



Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society
Minutes of AGM held on 31st May 2017
in the Green Room, Menzies Hall

1. **In chair:** Sheila Fraser
2. **Apologies** from: Stuart Miller, Paul & May Anderson, Liz Brown, Colin Fraser, Irene Kelso, Iain Howie, Martin Turner, Linda Miller, Heather Stephenson, Ellen Ross, Rosellen Dick, Maggie Price & Josh Fraser (14)
3. **Attending:** Jonny North, Stuart Dick, Christine Robertson, Gerry Eckersley, Alan & Helen Watson, David & Jackie Smith, Rosie Walters, Lorna & Tony Flisch, Jane Stephenson, Jeanie Woodburn, Ian Turner, Wendy Palgrave, Gavin Marshall, Sarah Walker, Barbara McLeod, Cindy Gray, Siobhan Hewitt, Mairi Clark (Secretary). (21)
4. **Minutes from 2016 AGM** – approved - proposed by Sarah Walker & seconded by Alan Watson. There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report –

Congratulations everyone on a hugely successful year of drama for FADS – more of that later.

Firstly thanks - to Mairi who generously continued as secretary for a fourth year, and although now standing down in that role, is willing to continue as an advisor regarding youth protection. Jonny who, despite pleas from Cathy, has succumbed to our greater need and is willing to continue as Treasurer. This is a huge job, mainly carried out in the background and is to be greatly valued. Thanks also for support to the other members of the committee – Stuart who was added to the committee last year as Vice Chair and wishes to concentrate on directing but we will try and tap into his fund of ideas, Linda, Gavin, Lorna and Rosie, all of whom have been a great support. Thanks also to Liz who, after many years organising tickets and front of house has passed the baton to Jane and we appreciate Jane's willingness to take on that demanding task. Linda demits this year. Lorna, Rosie and Gavin are willing to continue, if elected.

On to productions, and on reviewing the year it's amazing how much we achieved. On 2nd June, we enjoyed a performance our youth entry "Tuesdays and Sundays" directed by Cindy along with an amusing and informative description by Martin of his experience as "Bottom" at the Citizen's Theatre. On 18th June, Ella's and George's performances at the Scottish Youth Final brought the Youth Trophy to Fintry for the second time. On 24th June a group of us travelled to Stratford to enjoy Martin's performance in "A Midsummer Nights' Dream" and a sociable time was had by all. In July, we were represented at SCDA's 90th Birthday celebration at Pitlochry

Festival Theatre and Martin entertained once again with information about his "Bottom". On August 15th SCDA's Advisor, Carole, held a workshop to discuss how to attract and retain new members. In September an amazing cast portrayed the cruelty of the American Dance Hall marathons with "Dance Derby" directed by Barbara. Jack and the Beanstalk's panto directed by David filled the hall with laughter. In February a workshop/social evening involved doing some improvisational work with "Tam o' Shanter", led by David and Jackie. "The Pushcart Peddlers" directed by Ian Turner was FADS sole entry in the One Act Festival and amassed numerous trophies as winner in Fintry and Stirling en route to the Scottish Final. Whilst it did not win the Final at Pitlochry, the team came home with three trophies – Highest direction marks, best theatrical moment and best stage décor. In March an evening of Comedy in Fintry was a great success with "Bonking James Bond" directed by Lorna and Sheila, The Pushcart Peddlers and "Tam o' Shanter" a follow-on from the improvisational workshop, directed by David and Jackie. FADS participated in the Killin Komedly Festival, a fund-raiser for SCDA, with BJB. Meantime, while rehearsals were going on for the one act plays, Stuart was busy directing a two act play "The Actress" which entered the Full Length Festival, played to an appreciative audience and achieved a well-deserved complimentary adjudication. The final result has not yet been announced. Finally, "Bonking James Bond" and "The Pushcart Peddlers" entered the East Kilbride Repfest and BJB was the outright winner, with Jackie also being awarded the trophy for best actress and "the Pushcart Peddlers" was awarded second place with Jack receiving the trophy for best actor.

I have mentioned the Directors (8) in particular to highlight how fortunate we are as a club, to have so many people competent to direct a play, and there are several others who have not been involved this year. However important individuals are, it's the teamwork that counts and the show cannot go on without the actors, the backstage crew, the technical crew, the front of house team, publicity organisers and all the other unseen helpers involved with admin. tasks. This year I am certain there has not been a single club member who has not been involved in some way with a production.

However fortunate we are with the talent FADS enjoys, one of the most difficult tasks is to find scripts which suit the members, suit the audience and are do-able. We did some play reading last summer and I hope this can continue. It allows us to read and select or discard and it also allows us to keep in touch over the summer break – if we have one!

