

Minutes of the 66th AGM of Lincoln Film Society held on 12th October 2018 at The Venue

1. Apologies

Jonathan Killin, Shuna Killin

2. Present:

Richard Hall (RH) (Chair)	John Rossington (JR) (Treasurer)
Tony Butcher (TB) (Joint Secretary)	Sue Firth (SF) (Joint Secretary)
Rob Sargent (RS)	Philip Stonehouse (PS)
Helen Hancocks (HH)	Sue Archer (SA)
Ivor Davey (ID)	Bob Bratley (BB)
Paul Hancocks (PH)	Paul Frodsham (PF)
Linda Hall (LH)	Maureen Frodsham (MF)
Jane Bullimore (JB)	Maureen Geddis (MG)
Margaret Hatfield (MH)	Roz Mellows (RM)
David Mellows (DM)	Ken Hollamby (KH)
Ursula Taylor (UT)	Cathryn Hall (CH)

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

JB proposed and RS seconded that the minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true record. Votes in favour were unanimous.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Officers' and Trustees' Report

RH invited members to refer to the written report, but highlighted the area relating to the declining interest in foreign language cinema, the ability to view films on different platforms and the fact that over 45s make up only 20% of cinema audiences. Membership numbers have fallen sharply this season which means the committee need to look for ways to balance the budget and would welcome input from members so that informed judgements can be made about the actions taken.

JR reported on the financial position. He commented that the Society's reserve funds have grown steadily in recent years but that this year, due to declining numbers of both full and temporary memberships, lower raffle proceeds and rising costs, there may be a deficit of £500 this season. Consequently, it has been decided to reintroduce the half season membership for £25, which was successful last season in raising an additional £475. RH commented that some of those half year members have gone on to become full members this season. JR reported that the finance committee have looked at ways to reduce expenditure but there is very little discretionary spending in the budget.

TB ran through the secretaries' written report. He confirmed the membership numbers for last season as 338 full and 19 half year members. Some recommendations from the membership survey have already been implemented, particularly aiming for a prompt start on screening nights, introducing some member input into the choice of films and running a short summer season. The summer season was popular, attracting an average of 79 people per screening and consideration is being given to making this a biennial event. He also mentioned the successes at the Cinema for All Awards.

ID expanded on his written report about involvement with the CCAJ project, through which the Society fulfils part of its charitable aim of educating people about film. This year's theme for the young film makers is "sensations in film" and the Society will once again be supporting the screening event at The

Venue next July. It is also possible to view films made by young people all over the world on the Cinematheque website.

TB mentioned the Society's continued community involvement with CCAJ and the Indie-Lincs Festival. RH said that there is also a growing partnership with Mansions of the Future with whom the Society worked last season on the Born a Rebel project. These co-operations did not involve any financial cost to the Society.

KH proposed and MG seconded that the financial statements be accepted. The members voted unanimously in favour. LH proposed and MH seconded that the annual report be accepted. The members voted unanimously in favour.

RH then invited members to ask questions or make comments about the report. KH asked why the expenditure on film viewings and travel has increased from £1,380 in 2018 to £1,954 in 2019. JR explained that more members of the programming committee went to more screening events for which they may claim 100% of tickets purchased and 50% of expenditure on travel and accommodation. To address this for the current year, the finance committee are limiting reimbursement for attendance by any individual to two events in the season. PF commented on the decrease in surplus from £2,587 in 2017 to £128 last year, which RH explained was due to the declining membership numbers and the committee is aware must be addressed. He posed the question as to where members could help by recruiting friends and neighbours. JB suggested that sending someone from the Society to speak at local organisations such as U3A, Probus, WI, etc would be a way of spreading the word. She did not know how one "got on the speakers list". HH queried whether the Society had considered how the opening of the Everyman Cinema in Lincoln next year might affect audiences. TB said research indicated that the cinema aimed at a different audience and had a high pricing structure. It was concluded that until the cinema actually begins trading it is hard to assess what, if any, impact it might have.

RH thanked the members for their views and mentioned the possibility of another survey. TB said this might happen next year as the recommendation from the marketing professional who had compiled the original survey is a follow up after 18 months.

6. Election of Officers

ID proposed and JB seconded the re-election of the existing officers en bloc and the members voted unanimously in favour.

7. Election of Committee

RH mentioned that Maurice Bingham will no longer be taking an active part in the Society due to health issues. MG proposed and JB seconded the re-election of the existing committee en bloc and the members voted unanimously in favour.

8. Election of Auditor

JR proposed and ID seconded that the current examiner, Michelle Allen of Yours for a Day, be reappointed. The members voted unanimously in favour.

9. Any Other Business

JR explained to members that the inability of the Society's current bankers, RBS, to provide online banking facilities is becoming increasingly problematic. The finance committee have decided to move to another bank and Barclays Bank is the preferred option. JR advised that the account is free and that it allows for a two-step approval process for payments, thus maintaining the current level of authorisation required by Society rules. He invited comments from members, but there were none.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.