

MINUTES OF THE CAODS AGM ON TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2016

42 Members Present

1. Our President, Gill Plumtree, welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the Officers and Committee. She then expressed the sad loss of the passing of Peter Starr, she personally knew him from Clacton Operatic at the age of 15 at which point he was a dancer, Lynette Sullivan also mentioned that he used to come around with ice cream in between shows.
2. The President asked the Secretary to state the apologies (17 members).
3. There were no matters arising from the previous year's minutes.
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – See attached report.

Gill Plumtree awarded Tracey Perry with Life Membership and a beautiful bouquet of flowers, she explained that Tracey had spent the last 27 years serving on the Committee and 13 years as Chairman, this showed great commitment and dedication to the Society. In the past she had been a dancer in CAODS and then took over from her dad as Stage Manager. She had, over the years, done her best to steer the Committee in successful shows and sort out any problems that arose. Tracey said that she would miss it and thanked Gill Plumtree for always being on the end of the phone and keeping CAODS on the right path.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT – Jean Pinkney ran through the accounts. The membership was down slightly, notably she thanked Paul Carr for recommending the Saffron Building Society account as we had managed to gain £466 in interest. She then went on to say that the overall deficit for the year 2016 was -£99 which overall wasn't bad. Again the big difference of selling 99.5% of tickets for Legally Blonde had made a huge difference, which is always why ticket sales are so important to our bottom-line figures. She went on to mention that sponsorship had also made a big difference and that Musicscope shows were slightly cheaper which we would benefit from again next year. We currently had a 3 year deal for sound. For Legally Blonde we had a large desk which cost £3,600, and a smaller desk was £2,400 which we would be using in the immediate future. The cast had also provided a few costumes for Legally Blonde which also helped to save money. Social events raised £1,762. We were going to be charged VAT on theatre hire from next year, therefore, tickets had gone up by 50p to help counteract this going forward. We were constantly looking at every line of the budget to save money. We would need 85% ticket sales for Anything Goes as it would be costing £41,000 to put on. We would have Gift Aid from next year so this would gain £800 for the Society. Gill Plumtree thanked Jean Pinkney for doing such a marvellous job with the accounts.
6. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Christopher Yorke-Edwards and seconded by Stephanie Yorke-Edwards, all were in favour.
7. The auditors, J Halliday, were proposed for adoption by Lynette Sullivan and seconded by Audrey Hinton, all were in favour.
8. ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS, Gill explained that it was awkward to have 2 officers up for election at the same time so Jean Pinkney would stand for 2 years and Corinne Dobinson would stand for 1 year. Therefore, for Jean Pinkney to continue as Treasurer for 2 years was proposed by Kevin Richards and Alison Gill seconded. For Corinne Dobinson to continue as Secretary this was proposed by Stephanie Yorke-Edwards and seconded by Russell Day.

9. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 4 nominees would be filling the roles – Dannii Carr, Cassie Estall, Brad Wendes and Christine Yorke-Edwards. Diana Easton had decided to continue with her term of office, the original documentation stated that she would be leaving the Committee, Stephanie Yorke-Edwards had recently left the Committee. Gill Plumtree thanked all on the Committee for all their hard work.
10. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES – See attached report.
11. Open Auditions – CC read out David Gillet's email (see attached). Cassie Estall had been on this particular panel and had felt that whilst it was good, there had been a backlash since the auditions because of too many other opinions. Karen Whitehead asked whether other people that were sitting in were there just to watch or whether they also had an opinion, the answer to this was that it was just to watch and Gill Plumtree added that they were mainly there to see fair play. Kevin Richards said that Colchester had had open auditions in the past and that auditionees tended to 'up their game' and he believed that this made a better standard for the audition. CC said that it could help people learn how to audition. Audrey Hinton said that she had attended one before and there hadn't been a lot of audience feedback (nobody clapped), whereas at Colchester everyone clapped. CE said that from a panel point of view it was hard to concentrate due to the high energy in the room. TP said that she had not had any experience of open auditions, but would probably feel very distracted. Diana Easton said that there hadn't been any backlash from her experience and the company had been supportive, even though it had been daunting being new to this specific Society. She also noted that whilst at Young Gen, she had participated in a workshop style audition which was fine. Kim Anderson suggested that it was not possible to please everyone all of the time. John Sullivan suggested that maybe we should try it for a show in the future as a trial. DE said that it would probably have to be only the people that were auditioning rather than open to all members of the Society. CC agreed as the more people that were in attendance the more disruptive it would potentially be. John Sullivan suggested that if people were to be disruptive then they should be asked to leave. Lynette Sullivan asked if there had been any director input, CC said that she had spoken to RJ and he didn't like the idea of open auditions and didn't necessarily see the benefit of having them. SW had been on open audition panels. There was a show of hands, in favour of a trial were 16 and 14 were against. This topic would now go back to the Committee for discussion in the New Year. Geoff Baker raised a valid point of whether we should be asking the acting members, instead of AGM attendees as there weren't many in attendance at the AGM.
12. David Yetton gave his report on the 100 Club – he said that we were now up to 123 members, he gets new members of the 100 Club as he is the liaison for new members to CAODS. He said that the membership wasn't restricted to members of the society and if members of your family or friends wanted to join then they could. £1,050 had been spent from the proceeds of the 100 Club this year on workshops, a display board, T-shirt delivery, key programming and training fee for extra staff for Barnum (Team Kinetix). Warren Jennings queried whether these expenses should be paid for by the 100 Club, it was noted that the 100 Club was there to support the Society, the Committee make the decisions about which costs are paid for by the 100 Club. WJ then asked for them to be shown in the accounts which Jean Pinkney agreed to do in the future. The December draw winners were: £30 Dave Yetton, £20 Pat Day and £10 Abbey Carr. Jacky Smith won £50 the runner up prize of the Christmas 'Big One' and the Christmas 'Big One' £75 was won by Susan Lily. The President thanked David Yetton.
13. AGM DRAW FOR 2017-18 MEMBERSHIP – The lucky winner was Dannii Carr.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Corinne Dobinson pointed out that there was a box for donations instead of sending Christmas Cards, this would raise funds for Alzheimer’s Research UK. Lynette Sullivan wanted to make a point about the survey that she had been appalled at some of the remarks made on it and that she was surprised that we were lucky enough to have enough members to take the vacancies of the Committee and would like to thank continuing and retiring Committee members despite the remarks. Everyone in the room showed their appreciation.

The meeting closed at 9pm and members were invited to the Green Room for the buffet and refreshments.



CAODS AGM 2016 - Attendees

Kim	Anderson	Fae	Goldsworthy
Geoff	Baker	Mary	Heath
Jessica	Broad	Audrey	Hinton
Charlotte	Broad	Peter	Hockley
Angela	Broad	Neville	Homersham
Sue	Buxton	Cheryl	Jennings
Anthony	Carpenter	Warren	Jennings
Claire	Carr	Katie	Mason
Dannii	Carr	Karen	Mason
Janet	Castle	Susan	Parkinson
Gill	Caton	Tracey	Perry
Chris	Clements	Jean	Pinkney
Marion	Cook	Kevin	Richards
Pat	Day	Muriel	Sampson
Russell	Day	Lynette	Sullivan
Corinne	Dobinson	Karen	Whitehead
Diana	Easton	Sue	Wilkinson
Emma	Escott	Dave	Yetton
Caroline	Escott	Steph	Yorke-Edwards
Cassie	Estall	Christine	Yorke-Edwards
Alison	Gill	Christopher	Yorke-Edwards

Caods Agm 2016

Chairmans Report

This report covers June 2015 through May 2016 during this time Caods performed 2 shows at the Civic Theatre.

We should first mention that last year's *Guys and Dolls* was nominated for the Noda East region 8 Best Musical award

Sister Act - Feb 2015 directed by Sallie Warrington and Md

Another new show for us, the feedback was good, cast and audience agreed it was a good show, Noda also agreed and a long side *Guys and Dolls*, *Sister Act* also received a nomination for Noda East Best Musical in region 8.

We attended the Noda East AGM and Awards Ceremony and were delighted that Sister Act won Best Musical in region 8

Legally Blonde - Directed by Sallie Warrington and Md

Yet another new show for us and following on from last year's Male dominated shows one for the girls!

It was a challenge; the set being over-nighted from Aberdeen was a first!

