

**MINUTES OF THE 58TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
RAMSGATE OPERATIC SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019
HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2020**

1. PRESENT

There were 17 members present with an attendance of 21 people in total.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted from: Pam Hayfield, Betty Reid, Alan Tilley, Tim Baker, Jill Baker and Mike Brodie.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 57th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2019

It was noted that bullet point five of the précis of the treasurer's report which had read 'The operating loss for the year (2018) was £14,802.99 which is a drop of about £14,000 from the previous year (2017) was incorrect and should in fact read 'The operating loss for the year (2018) was £14,802.99 which is an increase of about £10,000 from the previous year (2017) This was duly amended and the minutes approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

There were no matters arising.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence relating to the AGM.

5. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND OTHER TRUSTEES

The Chairman, Mrs Sharon Liff thanked all for attending and the Trustees for their efforts during the year. She spoke of the difficulties facing the society earlier in the year with both the cancelation of Hot Mikado and a Show concert. Two other shows in an early planning stage, Boogie nights and Dirty Rotten scoundrels were also cancelled. The show 'South Pacific' was chosen for October 2019. The show went well with good support from the staff at the venue and a tight budget was adhered to.

An appeal was made to the membership to be more proactive in the promotion and ticket sales of future shows. The rights to 'Joseph' were secured for May 2020 and it was hoped that this show would help to 'put ROS back on top where it belongs'. Thanks were given to quiz master, Gary Skelton in giving his services for free for our last two quiz nights. She went on to list many of the tasks that the committee have to perform and asked the members to also assist and support the committee in their efforts to return the Society to its former greatness.

The Secretary gave his report having already provided copies for the meeting. He reflected that the early part of 2019 was a difficult period for the Society. Membership had dwindled during the year and at the end of 2019 stood at 26 members and 15 honorary members. During the year Jean Tilly passed away and, also David Mossman after a long illness.

The Trustees elected at the 2019 AGM fell short of the required number of 8 in total and there were no nominations for Chairman at the AGM. Subsequently Mrs Liff was co-opted to the position of Chairman and Mrs Mary Pickett similarly became a Trustee by co-option.

Tony Matthews the accompanist was recognised for his service and dedication to the Society. Storage facilities (now partially resolved) were still presenting the Society with problems.

Attempts were made to stage Hot Mikado in the first half of the year but there was insufficient enthusiasm and it was dropped. A similar situation arose with an attempt to create a revue type show which also came to nothing.

Finally the Society decided to stage South Pacific in the autumn at the Theatre Royal Margate and although the show was a success production wise, it still did not cover expenses. However the loss from previous years was halved. The Director (Jacquie Walker-Kemp) had to drop out 9 weeks before the production for domestic reasons. The Society was grateful to Mr Peter Barnett for taking up the directorship at short notice.

He gave Thanks to Daisy Foster and Justine Horne for their redesign of the Society's website and to Ken Pickett for its completion. He went on to announce that a fundraising project organised by Mr Barry Todd, had resulted in two successful Quizzes. He finished by saying that the Society was looking forward to staging 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in May 2020

The Treasurer gave fuller details of the annual accounts which were circulated at the meeting. He Stated that the Society had made a loss over the year of just over £6000.

The result of putting on just one show in 2019 (South Pacific) had kept expenditure down but this also resulted in a drop in income. After deducting expenses the balance carried forward for the year was £16,176.90. The costs and fees of cancelled shows for Boogie Nights, Hot Mikado, A concert show and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels were given as £2, 521.00. The breakdown of the total Sundries figure was given to the membership. He then pointed out that in just 3 years the Society has lost over 25,000.00 pounds due to 'poorly put on shows' or cancelled shows and spending too much money. He hoped however, that Joseph would be a great success.

The re-structure of fees was explained where the membership fee would be lowered to £10.00 with a variable show fee. The Chair, Mrs Liff explained the higher costs for 'Joseph' which resulted in a decision by the committee to set the show fee for that particular show at £40.00.

She went on to explain how cast members were notified of fees. The accounts were then officially confirmed as correct and the treasurer's report was adopted.

6. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020

Mrs Liff spoke of the decision to reduce the membership fee to £10.00 per year and the rationale behind it. i.e. to increase and maintain the membership including valued non-performing members such as Mr and Mrs Trindall.

7. CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Various changes were agreed to the constitution and the following resolutions were voted on, passed and adopted as follows:

DRAFT RESOLUTION 1

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall amend clause 10 (Membership fees) as written below:

Members other than Honorary Members shall pay an annual membership fee. The cost of fees will be determined by the trustees prior to the AGM for the ensuing year.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 2

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall amend clause 10 (Membership fees) as written below:

Friends shall pay a minimum annual donation as decided by the trustees prior to the AGM for the ensuing year. This donation becomes due on the day following the AGM and shall be paid by the 30th April of the current financial year. Friends joining after 1st July shall be required to pay a full minimum donation.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 3

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall amend clause 10 (Show fees) as written below:

Members wishing to participate in a production shall pay a show fee in addition to their annual membership fee. The amount and date for payment of the Show Fee will be determined by the trustees and shown on the Audition Application Form.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 4

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall amend clause 10 (Casting) as written below:

Casting shall be by audition. The audition should be held in front of a panel consisting of Director, Musical Director, Choreographer (if appropriate), one Trustee, and two other persons.

A second and third Trustee should act as audition facilitators and also sit in on the audition of any candidate who is not a current member of the Society. This will enable the Trustees in attendance to consider the auditionee as a candidate for membership, without the need for a separate membership audition.

This second and third Trustee will have no vote in the casting of the show and will not sit in on the audition of any candidate who has been a member of the Society during the past three years.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 5

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall be amended as written below:

All references to the youth section of the society known as 'Rozzers' shall be removed from clauses 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16 and 17.

DRAFT RESOLUTION 6

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall add clause 19 (Conflicts of interest) as written below:

In the course of trustees meetings or activities, where the trustee board is presented with a conflict of interest, the interest should be declared and the trustee(s) involved should remove themselves from the discussion. The nature of the conflict and action taken to manage it will be recorded in the minutes and a subsequent entry will be made in the society's 'conflict of interests register'

DRAFT RESOLUTION 7

The 2018 Constitution and Rules of the Charity, known as Ramsgate Operatic Society, shall be amended as written below:

Appendix A and Appendix B shall be deleted from the document.

8. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND OTHER TRUSTEES

Mrs Sharon Liff was re-elected unopposed as Chairman.

Mr Ken Pickett was elected unopposed as Secretary.

Mrs Mary Pickett was elected unopposed as Treasurer.

The following Trustees were installed unopposed:

Mr Terry Bunton

Mr B Todd

Mr Robert Drywood

9. ANY OTHER OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The following points were noted:

Sincere thanks were given by the Chair to Mr Brian Booker who was stepping down from his tenure serving on the committee for his ten years of dedication to the Society in the role of treasurer.

Thanks were also given to Mr Robert Drywood who, although continuing to serve as a trustee, would be stepping down from his former executive role as Secretary.

The chair spoke of co-option. As the committee of trustees would at this point be two members short, invitations were made to any members who would be willing to become co-opted members of the committee. She finished by emphasising that the society belonged to the members and their views 'Post Joseph' would be welcome and respected by the committee

CLOSURE OF MEETING:

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.