



FADS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 11th June 2019 Menzies Lesser Hall
7:30pm

MINUTE

- 1) Welcome:** Cindy opened the AGM by welcoming a good turnout to the meeting and noted apologies.

In Attendance: Sheila Fraser, Colin Fraser, Ian Turner, Martin Turner, Denver Chalmers, Laura Cranston, Barbara McLeod, Rowena Laing, Allan Watson, Lorna Flisch, Tony Flisch, Anna Foran, Sarah Walker, David Smith, Jackie Smith, Jeannie Woodburn, Chrissie Robinson, Helen Watson, Cindy Gray, Ellen Ross, Jane Stevenson, Paul Anderson, May Anderson, Maggie Price.

Apologies: Gerry Eckersley, Irene Kelso, Kevin Boland, Jonny North, Margo Campbell, Gavin Marshall, Heather Stevenson, Gavin & Laura Paterson, Stuart Rankin, Rosellen Dick, Rosie Walters.

- 2) Minute of the 2018 AGM** (circulated to all members in advance)

It was noted Jackie Smith had been listed twice as a Committee nominee and Rowena Laing had been omitted.

Matters Arising: none

Subject to the corrections above, the minute was proposed by Ellen Ross and seconded by David Smith.

- 3) Chair's Report:** Cindy provided the following summary of the year's activities.

Firstly, I would like to thank and recognise the efforts of all who have worked so hard to make this year a success for FADS both on and off stage and say how nice it has been to welcome some new and returning faces into productions.

Speaking of productions, the year started off with what is becoming a series of drama and social exchanges in the form of a visit from our friends from the North, Birsay Drama group. The Orcadians descended on Fintry at the end of July and provided us with an evening of

drama (together with guest appearances from some familiar faces), followed by our own Mother Figure, on the Saturday night. All in all, a great success, thanks to Martin for organising, and to everyone who provided food for the Big Ass buffet.

The next production was quite simply a blinder – the amazing Journey's End. This classic play was taken out of Fintry to a wholly immersive setting a few miles along the road. This was one of the most amazing performances that FADS has ever staged in my opinion, and I am sure you'll all join me in congratulating Kevin and Jonny for conceiving and achieving it and thank Alan Cuthbert for kindly providing the stunning Studio venue just outside Killearn. And not forgetting the cast of thousands who took part in or contributed to the production both in and outside the trenches. I personally will never forget those white crosses on the hillside as we left the theatre and was delighted that the show raised £1,500 for three veterans' charities: Erskine Care Homes, Help for Heroes and Poppy Scotland.

This remarkable production was quickly followed by another first for FADS, namely the Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs panto, ably written by Sarah Walker and Ian Kidd, and directed by Sarah. I attended final rehearsals and, I must admit, did wonder whether it would indeed be alright on the night? But with an amazing effort, the cast and crew did manage to pull it off (with a few minor panto-style hiccups) and the show was a runaway success. Well done Sarah and Ian, and Ian we are looking forward to panto no 2 sometime soon, which I believe is part-written?

So what next – well that was the unenviable question we were faced with just before Christmas, and thanks this time to Ian Turner who came up trumps, with not one, not two, but three productions.

The first of these was the Mrs G one act play, an interesting reflection on the societal treatment of paedophilia, with Mrs G, a sort of sinister modern-day take on Nanny McPhee, swooping in to put the world to rights. It really made me think, as it did the adjudicator in the SCDA one act play regional final in Edinburgh, where, although Mrs G sadly didn't progress to the Scottish Final, it did pick up the trophy for Best Stage Presentation and author Mike Tibbets was awarded the Scott Salver for the best new play in the competition.

The next stop was the East Kilbride Festival, where the cast and crew finally got their just deserts coming runners up in the festival overall and Sarah Walker taking the silverware for best actress. And talking of SCDA, Journeys End also received the runner up prize for the Eastern Division Full Length Play Festival in Edinburgh, with our spring production from last year, Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders, coming only a few marks behind. Well done all.

