

MINUTES OF THE 69TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOURNEMOUTH AND BOSCOMBE LIGHT OPERA COMPANY HELD AT CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH PARISH HALL, 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

The Chairman, Darren Ellery, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Sandie Amat, Simon Armstrong, Becky Bagnall, David Bate, Jenny Bate, Chrissie Brannan, George Brannan, Anne-Marie Bridle, Louisa Davis, Paul Davis, Emmerson Featherstone, Kim Fletcher, Phillip Fry, Paula Gerken, Dale Gregory, Peter Gutteridge, Chloe Hughes, Rosalind Lawton, Janine Long, Lizzie Newson, Rhiannon Norton, Elaine Peters, Ian Peters, David Raven, Ellen Raven, Simon Rawlings, Jodie Saunders, Chris Smith, Matthew Traher, Trevor Willetts, Penny Young
- 2 **Minutes of the 68th AGM held online on Monday 30 November 2020** - acceptance proposed by Jane Kerfoot, seconded by Heather Davis and agreed by the meeting.
- 3 **Matters arising from the minutes** – the move from Rooper Hall to Corpus Christi as a rehearsal venue and props/costume store, had been successfully carried out thanks to the hard work of a small group of members.
- 4 **Chairman's Report**

Darren thanked everyone for their continued support for the company through difficult times. During the second lockdown the committee had remained busy preparing for the future and instigating our move to Corpus Christi and he expressed his personal thanks to:

Rachel Forsdike for her first year back on the committee - Rachel will be supported by Jodie in the year ahead looking after marketing and publicity for the show.

Jane Kerfoot for her support as a committee member, for her work with NODA and taking meeting minutes.

Andy Blyth for his dedication, continued knowledge, support and relentless commitment to keeping the website, communications and all things technical up to date, even when on holiday. Also, for his continued work as membership secretary ensuring that subs and membership statuses are effectively managed.

Phil Fry for general support and work on the committee, in particular this year for his support as Vice Chair, for managing our Health and Safety processes and contracts for our production team, and for taking the lead with van hire for our move to Corpus Christi.

Matthew Traher for his work on Committee.

Sarah Stevens - for her continued support as Treasurer, ensuring that all payments are made in a timely manner and keeping a tight grip on the company finances.

Paul Stevens for his ongoing support wherever needed - in particular, with the use of his truck for the move.

Chris Smith for his work in supporting the committee with the budgeting and sales forecasts for the show, to enable us to have a tight grip on the finances. Chris worked closely with Sarah and himself and this relationship had strengthened all our knowledge of financial matters.

Carole Gadsby for her continued work as Hon Secretary, managing our patrons and hosting the garden party, and for her generosity in allowing us use of her home for meetings.

Sandie Amat for her continued support as a committee member.

Steve Smith for agreeing to be co-opted back on to the committee; for her work as minute secretary and proofreading all company paperwork; her work on the AGM and her support to Darren during a very difficult time by always being there to offer help and advice. She has worked tirelessly to get our props, music and paperwork sorted for the move and her dedication to the company remains a constant.

Janine Long for continuing to manage our costumes and wardrobe. Sorting and storing all the company costumes is a mammoth undertaking and we are grateful for the work that she does for us and this year in particular, for her support with the move.

Dawn Knight for agreeing to continue her fantastic work as ticket secretary.

Jo Uzzell for her continued and appreciated support in booking and organising our hall rentals and pianists and managing the tea rota to ensure someone is always available. Jo is also always there to support with anything needed.

Heather Davis for her continued dedication and work in choreographing the show, agreeing to join the production team, support with auditions and her FitSteps classes which have brought some well-needed revenue to the company.

Charlie Barrington for ongoing work with artwork designs and support with our marketing.

Duncan Hook for continuing to be a valuable and knowledgeable asset to the company as Production/Stage Manager, planning and preparing for Kinky Boots, liaising with the theatre and set and technical providers.

Helen Barrington and Ian Peters for continuing to go above and beyond what is needed to ensure that we have the most professional production possible and to Helen for organising the fantastic workshops over the summer.

... and to all those who provided help and support during the move from Rooper.

Births

This year we have welcomed. Khetsiewie's son Finlay, Dougie Newson and most recently Hugo Hook. All future members in the making.