We have attracted some new members this year and been delighted to welcome back a couple of members who dropped out for a while. Backstage also are a couple of new enthusiasts for make-up and hair, and for stage crew. Let's hold on to them by making sure they feel included – it's very easy to form our own wee comfortable cliques of friends. Kirsty Maitland from Balfron High School is interested in a career in sound technology and Ian Turner shared his expertise with her during rehearsals and shows.

I have tried to attend the SCDA meetings and keep the club up to date with news.

We have been doing our best to improve our use of social media for advertising and now for ticket sales. Tony set up a sales site with "Ticket Source" prior to "The Actress". It worked well and gave us the opportunity to sort out any problems. Helen, David and Tony have had a hand in updating the website and Tony has circulated some great photographs of the various productions – thank you all. Martin showed his expertise in compiling an advertising film clip for circulating.

We have fallen by the wayside as far as social events are concerned, partly because the previous social committee, however hard they worked, felt disheartened by the response. If anyone has ideas for social events, or would like to form a social committee, please make it known to the committee.

With Mairi's help, a new membership form has been prepared and we would like members to update it annually to assist with record-keeping and ensure information goes to the correct addresses. We hope it may encourage members to pay their fees promptly.

The Club is 40 years old in October so we will be looking for your ideas on how to celebrate.

Finally, thank you everyone for the part you have played in making FADS so successful – let's keep enjoying what we do.

Treasurer's Report

Jonny reported the club's finances were in good health.

He submitted his audited financial statement to the members.

Discussion & clarity around SCDA contribution from FADS. Not common practice for most drama clubs to contribute anything, even more profitable/larger clubs. It was agreed that 5% of FADS Panto ticket sales be contributed annually to SCDA. Proposed by Lorna & seconded by Barbara.

Online ticket sales, effective from April 2017, took £125 in sales. Helen commented on ease of use as customer & going forward agreed to continue with online process.

Accounts proposed by Tony & seconded by David.

7. Membership fees

Discussion around how to ensure up to date membership list with correct email addresses; increase membership generally & ensure fees paid year on year & whether early bird payment was relevant.

It was unanimously agreed that membership fees remain as they are; £15 for an adult member; to increase junior membership to £5 for a junior member that included all those in full time education & £1 for primary children. £11 of the fees paid goes to the Sports Club for combined membership.

All FADS performers should ensure that they are paid up FADS members as is constitutional before production commences & directors should invite all auditioning for parts to complete a FADS Membership form & pay subscription prior to audition & consideration for role.

8. FADS Orkney trip

Discussion around proposed trip, costs & reimbursements to take one act plays “Pushcart Peddlers” & “Bonking James Bond” to Birsay. Breakdown is x 4 lots of royalties for each production being staged twice. Members of drama group accommodating FADS performers; they have booked ferries at reduced rate. AGM gave FADS committee permission to discuss on case-to-case basis & decide on possible & relevant reimbursements.

9. Proposal that Carole from SCDA come & deliver workshops in future. In principal AGM agreed.

10. Proposal whether FADS should set up an additional group “FADHOC” to allow two plays to go forward to SCDA. AGM agreed constitutional & insurance issues need to be clarified before joining as another group.

11. Election of Committee Members

Vacancies;

Mairi standing down as secretary after 4 years.

Linda served two years

Chairman: Shelia Fraser (second year)

Secretary: Helen Watson elected; nominated by Barbara & seconded by Jane

Treasurer: Jonny North (no nominations & Jonny accepted another year in office)

Gavin Marshall (second year)

Rosie Walters (second year)

Lorna Flisch (second year)

Ellen Ross – nominated by Tony & seconded by Gerry

New members to the Committee welcomed.

10. Ideas Meeting

David considering “Peter Pan” & discussion around “Tam o’ Shanter”. Nothing concrete.

Jim Lightbody has proposed FADS consider revisiting performing “Return to the Forbidden Planet” as a 20th anniversary of the staging in 1997.

Tony still considering “Whose afraid of Virginia Wolfe” at some point in the future.

Barbara expressed a wish to do “La Cage aux Folles” at some point.

Cindy proposed “Hay Fever”

Stuart Dick proposed “Wyrd Sisters” adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs

Sheila proposed “Habeas Corpus” by Alan Bennett.

Club Evenings

Sheila agreed to email those present who signed up for Play Reading Group, for possible dates in the first instance & then advise FADS Members of date.

AOCB

Discussion around ideas for 40th FADS Celebrations – AGM agreed Committee look at ideas & agree event.

Sheila closed the meeting with thanks to Mairi & Linda for their contribution on the FADS Committee & for an enjoyable & cheerful 2017 AGM.