



**SWINDON FILM SOCIETY  
MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT THE SWINDON ARTS CENTRE  
WEDNESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 2018**

The meeting started at 9:25pm and was attended by 10 members and 9 committee members.

**1 Apologies:** Lizzie Brown.

**2 Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

The minutes of the SFS AGM on Wednesday, 1st November 2017 were read and accepted. Acceptance proposed by Roger Griffin and seconded by Ben Szulc.

**3 Finance Report**

At the beginning of the 2017-18 season the committee made the decision to increase the membership fees and ticket prices, a rise that appears to have been accepted by the membership and which enabled the Society to end the year with a profit of £501 - in the previous year the Society made a loss of £1,544.

Our costs have continued to remain stable. As in previous years, the main expense incurred by the Society is the cost of showing films at the Arts Centre.

The Committee is pleased to report that Ian Robertson has continued to audit our accounts free of charge. We also benefit from the services of Rachel Martin, who works with Chantal Raymond to produce the artwork for our publicity for a very nominal fee. The Committee wish to record our thanks to both Ian and Rachel for doing this.

In conclusion, as long as audience numbers stay at current levels, there is every reason to feel confident for the future.

The Finance Report was proposed as accepted by Liam Griffin and seconded by John Pryce.

#### 4 Membership Report

SFS membership for 2017-18 remained at similar levels to the previous year with a total of 224 members: the number of full members rose slightly whilst the number of general members dropped a little. This compares with 230 members in 2016-17 and an average of 256 over the last five years.

51 members (23%) joined the Society for the first time this season. However, the core membership remains very loyal: 111 people (50%) have been members for 5 years or more and 62 people (28%) have been members for 10 years or more.

With the coming into force of the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018, the Society had to contact everyone on our membership database and get their written consent to retain and use their contact details. At that time, our database comprised 369 members. Of these 215 responded and just over 150 were removed from our records. Despite this loss of historic records from our database, the actual membership numbers so far for the 2018-19 season appear to have held up well.

#### 5 Film Audiences and Reactions

Audience attendance rose slightly this year with an average attendance of 93 people. The best attended film was *The Olive Tree* (118), the first film of the season, and the lowest was the final screening, *Train to Busan* (50).

Audience reactions averaged 75%, the second highest in the last 5 years. The highest scoring film was *A Man Called Ove* with 94%, whilst the lowest rated film was *The Black Hen* with 53%.

#### 6 Marketing and Advertising

The Society continued to produce and distribute our traditional publicity material, i.e. the season programme brochure and various types of posters which we put up around libraries and businesses in Swindon. We also continue to be referenced on online media channels such as *Total Guide to Swindon*, *Swindon Web* and especially *The Swindonian*, which continues to be very supportive of SFS.

The Society thanks the Wyvern Theatre and the Central Library for selling advance tickets for the films.

The Society also thanks our web designer Richard Turpin for his excellent work in maintaining and updating the SFS website.

## **7 Ratification of SFS Data Protection Policy**

To comply with the General Data Protection Regulations, the Committee has drawn up a Data Protection Policy for the Society, which is published on the SFS website. Under the Society's Constitution, the adoption of this Data Protection Policy requires ratification by the Annual General Meeting. This was proposed to the meeting and carried unanimously.

## **8 Election of the Committee**

The Committee, as follows, were re-elected *en masse* by a unanimous vote:  
Chair - Robert Elrick; Secretary - Maurice Moylett; Treasurer - Jane Farr;  
Membership Secretary - Lyndy Griffin; Marketing - Chantal Raymond; Front of House Manager - Roger Griffin; FoH Rota - Lizzie Brown; FoH - Diane Miles, Anne Wang, Ben Szulc; Webmaster - Richard Turpin; Film Selection - All.

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

## **9 Any Other Business**

Rosemary Young asked whether the Society was planning any more Community Cinema outreach projects. The Chair responded that these had been an initiative of Barbara and Hans Hoffbauer and had taken a great deal of work to bring about, and that the Committee has no current plans for any further such ventures.

The Chair thanked the members for their continued support and for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm.