



FADS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 12th August 2020 online, via Zoom
commencing at 8:00pm

MINUTES

In the Chair via video conference: Cindy Gray.

Present via video conference: Sarah Walker, Ellen Ross, Rowena Laing, Jane Stephenson, Laura Cranstoun.

Also attending: Ian Kidd (for initial Roaches Coaches report only).

Apologies: None.

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of 27th May and Matters Arising:

All the below simply remaining on the Agenda until normal Club activities can be resumed.

2.1. General maintenance & equipment

To remain on agenda:

The red curtains are still creeping back onto the stage @Paul to confirm when this has been resolved.

Bar cupboard in Green Room. @Paul still to redo the locking mechanism.

Box for silver/gold slash curtain. @Paul still to make lid and dispose of pole. 12th March he had timber

Lighting board for varilight @Cindy to help Tony

@Cindy to report on deadening of back wall @Paul to remove heater in Green room.

2.2. Miscellaneous

To remain on agenda:

@Rowena to follow up with Wendy about adding wide elastic belts

@Laura booster seats for children (need to liaise with Hall Committee too?)

@Sarah to check via Facebook if members have VHS recorder for viewing tapes of old performances

@All Urn

3. Treasurer report

3.1 Finances

Current account £540.54, deposit account £7,205.42.

3.2 Membership

24 paid members.

One member completed form but not paid; another paid but not completed form. @Ellen to chase up.

3.2.1. *Roaches Coaches – all cast members?*

@Laura to forward updated Roaches Coaches cast list to Sarah and **@Sarah** to chase any unpaid members.

3.2.2. *Cut-off date for membership between last/current year*

This is the date on which last year's members that have not paid for the current year are removed from the Members' Mailchimp mailing list and the Members' area of the website. All agreed that for this year, given the absence of a physical AGM and unusual circumstances, nobody will be removed.

For 2021-22 and future years, all agreed the cut-off date will be 30th September.

@Cindy to note this procedure change on Agenda for AGM.

4. Productions 2020-21

4.1 *Housebound - SCDA One Act Play Festival*

4.1.1 Response from SCDA (response from cast/director **@Cindy**)

Cindy reported that Gavin, Andy & Anna are all rather unhappy with the SCDA response (our letter and the response attached at the end of these Minutes). The team are still questioning the ethics and 'fair play' of allowing and rewarding such a level of replication of a professional production.

The Committee disagreed with the SCDA assertion that 'Any additional rule concerning this situation would be too complicated and difficult to enforce' and various options relating to declaring originality were discussed. It was agreed that we should send a further short letter to Robin Smith including three suggested routes forward:

1. A) The One Act entry form is amended to include a declaration of originality from Clubs, with significant sources given. B) There is also a declaration from the adjudicator of a festival that they have conducted a basic online search for each play to identify any other productions. The adjudicator can use both sets of information in their assessment of the plays.
2. There is simply a declaration of originality from Clubs, with significant sources given. The adjudicator can use this information in their assessment of the plays.

If the SCDA is adamant it does not want to take action at this stage

3. The matter must be included as an Agenda item at the next AGM, so that input may be gained from other Clubs.

@Sarah to draft and circulate to the Committee.

4.2 *Spring Musical: Calamity Jane*

4.2.1 Matters Arising: Ellen confirmed Marissa has been reimbursed £281.70 for mileage, which will be in the 2020-21 accounts. Rowena confirmed new potential dates as Tues 23rd to Sat 27th March and that the Hall is booked.

Cindy reported that she and Rowena had been contacted by Luci Rooney to say she was pulling out, as recent world events (Black Lives Matter) had prompted her to reconsider being involved, given the way 'Injuns' were referenced. She also raised disquiet about the main female character being an object of fun until she dressed up like a woman. **@Cindy** to respond to Luci saying that the production team respect her decision.

4.2.2 General production report

4.2.3 Tickets

4.2.4 Front of House

4.2.5 Raffle

4.3 *Paddington/Christmas 2020*

All agreed we would not be able to stage a panto this year, given the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Laura relayed that Ian has some ideas for a Roaches Coaches Christmas Special, which the Committee agreed would be a great idea. Having children involved in an online FADS Christmas presentation of some sort was also discussed.

@Cindy to speak to Kevin and see if he has any other ideas, and also to ask David & Jackie if they would like to help put together something for children.

4.4 *Roaches Coaches- Radio play*

Ian gave update (his written notes pasted here for ease/clarity!)

Roaches Coaches Podcast - Update 5th August 2020



Production

We've used Zoom to have a read-through of Episodes 1, 2 and 3, to give an idea of how it sounds, how the jokes are landing and to try out different voices for characters. It's going well thus far and we've had good feedback from the cast (and a couple of other observers).

Episode 1 is now ready for recording and we've had a Zoom rehearsal. The characters in Episode 1 are now cast - the initial approach of having actors play multiple characters has been changed, to keep all voices different. To achieve this we've brought in a few extra folk here and there.

