the actors’ and directors’ perspectives. However, with a tremendous amount of work, not least from the Directors – Chris and Liz - we ended up with a show that many regarded as our best yet. Some notable features this year included the variety in the dancing – we had three choreographers; the quality of performances put in by student members; the overall quality of the production, especially the versatility of the set.

Looking forward, I think we are in a stronger position now than we were this time last year. We know a lot better what works and what doesn’t; we’ve got an increasing pool of talent to call on and last but not least we’ve got some new blood on the Committee.

Finally, may I thank all last year’s Committee members for their efforts, and all those others who’ve supported SHADDO not just in the fun bits but in the hard work too. Thank you too to Steve Watkins for auditing our accounts in time for this meeting.