

MINUTES OF THE CAODS AGM ON TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2018

49 Members Present

1. Our President, Gill Plumtree, welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the Officers and Committee. Gill began by saying that it wasn't right that we were here without one special lady, Patti (Pat Day) who sadly passed away a few weeks previously, she led a tribute with everyone standing accompanied by a rapturous round of applause to show our respect and remembrance of Patti. She also passed on our thoughts to Russell Day, her husband.
2. The President asked the Secretary to state the apologies. There were apologies from: Kim Anderson, Charlotte Broad, Jessica Broad, Tony Carpenter, Rachel Curren, Ray Jeffery, Claire Mason, Amanda Parsons, John Whitehead and Sue Wilkinson.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

There was a query with the wording in the 2017 minutes which stated that RJ was 'less reluctant' instead of 'more reluctant' which it should have read, when discussing the possibility of having 'open auditions'. Gill Plumtree asked for a show of hands for acceptance of the minutes and everyone accepted them and no-one was opposed. CC therefore amended and signed the minutes. CC also mentioned that the Executive Committee had discussed the open auditions at length at our January meeting and the Committee had all decided against having them for the time being.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – See attached report. GP also thanked CC for all of her hard work.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT – See attached report.
6. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Tracey Perry and seconded by Russell Day, all were in favour.
7. The auditors, J Halliday, were proposed for adoption by John Sullivan and seconded by Stephanie Yorke-Edwards, all were in favour.
8. ELECTION OF THE TREASURER, Lynette Sullivan proposed the re-election of Jean Pinkney and Geoff Baker seconded. All were in agreement.
9. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – CC explained that Claire Carr (Chairman), Jean Pinkney (Vice-Chairman/Treasurer), Cassie Estall, David Yetton and Christine Yorke-Edwards were all up for re-election and were happy to stand again.

Corinne Dobinson (Secretary), Kieran Bacon & Stephanie Yorke-Edwards were not due for re-election and were willing to stand again, however, Peter Hockley had decided to stand down and Dannii Carr resigned earlier in the year.

A nomination form had been received from Lynette Sullivan and she was accepted onto the Committee, therefore there were 3 vacancies, in which we could co-opt members throughout the year.

Gill thanked the Committee for their hard work.

10. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES – See attached report.

11. CC proposed to change the name of Vice Presidents to Friends of CAODS. CC explained that the Committee were concerned that the VP term was a bit 'old hat'. We hadn't had anyone new join for a long time. Most societies have a 'friends of', and they seem to have an extensive list of names which they put in the programmes. JP had put together a package and sent an email to the VP's to inform them of the new package that we would be proposing: they could receive the monthly bulletin, access to members' area of website, vote at AGM, be invited to social events, preview of show, prize draw for two seats to see the show and also acknowledged in the programme. We had received some feedback, one person said they weren't happy and we had had other responses to say that the current VP's were happy for it to change. CC put it to the room to see if the members of the AGM were happy with the proposal. Tash asked what the package was before and CC explained that they gave a minimal donation. JP suggested a minimum donation of £30. We would also have to change the name in the Society Rules [No.4]. Members at the meeting were thinking a minimum donation of £50 was reasonable. Kevin Richards thought the name was too long and also that it seemed cheap, especially if they were doing a show as well, as they wouldn't need to pay a membership fee. Tash said could we get encouragement from existing VP's to become a Friends of CAODS. Paul Carr, who was a current VP, thought it was a great idea and suggested that the term VP sounded like you worked for an 'American bank', also thought it was a much more modern way to market and raise more money for the society. Linda de Lausen suggested Patron, but that was felt to have a different meaning a title that someone was invited to be. Christopher Yorke-Edwards thought that 'supporter' wasn't a strong enough term. KR suggested that the VP's could stay as VP. There was a show of hands and the majority agreed for a minimum donation of £40 (with a recommendation of £50), this would then be in line with the current acting membership it was therefore passed to change the name from 'VP' to 'Friend of CAODS'.

