

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting held on Friday 20 January 2023 at St John's Church Hall, Sudbrooke Drive, Lincoln

Apologies

Val Sargent, Christine Metcalf, Jean Matson, Lesley Hollamby, Helen Davies, Andrew Falconer, Roderick Orner, Janet Galpin, Val Edwards, Zena Herring, Owen Teather

Present

Committee: Sue Archer, David Brook, Tony Butcher, Sue Firth, Richard Hall, Helen Hancocks, John Rossington, Geraldine Roy, Philip Stonehouse

Members: Linda Hall, Maureen Frodsham, Paul Frodsham, David Howard, Jeannette Davies, John Davies, Matt Knott, Alan Millington, Jonathan Killin, Paul Hancocks, Mark Adlesee, Linda Reynolds, Geoff Reynolds, Roger Bickley, Lynda Bickley, Linda Benson, Joan Osterfield, Jenny Ciabattoni, Christine Simpson, Cathryn Hall, Imogen Arnold

Trustees: Ivor Davey; Les Dicker

Officers & Trustees Reports

Richard Hall (RH) referred the meeting to the Officers' Reports filed with the meetings papers. He highlighted specifically the recent deaths of long-time projectionist Bob Bratley and former treasurer and committee member Rob Sargent and acknowledged their contributions to the Society.

John Rossington (JR) said he had nothing to add to the interim balance sheet which shows total funds to be £19,232. Jonathan Killin asked how many films the £1,700 for films committed to be shown represented, and was advised the four screenings at the Terry O'Toole Theatre (TOTT) in February and March. JR commented that the budget for the TOTT season was based on anticipated member number of 90-100, so the 147 memberships sold would mean a 'profit' on the season. RH said funds needed to be kept as a buffer should it be necessary in the future to purchase screening equipment.

There was then a lengthy discussion about the future of the Society with reference to where, in the short to medium term, screenings might take place. RH started this off by reporting that he and Tony Butcher (TB) had been talking to Bishop Grosseteste University (BGU) about a possible return to screenings at The Venue. TB explained that the company which had previously run that facility had ceased trading and none of the staff now worked at BGU, but the university are keen to work with the Society to provide a cinema as a community asset and see the Society as key to that aim.

One of BGU's current employees is also a masters student who, as part of her studies, has been given the task of facilitating the Society's return. Currently she has come up with a proposal based upon a six-film season from September 2023, followed by a review. The price quoted is reasonably close to the current TOTT charge and the bar will be available both before and after screenings, but would be operated by the Student Union. However, there have been no assurances with regard to the condition of the equipment or the quality of the picture or sound. Given the high quality of these at TOTT, this will be an important factor in any decision to return to screenings at BGU.

Points raised by members during the discussion included:

- reluctance to return to TOTT due to the lack of facilities to socialise after the film;
- the possibility of a splitting screenings between TOTT and The Venue;
- the number of films in a season in future;
- the limitations on member numbers at TOTT due to the configuration of the seating;
- consideration of alternative ticket/membership models to accommodate a split season;
- exploring the possibility of assisting with new equipment purchase at The Venue;
- the deadline for making a definitive decision to ensure a new season in September.

RH and TB both emphasised that, at the moment, the proposal from The Venue is just that. It needs to be backed up by confirmation about the quality of the screening experience and the assurance that they have secured funds to make the opening of the facility a reality. In order to ensure an autumn season at The Venue, all these confirmations will need to have been obtained by the end of April.

The position at TOTT is that they are very happy with the new partnership and are likely to welcome us back on Fridays in the autumn. However, they too would need notice of a return to guarantee the necessary dates are free. The possibility of having future screenings at both places is something which the Society will also consider.

In conclusion, RH asked for the backing of the meeting to continue discussions with BGU for a return to The Venue, but to keep open the option for a return to TOTT. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of this.

Election of Officers

Jonathan proposed and Sue Archer seconded the re-election of Richard Hall as chair and the members voted unanimously in favour.

Geraldine Roy proposed and David Howard seconded the re-election of the other officers and the member voted unanimously in favour.

Election of Committee

Jonathan Killin proposed and Jeannette Davies seconded the re-election of the existing committee en bloc and the members voted unanimously in favour.

Election of Auditor

JR said that, due to the Society being effectively dormant for two years, there had been no audit done recently and suggested that he obtain quotes from new possible new auditors. The meeting agreed to leave the appointment of auditors in abeyance.

Any Other Business

RH advised the meeting that the Society is in the process of changing bank accounts to obtain access to electronic banking. Barclays has been chosen as it is the only bank with a branch in Lincoln which offers two-person approval of online payments.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm