

The items on the Agenda covered the Reports of the Officers for the year just gone, and of the Production Teams for the shows presented during the year; any Rule Changes and Resolutions needing to be discussed; the presentation of Long Service Awards; the election of our Patron, President and any Vice-Presidents, and the elections for the General Committee of both the Society and Rising Stars.

It was pleasing to again see a large number of Members (both from the Society and from Rising Stars) in attendance, together with our President, one Society Vice-President and two Guests of the Group, as this was everyone's only chance in the year to fundamentally affect the future of the Group.

The reports of the Chairmen of both sections and all the Production teams were justifiably again very positive, as our shows this year - 'The Drowsy Chaperone' & 'Hot Mikado' for the main Society and 'Seussical' & 'All Over The World' for Rising Stars - enjoyed great dramatic success. The reports highlighted the great spirit of commitment which is the undoubted key to the success of our shows, bringing together the production team, the technical team and the cast into one dynamic whole - particularly pleasing after the difficult start for 'Hot Mikado'. Appreciation was again shown for the excellent work done by the General Committees of both sections and for the support given to the entire Group by the staff and volunteers of Beccles Public Hall.

Unfortunately, the Treasurers of both our sections had to report that the dramatic success of the fully-staged shows had not been reflected in the financial out-turn, with all three making considerable losses - mainly due to disappointing box office income. Only 'All Over The World' managed to show a moderate profit, benefitting as it did from lack of licence & script fees and much reduced expenditure on the set and band. Reflecting the fact that the increasing cost of putting on shows is very difficult to offset by increasing ticket prices, it was agreed that the membership subscription for the Society would have to rise for the first time in many years, to £30. Rising Stars were able to keep their subscription at a nominal 50p though, as they finance their productions by way of show fees.

There was again no Report from the Society's Productions Sub-Committee, as it was not required to meet during the year because the draft schedule of shows for 2018 and part of 2019 had already been agreed. However, time is now moving on and so the Secretary of the Meeting made an appeal for volunteers to join the Sub-Committee to help research possible shows which the Society could present during the coming years.

There were two NODA Long Service Awards for our President to present: to Stephen Brown for 10 years service, and to Helen Steed for a fine 25 years. Unfortunately, due to an administrative error by NODA, no actual Awards were available, but both recipients were greeted by applause from the Meeting.

There were no proposals for changes to the Governing Document of the Group or the Rule-Books of the constituent sections, neither were there any Resolutions for Discussion nor points raised from the floor.

We were delighted that Christine Mullord agreed to take the position of President of the Group for another year, and that our Patron, Sidi Scott, was also re-appointed. Sue Cushing was welcomed into the distinguished fold of Vice-Presidents of the Society, to much applause, and all existing VPs were re-elected.

There were more nominations for the Committee of the Society than usual, including (unusually!) two for Secretary, but nominations had to be solicited from the floor for Business Manager, Skills Development Officer and Social Secretary. This resulted in single nominations for all posts other than Secretary: the nominees were thus deemed elected without further vote. Accordingly, John Hammond remains as the Society Chairman and Ruth Lewis-Smith becomes Treasurer. Ian Newton is again Skills Development Officer, with John Gallagher as Publicity Officer and Emily Holt as Social Secretary once more. After a secret ballot, Helen Watson was elected as Secretary.

There were once again three nominations for the two posts of Elected Member on the Society Committee but this year all were present and so it was possible to resolve the Elected/Co-opted dilemma immediately. Debbie Lambert volunteered to be co-opted as Newsletter Editor, leaving Megan Gallagher and Jane Zarins as Elected Members.

The situation with Rising Stars was more straightforward, as there was one nomination for each named office. No further nominations were forthcoming from the floor and so each nominee was deemed elected without further vote. There were however six nominations for the not-more-than five posts of Elected Member. Taking their lead from the similar situation in the main Society over the last few years, Rising Stars members then agreed to allow their Committee to resolve the matter at their first meeting.

Your Committee Members for 2018/19 are thus:-

Society

Chairman: John Hammond

Secretary: Helen Watson

Treasurer: Ruth Lewis-Smith

Business Manager: John Cushing

Skills Devt. Officer: Ian Newton

Publicity Manager: John Gallagher

Social Secretary: Emily Holt

Elected Members: Megan Gallagher, Jane Zarins

Newsletter Editor (co-opted): Debbie Lambert

Rising Stars

Chairman: Helen Steed

Secretary: Sarah Carlill

Treasurer: John Mondon

Elected/Co-opted Members: Stephen Brown, Alice Cushing, Sam Howlett, Alison Smith, Chris Steed, Daisy Tyrell-Kent

Both sections of the Group are looking forward to presenting dynamic and innovative shows between this AGM and the next, and so we advance towards 2019 with great confidence.

The AGM documents will remain available on the Downloads page for a period of time so those unable to attend the Meeting may read them.