



SWINDON FILM SOCIETY.

MINUTES OF THE AGM (ZOOM MEETING) HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 2020.

The meeting started at 7.30pm and was attended by the following members:

Robert Elrick (Zoom Host), Lyndy and Roger Griffin, Martin and Rosemary Savage, Liam and Virginia Griffin, Susan, John Pryce, Jeffrey Bamforth, Keith Budd, Rosemary Young, Chantal Raymond, Elaine Sheppard, Jane Farr, Maurice Moylett, Chris and Jenny Metcalfe, Robert and Julia Edwards, Patrick Aynie, Eileen Nancarrow, Lizzie Brown, Ivor Cheator, Annie Wang, Ben Szulc and Diane Miles.

1 Apologies: Marion James, Linda Kasmaty, Katie Shipsides, Sue Pinnegar, and Dewi Cheator.

2 Election of the Committee.

In view of the time constraints of the Zoom session, Robert Elrick (RE) stressed the importance of electing the committee, particularly the new Treasurer. Rosemary Young (RY) had been working in the role for several months. RE also advised that, with Chantal Raymond planning to return to France, a Marketing Officer was needed as well as a Secretary to replace Maurice Moylett. In response, Martin Savage agreed to stand as Secretary. No-one wished to stand as Marketing Officer.

The election of the committee comprising Robert Elrick (Chair), Rosemary Young (Treasurer), Martin Savage (Secretary), Lyndy Griffin (Membership Secretary), Roger Griffin, Lizzie Brown, Annie Wang, Ben Szulc, Richard Turpin and Diane Miles was proposed by Rosemary Savage, seconded by Elaine Sheppard and carried unanimously.

3 Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday, 6th November, 2019.

RE commented that the Minutes had been made available on the SFS website but they prompted no comments. Acceptance was proposed by Lyndy Griffin, seconded

by Diane Miles and carried with two abstentions by Martin and Rosemary Savage as the Minutes had been unread.

4. Annual Report.

RE commented that this had been displayed on the SFS website in the usual format, highlighting finance; membership; film audiences and reactions; and marketing and advertising.

Finance:

In response to RE's invitation to summarize the financial position, RY first thanked Jane Farr, as outgoing Treasurer, for the clear state of the books at handover. She stated that there had been a profit of £1,328, a slight fall from the previous year but the season had been incomplete because of lockdown measures. The biggest expenses involved the Arts Centre hire and licensing costs. Assuming these remained static, SFS would be able to fund the new film season without increasing membership charges.

RE reiterated thanks to Jane Farr for all her work over the years and for the smooth handover.

Membership:

Lyndy Griffin (LG) said that the year's figures related to 12 rather than 14 films shown. Membership had dropped from the previous year with a reduction in "Pay as You Go" members but with a slight increase in season ticket holders. 49 new members had joined during the year.

Film Audiences and Reactions:

LG stated that average attendance had been 105; *Shoplifters* had achieved the largest audience (132) with *The Guilty* having the lowest (87). Audience reactions averaged at 79%, the highest rate in the last five years.

RE commented that SFS had been unable to show *1945* and *The Wife* because of lockdown but hoped that they could be shown at a later date.

Marketing and Advertising:

Chantal Raymond (CR) commented on the SFS material produced as normal: brochure, posters, advertisements, membership cards, etc. as well as its own website, other local websites and print media. Unfortunately, the season had been cut short because of lockdown. However, the committee had worked during the summer to create a programme that would have been ready if the Arts Centre had reopened in September. 14 films had been selected, for which synopsis sheets had been prepared, but no brochure. Should the season be able to start, materials were available for immediate use.

CR confirmed that she had resigned from the committee because of her future return to France but that she would be contactable via email if there were future queries about marketing. She had enjoyed working on the committee. RE offered his thanks to Chantal for all her work over the years; similarly, he expressed thanks to Maurice Moylett as outgoing Secretary.

5 Current and Future Plans.

RE asked Diane Miles to give an update on her contact with Laura James, the Wyvern's Director. She advised that, because of the uncertainty of the government's future policy, it was unlikely the Arts Centre would reopen before March/April 2021. Under socially distanced measures, it would need to have a reduced capacity of 94 with seats allocated in singles, pairs and a few groups of 3/4. If members were interested in extending the season into the summer months, it was likely that further dates could be arranged.

6. Any Other Business.

Because of non-receipt of SFS emails until that evening, Martin and Rosemary Savage were asked to send an email to: contact@swindonfilm.org.uk so that records could be checked. Martin Savage would also contact Maurice Moylett, probably over Zoom, to find out more about the Secretary's duties.

RY would make arrangements to replace CR as a signatory on the SFS bank account.

Elaine Sheppard thanked the committee for their sterling work. This was endorsed by RE who made special mention of Richard Turpin's work as SFS Webmaster. Finally, he thanked all members for their support during the season and for those attending the Zoom AGM. He reiterated that all papers for the AGM were available on the SFS website where the Minutes would be posted in due course.

The meeting ended at 20.05.