



Fintry Amateur Dramatic Society
Minutes of AGM held on 2nd May 2016
in the Green Room, Menzies Hall

1. **In chair:** Tony Flisch
2. **Apologies** from: Jonny North, Stuart Miller, Gerry Eckersley, Paul & May Anderson, Jim Brown, Helen Watson, Heather Stephenson, Colin Fraser, Irene Kelso & Kevin Boland (11)
3. **Attending:** Alan Watson, David Smith, Rosie Walters, Lorna Flisch, Linda Miller, Sheila Fraser, Liz Brown, Jane Stephenson, Jeanie Woodburn, Ian Turner, Jackie Smith, Iain Howie, Clemmie Jones, Wendy Palgrave, Rosellen Dick, Ellen Ross, Gavin Marshall, Martin Turner, Sarah Walker, Barbara McLeod, Cindy Gray, Mairi Clark (Secretary). (22)
4. Tony invited those present to agree to rearrange the agenda & proposed the AGM be concluded in the first instance with the Ideas Meeting to follow. Unanimously agreed. Tony thanked those involved in the committee & painters of the Green Room.
5. **Minutes from 2015 AGM** – approved - proposed by Liz Brown & seconded by Jane Stephenson. There were no matters arising.

6. **Chairman's Report**

Tony made the following remarks:

This time last year – we were just back from the Scottish Final and the East Kilbride festival with the Path of True Love.

We held a well-attended SCDA benefit event where the two plays placed first and second at the Scottish Final were presented by Kirkintilloch and Kirkton players. Sadly it was not possible to include FADS 'The Path of True Love'

The first FADS first production of 2015 was The Winslow Boy with David Smith's steady hand at the tiller, some strong acting performances and a beautiful set. The play was rehearsed over the summer and had a highly successful performance run in late September. There were some issues with overlap with the Panto schedule and Lorna and Sheila have provided notes to the Committee for future productions to take into account.

The next production was the panto performances of Dick McWhittington at our now usual slot over two weeks in November/December. Directed by Sheila and Lorna, it engaged a large number of FADS members and also our audiences. As a first (I think!), the leads were mainly youngsters. Again the scenery was outstanding and production values generally up to our usual standard.

This was the first opportunity to use our newly acquired set of radio mics. The legal frequencies had changed a while back and the committee agreed that we really needed to update these. They were expensive at £5000 but should last for many years. We do need to treat headsets though as consumables.

That lead into the winter season and we had two entries to the SCDA One Act festival - Cagebirds with Stuart Miller directing and Tuesdays and Sundays directed by Cindy Gray

You will need no description of these productions as you will all have seen them, but Cagebirds was an imaginative staging of a well-known David Campton play with 8 of our female actors as cast. We saw it first in the Menzies Hall

to an invited audience then it was the District round in Killin where it was placed first by an enthusiastic adjudicator. Sadly, the adjudicator at Eastern division - held in Lochgelly had a very different view of the play and it was heavily marked down (total marks at District - 85 and at Lochgelly - 71) This is unfortunately not an unusual occurrence, but it is a hard blow for the actors and director to take. We have been here before and no doubt will again. After the Menzies Hall appearance, Martin had said to me - while praising the production for its imagination and detail - that it would divide audiences - and adjudicators - how prophetic that was!

Tuesdays and Sundays fared rather better, coming second in Killin (and thus not qualifying for the open final) it nevertheless proceeded to the Divisional Final where it won by 7 points over the nearest other entry. We will get a chance to see it here in the Menzies Hall - and Martin's Bottom (of which more later) on 2 June before its appearance in the Scottish Final in Eastwood on the 18th June.

If we had but thought of creating a separate team and of course paying more - T&S could have gone to the Division as well as Cagebirds – easy to be wise in hindsight.

I mentioned Martin's Bottom and this joke (if not his trousers) must be wearing thin, but we learned in June that Martin had been keeping his success in being cast as Bottom in the RSC production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* quiet since February. After a long period of rehearsal, he appeared at the Citizens to critical acclaim at the end of March and appears again at Stratford – STRATFORD! at the end of June.

He will give us a talk on 2 June on his experiences to date and the anticipation of appearing at the RSC's home theatre.

He also appears as guest speaker at the SCDA 90 th birthday celebration on 23 July in Pitlochry. Tickets are a very reasonable £7.50 and available from me!

We had an active and imaginative social committee comprising Stuart, Kevin and Jeannie. Their first event was supposed to be a Halloween party at Doyle's in October but this had to be cancelled because of a poor response. There was then a successful Christmas event at Doyle's on 19 December followed by an enjoyable and rather different Burns Night held in the Fintry Inn on 30 Jan. There was also to be a car treasure hunt on 16 April but once again, the response was very poor (2 couples) so it was cancelled. Finally there was the Eurovision night which was to be in the hall but we had only 15 people, which then fell to 13 and then 11. It's a shame these things were not better supported, and I really felt for the three Socialites as they had been innovative and worked hard to create a calendar of interesting events.

We are now looking forward to Barbara's Dance Derby which has yet to be cast, and will perform in September.

And finally, I'd like to express my thanks to FADS members, to the Social Committee and the committee members and the in particular for their forbearance and support over the years. It's now time for someone else to take over the reins and for me to take a back seat!

7. Treasurer's Report - another good year for the club. See attached audited FADS ACCOUNTS 2016.

Alan Watson proposed accounts as correct & Shelia Fraser seconded. Comments included that the bank account was healthy & the remainder of two payments to SCDA still to come out of accounts.

8. Membership fees

It was unanimously agreed that membership fees remain as they are; £15 for an adult member & £1 for a junior member that included all those in full time education. £11 of the fees paid goes to the Sports Club for combined membership. All FADS performers should ensure that they are paid up members before production commences.

9. Election of Committee Members

Chairman: Shelia Fraser

Vice Chair: Stuart Miller

Secretary: Mairi Clark

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

Linda Miller: (second year)

Martin Turner: (second year)

Gavin Marshall, Rosie Walters & Lorna Flisch elected onto committee.

New members to the Committee welcomed.

10. Ideas Meeting

Discussion took place around future productions. Tony reviewed proposals made in 2015.

Sheila distributed forms to disseminate registered interest from those present on future productions & roles.

No Christmas production proposed or planned to date.

Ellen Ross intimated that Stuart Miller was keen to produce a play "Canary" by Jonathan Harvey. 8 main characters set in 1960-2000 spanning 50 years addressing homophobic issues as a full length play for September 2017.

Cindy proposed a 2/3 hander one act play for the SCDA competition "Lesson"; schoolgirl, professor & maid.

Discussion around SCDA submissions & entries.

Tony proposed consideration for "Midsummers Nights Dream."

Rosellen intimated that Iain Campbell of Oakwood had contacted Jackie regarding FADS being involved in the idea/production of a "Play a Pie & a Pint" type evening activity. Still in early stages of planning & will report back to committee with further details for FADS involvement & inclusion. Those members of FADS active in the planning group include Rosellen, Ian T, Martin T, David & Jackie Smith & Iain H.

David Smith intimated that he would be interested in doing a 2018 September production.

Jeannie intimated that Kevin Boland at some point was interested in directing a play "Call Centre" as a one act but not specifically for SCDA.

Musical production was discussed.

Discussion in relation to how to attract future/potential directors & producers amongst FADS members. Supporting them to give confidence to produce/direct. Need for particular passion for a play/production. Collaborative working.

Club Evenings

Further discussion about doing 2/3 evenings a year that included play reading.

AOCB

Jane advised & displayed FADS garments (polo & sweat shirt) still for sale.

Tony closed the meeting with thanks for an energetic & enthusiastic 2016 AGM.