Episodes 2 and 3 need some redrafting, based on earlier read-throughs.
Episode 4 needs written.

Publicity

A trailer has been recorded and published -it is now available via several podcast platforms including Spotify. As of Sunday evening, the trailer had been listened to by 80 people. It has been publicised on Facebook, Twitter and the FADS Website/mailing.

Photoshoot - No date for this yet as we're waiting to find out about Lockdown restrictions etc., but I have arranged for a bus to be made available and a location at an old bus garage in Bridgeton where we can have a photoshoot for the main cast.

My plan is to produce a 4-page mock Roaches Coaches brochure, which would serve as a programme (listing episode details, cast and so on) AND advertising for the podcast. A double-sided A4 colour page printed and folded into an A5 booklet would do the job.

Would the committee be able to help distribute these to local venues (and further afield)? I'd like to get opinion on how many we should get printed.

I've been given a price of £25 per 100 leaflets. Would appreciate guidance from the committee on
a) if the price seems reasonable and would it be covered by FADS and
b) an idea of how many leaflets you'd suggest we get printed for promotional purposes

Photoshoot: Given that current restrictions are max 8 people from max 3 households inside and max 15 people from max 5 households outside, it's going to be difficult to get a full cast photo. Ian looking at options for gathering in small groups and photoshopping the images together or taking individual shots and doing a tile-effect image.

Brochure: Given that people are being discouraged to handle things in public, it was felt distributing programmes/brochures would not be worthwhile. Ian/Sam to create a poster and have 100 printed. @Sarah to distribute PDF of poster online. Sarah also felt that if it wasn't too much extra work, it would be nice to have a more detailed brochure/programme available online.

Equipment / expenditure

We would like to purchase 4 microphones and 4 XLR cables at a cost of £380.

Item	Cost
4 Condenser microphones (£80 each)	£320
4 extra long XLR cables (£15 each)	£60
Total cost	£380

Notes:

- The microphones cannot be used for stage performances but they will be very useful for recording song lyrics for future pantos and would be re-used for future 'radio' drama/comedy work.
- The extra long XLR cables are needed for 'socially distant' recordings

Everyone felt the cost sounded reasonable and Ian/Sam confirmed that the microphones can also be used in future for recording voiceovers and chorus backing tracks etc. Purchase to go ahead. @Ian to liaise with Sam

Venue / recording

We are currently unable to use the hall for recording/rehearsals due to Coronavirus restrictions. It would be good to get support from the Committee on how/when this would be able to happen, and for the committee to arrange any PPE that would be needed.

As an alternative, Nigel Pope has offered the use of a facility he has been using for his own Production company. This is in Ballochruin (near Balfron Station) and would allow 1 room for 3 actors and a separate room for 'production' crew (Ian, Sam, Laura). Recording the scenes out of sequence, and with careful planning, would allow us to record Episode 1 in 3 sessions without breaching the social distancing rules.

This is now my preferred option - the cost of this would be £30 Per session - so, around £90 in total.

All agreed that Nigel's facility sounds ideal. Ian to email around cast with details of this proposal, to check that everyone is happy to proceed. Cindy confirmed the Club will provide all required PPE and suggested that 2m distancing is observed to be on the safe side. @Ian to prepare a short list of COVID-19 hygiene/social distancing compliance for the recordings and circulate to the Committee. The approved document to be put on the website.

4.5 Autumn/Spring Productions

4.5.1 Sarah reported that playwright Janet Smith had contacted us to promote her murder mystery scripts: <https://scriptsforstage.co.uk/wp/writers/janet-smith/> . Info to be retained for future play reading options.

4.6 Community events

(To remain on agenda.)

4.6.1 *Abbeyfield Killearn*

4. General news/planning

4.1. Children in performances

(To remain on agenda.)

5.2. Committee roles document

Sarah confirmed this has been published online in the Members' Area.

5.3. Club facilities & assets – general housekeeping

(All 5.3 to be kept on agenda)

5.3.1 Carpet store

@Cindy to follow up with Tony

5.3.2 Costume store tidy

@Cindy have a proper look around and all thought it would be a good idea to get new costume team members to have a good look through to see what's there.

5.3.3 Lighting loft tidy

@Cindy to follow up with Tony

5.3.4 Stage movement

(To be checked with Paul)

5.3.5 Rubber flooring

@Laura to talk to Mark at Macrobert once lockdown is over.

5.4. Annual Schedule

5.4.1. Menzies Hall insurance

Ellen has obtained another quote from First Night Productions, which matched what our current insurers have quoted. Cindy felt it is worth staying with the insurers we've used for many years, but others thought it was worth seeing whether we could get a better price.

@Ellen to go back to both to see if they can bring the price down.