Again this was a well-received Caods show

I have mention in previous reports that we need to sell more tickets! We have worked hard over the last few years on trimming budgets without compromising our shows.

Jean will show that a lot of our costs are fixed and the ones we could make smaller are the

ones that would impact on our shows, but there is room for us to sell more tickets.

We try very hard with our publicity, but if we could all sell a few more tickets it would go a long way.

As I bring my years on Committee to an end I am thankful for all the support and friendship I have found on the Committee. These people work so hard for their hobby and I think they do not get the recognition they deserve.

I have said before that the job of Committee has got a lot harder over the years and these people give so much and get little thanks. I think it is very sad that Committee members cannot go out socially without being grilled or challenged about the work of the Committee, there are channels to raise these things on Committee in fact the Committee has never been so accessible!

The society would not be what it is without the work that the committee and others who work behind the scenes put in.

For me I look forward to enjoying Caods again and the hobby I have had for 42 years.

Thank you

SOCIAL EVENTS FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 2016

Coffee Morning held in June	£52
Coffee morning held in September	£51
Coffee morning held in Feb	£64
Coffee morning held in April	£45
Coffee Morning held in December for charity	£67.50 teas/coffees, £57 raffle = £124.50 overall

We continue to hold our regular coffee mornings which have proved to be a real success. They seem to be a great opportunity for members who maybe don't tread the boards anymore to meet up and to keep their friendships going which is lovely to see. The total money raised from the coffee mornings for this social year was £212. I would like to thank my team of Tracey and Jean, including anyone that has helped to make the delicious cakes. Again a special mention must go to Geoff Baker, who absolutely lives up to his name, who without fail he makes a large batch of sweet and savoury scones, which recently have included his speciality chutney called 'Eve's Revenge'.

In 2017 we would love to see you and for £2.50 you can eat as much cake, and drink as much tea and coffee as you wish. There are many volunteers that help pack away at the end and I would just like to say I am always grateful for your help.

We held our annual Quiz in October, which was attended by 57 people and again it was a great success. Thanks must go to Robyn Gowers who did a great job in devising the questions. Jean Pinkney also provided a great ploughman's supper. This made a fabulous £444.

The fundraiser 'Abigail's Party' held in April saw 87 guest sit down to enjoy a terrific evening's entertainment and a lovely meal which was again provided by Jean. This raised a fantastic £1106. Special thanks to Kevin Richards, Barry Hester, Robyn Gowers, Karen Kelleher, Stephanie Yorke-Edwards and a special thank you to John Sullivan for his help on the technical side.

Therefore the total raised over the course of the year from June 2015 to the end of May 2016 was a Total £1,762.

The Summer BBQ & Bingo had to be cancelled as we didn't have enough people. Maybe the date was wrong as it was just before school holidays.

There have also been 2 trips to the theatre, Showboat and Half A Sixpence, Jean is always on the lookout for new theatre trip ideas.

We are working on the 2017 calendar at the moment and plan to have an exciting fundraiser in May. If anyone has any ideas for social events then please feel free to let us know.

Email from David Gillett received on 13.12.16

Having been a member of CAODS for 5+ years now, I have become accustomed to the closed audition format and the thought of that suddenly changing was initially daunting, thinking it would make the process more stressful than it already is. But having now auditioned in another society (SODS) that has open auditions, I couldn't have been more wrong. At SODS, the whole event felt like a coming together of the society to support each other through what is incredibly nerve wracking. Instead of it feeling more judgemental (essentially having an audition panel of 20+ people), the sense of support and general enjoyment at watching each other give it their all was lovely! At southend if you were auditioning for the same part as the person auditioning at the time, you would be asked to leave the room, which I agreed with completely, as to not psych ourselves out watching each other. When it came to the actual audition, as a auditionee, performing to a room of people felt easier as you actually had an audience to perform to, not just a table of 5ish people looking very stern haha. In my mind, last weekend was the best audition I have ever done, and I think the main thing that helped me was the open audition format. Inviting in society members to the process would reduce the hush hush nature of a closed audition and allow members to have greater insight into the decision process. In conclusion, whilst in theory the idea might be shocking to some members, I would urge people to consider it as actually a more enjoyable option.