At the same time as Mrs G, Ian directed the Young Farmers in the highly entertaining Strictly Sex Factor on Ice, which also made it to the SCDA regional finals. And not one to take things easy, as well as putting both shows on to very appreciative audiences in Fintry at the end of March (which included a visit and Q&A from Mrs G author, Mike Tibbets), Ian (and Martin)

also secured a return social/drama exchange to tour Orkney and enjoy the, what is becoming customary, Big Ass hospitality of our friends in Birsay.

Ian's third play was a full-length comedy integrating Scottish humour with the improvised style of traditional Italian Commedia Dell'Arte, Bawbees and Ducatts (aka A funny thing happened on the way to the piazza). Ian kindly handed it over to Lorna and me to direct, with a cast of eight including new and return faces – Anna Foran, former FADS vocal coach, Margo Campbell and club co-founder, Anne Hillis. And although there were some occasional issues with words and contact lenses, and occasional improvisations that weren't quite in the script, they did succeed in royally entertaining the Menzies Hall for three nights at the start of May.

So all in all, a very busy year on stage, but busy off stage too. On the 16th of June – 60 past and present members and friends, hosted by David Smith and Ian Turner, celebrated FADS 40th birthday and danced the night away to the fabulous Dodgy Characters band. In addition, the outstanding contribution of the outgoing Chair, Sheila Fraser, was rightly recognised by a Lifetime Achievement Award.

In September, the new drama season was heralded in with a Pizza, Prosecco and Pics Party night, with further club photos from the archive skilfully put together and presented once again by David Smith and Ian Turner. We also had a couple of play reading nights at the turn of the year, followed by a highly successful quiz night at the end of March, where, I am told, the Strumming Numpties' emerged victorious (winning by half a point!!)

Throughout the year I have been ably guided and supported by the hard-working FADS office bearers and committee members. First Helen Watson, who has battled valiantly with Microsoft word to come up trumps with the excellent meeting minutes that have kept us all on track. Ellen Ross in her first year as Treasurer has been fighting her own battles with Bank of Scotland's procedures and systems to finally emerge victorious and achieve her goal of moving FADS banking into the 21st century, making her job a lot easier – and allowing us all to pay our subs online... so no excuses.

Our ordinary committee members have been Jonny North, who has provided hospitality and kept us right on safety matters. Jane Stephenson, who once again has run all front house activities single-handed. Jackie Smith, who has been responsible for social activities, and deputised for both Helen and I on the odd occasion when road closures and dodgy internet have meant we were unable to attend meetings in person. And last, but by no means least, Sarah Walker, who has been responsible for communications and the FADS website, which she has transformed into something that is really attractive, accessible and easy to use, and will be a very valuable source of current and archival information for the club going forward.

Finally, what else have we done? In November we succeeded in getting a grant from the Fintry Community Trust for a new state of the art smoke machine, which I think had its first outing in Red Riding Hood? We lent some of our staging to the Blair Drummond Safari Park for their Halloween event, and were given park entry tickets in return – which were duly raffled during the SCDA District One Act Play Festival which we hosted in Fintry in February.

We also set up a new online equipment loan log, which is available on our website members area. So, a quick appeal: please can everyone who borrows anything from the club use it from now on to help us keep track of all equipment loans going forward?

We have purchased a new state of the art lighting desk, further radio mics and one next generation all-singing/all-dancing LED light, as the first steps in a larger project to upgrade the stage, for which we hope to attract grant funding next year. We are also beginning to make some progress with building a new back wall (funded by a grant we received from the Kingsbarn Fund last year).

And last, but by no means least, after a few minor issues with care and cleanliness, we had a really good meeting with Young Farmer representatives to agree a hand over process to ensure the Green Room and lighting loft are loaned and returned in a way that is fit for purpose and satisfactory for both clubs. This will require us to do some tidying early in the coming season. **@New committee** will look for volunteers to help.

So, in anticipation of offers and also looking back over the last 12 months, a huge thank you to everyone for their contribution to FADS. Please continue to enjoy the club and consider how you can become involved in different roles, jobs or challenges – we need lots of help!!

- 4) Treasurer's report:** Copies of the accounts were given to members to peruse at the start of the meeting. Ellen summarised the figures and took questions. She thanked the Auditor, Gill Smith, and proposed the club gave her a £50 voucher by way of appreciation. This was agreed.

The accounts were proposed by Tony Flisch and seconded by Sheila Fraser.

- 5) Membership fees:** It was agreed to keep these as previously:

Adult - £20.00

Junior (age 17 years & under) or student - £5.00

Primary school child - £1.00

The problem of the Sports Club setting their fees in September and this having a retrospective impact on FADS membership fees was discussed. **@New Committee** to seek meeting with Sports Club to agree the best way of dealing with this.

- 6) Productions**

6.1 Children in Productions: There are new legal requirements governing children in productions. Mairi Clark, FADS Child Protection Officer, has drafted a set of documentation to be completed before any productions involving children. Tony suggested the SCDA had a simpler process which we could use. **@Tony** will liaise with Mairi to discuss the best way forward.

Mairi had also drafted FADS new etiquette forms for signature by both parents and children (copies provided to members at the start of the meeting). These were

welcomed. Sarah proposed that an abridged version of the etiquette should become part of the membership form with members agreeing to abide by it by paying their subscription (copies provided to members at the start of the meeting). **@All** to send any comments on these documents for consideration by the new committee by 26th June 2019.

6.2 Production check list: Sarah presented the proposed new Production Checklist (copies provided to members at the start of the meeting) to help directors and producers undertake all tasks required to stage a production. The expectation would be that normally the production team (including cast members) should undertake all tasks. However, the list should also be used to signal in a timely fashion to the committee when their help is required to support the production team. **@All** to send any comments on the Checklist for consideration by the new committee by 26th June 2019.

7) Election of committee members

Helen Watson was standing down as Secretary after two years. Jonny North was not eligible for re-election as an ordinary committee member having served for two years. Cindy thanked them both for their work over the years.

Ian Turner proposed that there should be a change of Chairman. Paul Anderson seconded this.

David Smith put a counter proposal that Cindy Gray remain for one more year. Tony Flisch seconded this.

A ballot was conducted, and the counter proposal was accepted by two votes.

Ellen Ross agreed to stay as Treasurer for another year.

Cindy proposed Sarah Walker as Secretary. Jackie Smith seconded this.

Ordinary Committee members were suggested, with the final decision:

Jane Stevenson proposed by Martin Turner, seconded by Cindy Gray.

Paul Anderson proposed by May Anderson seconded by Sarah Walker.

Laura Cranston proposed by Barbara McLeod seconded by Sheila Fraser.

Rowena Laing proposed by Jane Stevenson seconded by Helen Watson.

Martin Turner and Jackie Smith had intimated that they would have been willing to be ordinary members but withdrew their names to avoid a vote.

@Cindy proposed a joint meeting of old and new committee early in July to handover smoothly.

8) Future productions: Cindy reported that the Production Planning Meeting on 30th May had been well attended with some excellent suggestions.

The committee recommended a one act play evening for late September (dates TBC). A reading/casting meeting would be held on 18th June at 7.30pm. **@Cindy** to organise.

The Christmas Pantomime will be Mother Goose written by Gavin Paterson and will be staged on the usual dates (last weekend November and first weekend in December). David Smith will direct and **@David** will organise a production team to work with him.

Rowena is keen to produce a musical in the Spring and **@Rowena** will organise a meeting to discuss options.

Kevin Bowland and Jonny North are hoping to do Paddington – the Musical in December 2020

Helen mentioned Jim Thomson's request that the club consider Hector McMillan's play The Rising. Cindy suggested this should be looked at by the club at a reading evening.

- 9) Club evenings/social events:** The Social Committee were congratulated for their efforts during the year. It was felt that the Quiz night had been a great success (including drawing in the wider community) and should be repeated. A Burns night had not been supported enough to go ahead.

May and Anna agreed to join Jackie, Ellen and Rowena on the Social Committee.

A summer Barbecue was suggested, with Tony and Lorna offering their home as a venue.

Cindy requested that the Social Committee took the role of organising reading evenings, including The Rising, as these had not been successful the previous year in part because no-one had responsibility for their planning.

- 10) AOCB:** The Constitution was discussed at length (with copies provided to members at the start of the meeting). It was agreed that revisions first suggested in 2009 should be formally adopted, with typing mistakes rectified. This should now be signed and dated and lodged with OSCR. **@New committee** would discuss if any further revisions were subsequently required.

Cindy thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.