12. 100 CLUB – DY informed the meeting that we currently had 118 members, we had purchased via the 100 Club a portable power speaker, to be used if there was no pianist, which also could be used for workshops, the cost of this was £199. Also bought a drum screen because of the consistent complaints about how loud the drums were, which cost £600 (hiring one would cost £100 per show). We had also bought boxes for wardrobes and materials for a wardrobe cupboard that had been made. DY then held the Christmas draw and the winners were: Christmas Draw £50 – Angela Broad and £75 - Cassie Estall.

13. AWARDS

The Committees 'Society Member of the Year Award' was presented to Fae Goldsworthy.

The members 'Member of the Year Award' was awarded to Cassie Estall.

There was one Life Membership Award awarded to Christopher Yorke-Edwards. He joined in 1976, was a Committee Member, been involved in numerous musicals and has enjoyed 'small but meaningful parts' over the years. He had written reviews and scripts for the society, as well as designing 'award winning' programmes.

14. AGM DRAW FOR 2019-20 MEMBERSHIP – The lucky winner was Karen Whitehead.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Mandy Parsell raised a concern about using Sallie Warrington for the dramatic effect that was needed for Evita. She made it clear that it wasn't a personal criticism as she felt that SW was an excellent choreographer and great at directing dancing shows, it was a personal worry that Evita needed a lot of dramatic effect. CC responded to explain to Mandy and the whole meeting that it wasn't an easy decision when deciding on Director.

Sallie had actually approached the Committee to ask us to choose her for something more dramatic so that she could show us what she could do. She had been to our Committee meeting to give us her vision of what she was going to do with it. She was fully aware that it was a dramatic show and not a dance show. She had said that she wanted a big cast and she had researched all of the character parts. At some point the Committee felt that it was a positive decision to give her a chance to show what she was capable of. With Ray we knew that he would have been a great choice for directing the show, we do have logistical issues with transporting Ray to and from rehearsals and he has to stay over quite a bit. We knew that he would have been superb at directing it. Claire Carr said that the Committee had decided to give her a chance to prove herself. Christine Yorke-Edwards said that they had gone to see Sallie's Witches of Eastwick in the first instance and she came and directed this for us which went down extremely well. Mandy raised her concern, in her opinion, that the ensemble hadn't been used particularly well historically with a SW show. Cassie Estall explained that 80% of the show included the company. Kieran Bacon said that we have to work with the Directors and that it was a two way process, Maggie Burgess said that we had brought up the problem before with company not being used enough and that nothing much had changed. Kevin Richards suggested that maybe she could do it for a reduced fee. Mandy said that she thought Sallie was very talented, however didn't feel that she was talented at moving large numbers of cast around the stage. Tracey Perry interjected to say that the Committee spent hours making a decision on choosing a director and that the members should respect the Executive Committee in their decision in who they choose. John Sullivan expressed that the members were not a party to the presentation and discussions held at the Committee meeting. Peter Hockley said we didn't want to pigeon hole Sallie Warrington into a specific show and that she should be given the chance to show her other talents. Kieran said that directors need to be given a chance. Mandy said that she hoped that she could cope with the dramatic effect of the show and that it wasn't a criticism of SW. Maggie Burgess also mentioned that we would want to attract some men. Sallie had said that half of the rehearsals would be music and we would also have Rob who was very experienced on the music side. Claire Carr said at the open evening that she would explain what her vision was and that the Committee would monitor it as the show was underway.

- Corinne Dobinson raised a query that the 'Membership Card' was referred to within the society rules and should be taken out as they are not issued anymore. Section 9 would therefore be amended. Delete the end of line in the rules in two places and change to 'shown on the website'. Also in section 10 and 12, so all would be detailed on the website. Diana Baker proposed the change and John Sullivan seconded. Christopher Yorke-Edwards questioned whether we had to query with the Charities Commission, but it was felt that we didn't need to do this as we provide them with a new copy of the rules.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.