



**SWINDON FILM SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE SWINDON ARTS CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER 2017**

The meeting started at 9:25pm and was attended by 9 members and 9 committee members.

**1 Apologies:** Diane Miles, Ivor Cheetham.

**2 Minutes of the 2016 AGM**

The minutes of the SFS AGM on Wednesday, 2nd November 2016 were read and accepted. Acceptance proposed by Elaine Shepherd and seconded by Roger Griffin.

**3 Audience Reaction Scoring System**

The SFS Membership Secretary handed out a sheet explaining the system the Society uses to calculate the overall audience reaction score for each film, and talked the meeting attendees through the process.

The explanation of the scoring system was appreciated and well-received by the meeting.

**4 Finance Report**

In the season 2016-17 the Film Society made a loss of £1,544. With adjustments for writing off of historic unclaimed licence fee debts, this loss was reduced to £681.

As in previous years, the main contributor to the unprofitable situation is the high cost of showing films at the Arts Centre – hiring the venue costs the Film Society £420 per evening, on top of the licence fee for showing each film which generally comes to around £100 per showing.

Last year the Society experimented with showing two films at New College, which is much less expensive to hire. The first New College film *I, Daniel Blake* was very well attended but the second film *Queen of Katwe* drew only a small audience, with the result that the two films made a combined profit for the Film Society of only £5.

The SFS hopes to break even this year following the decision to increase our prices.

The Committee is pleased to report that Ian Robertson has volunteered to audit this year's accounts and next year's accounts free of charge. The Committee wish to record our thanks to Ian for his generosity and commitment in doing this.

The Finance Report was proposed as accepted by Roger Griffin and seconded by Ben Szulc.

## 5 Membership Report

SFS membership dropped in 2016-17 to a total of 230 members: 78 full- and committee members and 152 general /student members. This compares with 256 members in 2015-16 and an average of 267 over the past five years.

59 members (26%) joined the Society for the first time in 2016-17. The core membership remains very loyal: 106 people (46%) have been members for five years or more and 59 people (26%) have been members for ten years or more.

## 6 Film Audiences and Reactions

Film audiences were down compared to last year, with an average attendance of 92. The highest attended film was *Marshland* (146) at the Arts Centre and the lowest was *Queen of Katwe* (43) at New College (which ironically achieved one of the highest audience reaction scores of the year – 86% – from those who did attend).

The average audience reaction to the films shown was 78%, which is the highest average score in the last five years.

Following the successful showings of *The Ghost and Mrs Muir* in the week before the AGM and of *Babette's Feast* in last year's season, a discussion took place regarding the possibility of expanding the annual SFS programme to include one or two "classic" World Cinema films each season in addition to the customary selection of new World Cinema works (i.e. films released in the preceding year or so).

The meeting was very receptive to this idea, which the Committee will actively consider in the preparation of next year's programme.

## 7 Marketing and Advertising

The SFS is always trying to expand its visibility in order to grow its membership. As well as the traditional print media – thanks to the efforts of the Committee

members, our films are previewed and/or listed in the *Swindon Advertiser*, *The Handy Mag* and *Swindon Link* – and we are also referenced on online media channels such as [Total Guide to Swindon](#), [Swindon Web](#) and especially [The Swindonian](#), which has been particularly supportive of SFS – they have also been mentioning us on the [Swindon 105.5](#) community radio programme.

The SFS website has been comprehensively redesigned and modernised this year. The meeting audience was very appreciative of these improvements, and extended its thanks to the SFS web designer Richard Turpin for his excellent work in bringing this about.

## **8 Outreach Projects: Community Cinema in Wroughton**

Last year was a successful one for film showings at the Wroughton Ellendune Community Centre.

The Wroughton community cinema has now decided to become a fully independent venture, showing films under its own membership scheme and umbrella licence, outside of the auspices of the SFS. Its current season so far appears to be successful.

The meeting thanked Lizzie Brown for her work in setting up the Wroughton community cinema and guiding it through its path to self-sufficiency.

## **9 Election of the Committee**

The Committee, as follows, were re-elected *en masse* by a unanimous vote: Chair – Robert Elrick; Treasurer – Jane Farr; Secretary – Maurice Moylett; Front of House Manager – Roger Griffin; Membership Secretary – Lyndy Griffin; Contracts – Diane Miles; Publicity & Films – Chantal Raymond; Technical Support – Ben Szulc; Continuity – Annie Wang; Outreach – Lizzie Brown; Web Master – Richard Turpin.

No new volunteers came forward to partake in the work of the Committee.

## **10 Any Other Business**

The SFS Membership Secretary reported that additional voluntary donations to the SFS from re-registering members had been larger than ever this year, and that a number of very generous donations had been received. The Committee gratefully thanks those contributors for their generosity and commitment.

The meeting closed at 10:10pm.