Deaths

Darren was sad to announce the loss of the following friends over the last 12 months:

- **John Headford.** A loyal and staunch BBLOC supporter, Patron and our Stage Manager for many years, who will be sorely missed
- Three of our loyal patrons who have supported us for many years.
 - **Valerie Tiller** - Paula's Mum
 - **Barry Smith** - Steve's husband, who we shall miss greatly
 - **Elizabeth Corbin** - Jenny's Aunt. Jenny Corbin is kindly donating £2000 to the company from Betty's estate as BBLOC was so important to her.

Darren reported that after an extensive search for a new rehearsal venue, it had been decided that Corpus Christi had everything we needed to come back together in a productive way. The hall gives a lot more flexibility and allows us to socialise at rehearsal without interrupting the proceedings. We have the use of three rooms which eliminates the need for a Thursday rehearsal allowing the schedule will be designed so we can run music, movement and lib rehearsals - all in the same session. Corpus Christi had been incredibly supportive and a good rate has been negotiated but the hall is costing us £2500 more per year. This adds pressure to our funds and Darren stressed the need for everyone to buy a raffle ticket and a cup of tea at each rehearsal.

Darren stressed that it's now more than ever that we need to unite as a company to ensure that BBLOC's future is protected and following on from Sarah's report, he emphasised that every member of the company has a responsibility to participate and get involved, whether they are in the current production or not. We need to break even

on our 100k budget for Kinky Boots and if every member of the company was accountable for the sale of 100 tickets, we would do this easily.

Darren explained the importance of the need for everyone to be willing to come forward when help was required with scheduled events such as leafleting at the theatre, as this wasn't just the responsibility of the cast. He appreciated that people have work and family commitments and we are not asking anyone to do what isn't possible. This year will be all about thinking outside of the box - we need ideas and will be reaching out over the coming months.

Year ahead

Darren reported that plans for Kinky Boots were well underway and auditions were due to take place next week. The production team will consist of: Ian, Helen, Heather, Duncan, Janine and Steve.

The Addams Family preparations will start immediately after Kinky Boots with the show planned for October half-term 2022.

Over the course of the summer, Darren had organised a series of fundraising activities, which were supported well by a few, but he was disappointed that there were not more people at these events and found it increasingly difficult to understand what the company would like to do socially. As a members' company, there is an expectation that we have support from everyone even if they are not in the current show. This is the only way we will continue to survive.

He would like two people outside of the committee to take responsibility for organising our theatre trips and will be asking for volunteers.

He felt that overall, we are currently in a great place and have some exciting times ahead of us.

- 5 The Treasurer's Report** detailing the Statement of Affairs for the year ended 31 August 2021 which had been previously circulated by Chris Smith, showed a closing balance for the year of £32,888. In relation to the move to Corpus Christi, Sarah pointed out that we now have extra rehearsal rooms and no longer need to book extra halls and although there will be a higher monthly outlay, she felt confident that with the company's support of teas/raffles/social events, we can maintain a healthy bank balance. She went on to say that although our current bank balance is enough to get us up and running for Kinky Boots, we need to ensure ticket sales to enable us to continue with The Addams Family in October 2022.

Proposed – Steve Smith **Seconded** – Jo Uzzell that the accounts be accepted

- 6 Review of Subscriptions** – these had remained at £60 for many years and it was recommended that they increase by £1/month to £72/year with effect from the next AGM in September 2022.

Proposed – Jenny Corbin **Seconded** – Laura-Jayne Hargrave

- 7 Donations to Charity** – The £301 already collected for Dorset Mind would be added to any monies collected during the run of Kinky Boots but the Treasurer was unable to recommend any further charity donations for 2021.

- 8 Election of the Committee** – due to the current committee not being in place for a full year; the lack of show and exceptional circumstances surrounding the COVID pandemic,

it was agreed to waive Rule 19 and retain the same committee for a further year to provide continuity in what has been, and still is, a difficult time for the company. The members of the committee will be Darren Ellery (Chairman), Carole Gadsby (Secretary), Sarah Stevens (Treasurer), Chris Smith (Joint Treasurer), Phillip Fry (Vice Chairman), Jane Kerfoot, Rachel Forsdike, Matthew Traher, Sandie Amat, with Andy Blyth and Steve Smith as Co-opted Members.

9 Any other business

- a. Emma Wogan was made a new Life Member
- b. Thanks were expressed to Darren and the Committee for everything they had done during a very difficult period
- c. Brenda said how nice it was to see Betty Richardson at the meeting

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm with wine and cheese kindly arranged by Carole.