5.4.2. AGM – Thurs 3rd Sept 2020, Lesser Hall

As it is not going to be possible to hold a physical AGM, given social distancing, it was agreed we should hold one via Zoom. Everyone felt sticking to 3rd Sept would not allow enough time to prepare, so a new date of **Tuesday 27th October** was proposed.

Assuming we are going ahead with the October date, @All Committee to spread the word that we are looking to fill at least 4 positions on the Committee: Chair, Treasurer and two Ordinary Members (Jane stepping down after two years and Paul resigned).

@Sarah to send 'Save the Date' around membership and ask for people to let us know if they have any objections to this method of holding the meeting.

5.5. Sports Club

5.5.1. Jotform for social membership

When our Sports club membership fees are due in September, the @Treasurer to get feedback from Sandy on how Jotform has worked and establish how many FADS members actually completed the form.

5.6. SCDA

5.6.1. Stirling District AGM – Sept 2020

Sarah not had confirmation from Lesley Syme yet, but they were intending to hold it via Zoom.

5.6.2. Membership renewal for 2020/21

Ellen confirmed this has been paid.

5.7. Menzies Hall Committee

5.7.1. DONM

Wendy has confirmed no firm date has been set for the next meeting. She will advise us in due course.

5. Growing capacity – future plans for club

5.1. Refurb of stage area

5.2. Grant opportunities

All Committee members to keep an eye out.

6. Communications & Publicity

6.1. *General*

6.2. *Upcoming productions*

6.3. *Update of Club logo*

@Sarah to finish, send to Committee for feedback, then send to Club in due course.

8. Social Committee

8.1. *Matters Arising: Matriarch viewing & Journey's End DVD*

8.2. *Play readings (currently via Zoom)*

Nothing planned at present while Roaches Coaches is proceeding.

8.3. *Future plans*

The Casino night, proposed for November, will not now go ahead. All planning of future social events while we are under coronavirus restrictions, will be done by the main Committee.

9. AOCB

9.1. Colin Fraser

David has written a lovely 'In Memorium', with a contribution from Lorna. Sheila is forwarding a photo – once received, Sarah to send out blog post.

10. DONM

DONM: **Wednesday 2nd September, 7:30pm.**

@Cindy to send Zoom invitations.

4.1.1. – Housebound / One-Act – Documents referenced:

Our original letter

To: Lesley Syme, Chair, SCDA Stirling District
lejsyme@btinternet.com
Re: Complaint regarding the rules of entry for the One-Act Play Festival
Date: 18th March 2020

Dear Lesley,

Firstly, thanks very much to you, Stephen and the rest of the festival team in Stirling District for putting on a super first round – FADS and the ‘Housebound’ team really appreciate your hard work.

Those of us in attendance also very much enjoyed Red Rag Theatre’s production of ‘It’s Behind You’, which had many excellent elements, not least of which was the superb acting. However, it has since been brought to our attention that the set is a direct copy of that used in the original professional production and, as many of the details replicated were singled out for praise and the team received 14 points out of 15 for staging, we presume the adjudicator was unaware.

That rehearsal set, including costumes and props, can be seen in this video from 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDA3pk4Q3-0> and a Google search also brings up images from a stage performance.

While we understand that, technically, no rules of entry have been breached and that any competing club could hire whatever set, props and costumes they like, we feel that awarding ‘Best Staging’ for a set that was a straight lift from the original is not in the spirit of the competition – sentiments we have also heard expressed by others associated with the SCDA.

Most directors and producers will naturally take inspiration from other productions and may use various similar conventions here and there but when it comes to competitive drama, we believe there should be more clarity within the Rules of Entry over how much replication is acceptable. Perhaps something could be put in place – such as entrants declaring significant sources - to help avoid such an issue in future years.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, on behalf of the Committee,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Walker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Sarah Walker
Secretary, FADS



Scottish Community Drama Association Eastern Division

Dear Sarah,

Complaint regarding the rules of entry for the One-Act Play Festival

I'm writing in response to your letter sent on behalf of FADS to Lesley Syme (Chair, SCDA Stirling District) dated 18 March 2020. Lesley passed this on to me as Chair, SCDA Eastern Division.

Firstly, let me apologise for taking so long to respond. The matter has been discussed at a number of levels and this has taken a while in the current circumstances.

Following on from a discussion at our Eastern Division Committee in May, your letter has been raised at meetings of the National Executive in June and the Festivals Committee in July. Input was also requested from all members of the National Committee, and from the Chairs of SASDA and GODA, both of whom responded in writing, in some detail.

While there has been a lot of sympathy for your situation, the Festivals Committee's recommendation was minuted as follows:

"It was felt that although this might not have been in the spirit of the competition, it was not against the rules. Any additional rule concerning this situation would be too complicated and difficult to enforce. It was therefore decided to recommend to the National Committee that we take no action."

Best wishes,

Robin Smith

Chair, SCDA Eastern Division