



Minutes of 2021-2022 AGM held on Wednesday, 16.11.22 at the Arts Centre, Old Town.

Apologies

Lewis Dawkin-Jones & Marilyn Rowland and Christine & Colin McKinley.

Election of Committee

Ben Szulc has left the Committee; thanks are given for his past contribution. Patrick Aynie was co-opted onto the Committee in April 2022.

All committee members indicated their willingness to stand for the 2022-2023 season: Robert Elrick - Chairman, Rosemary Young – Treasurer, Lyndy Griffin - Membership Secretary, Martin Savage – Secretary, Lizzie Brown, Diane Miles, Patrick Aynie and Roger Griffin - Front of House. Richard Turpin, Webmaster thanked for his voluntary maintenance of the SFS website

There were no further offers to join the Committee. Re-election of all current Committee members was proposed by Lyndy Griffin, seconded by Robert Elrick and carried unanimously.

Finance

Rosemary presented the key elements (Full Financial Report may be found under 'About Us' on SFS Website). Income fell during this season, due largely to the ongoing impact of the pandemic whilst costs (CD rental, venue costs etc.) continued unabated. This resulted in a season loss of £2427.52 leaving your Society with a balance of £10,538.42 at year end. Uncertainty about future attendances and costs resulted in your Committee agreeing reluctantly that Membership and ticket prices must, for the first time in several years, be increased. (The society's venue cost has increased by an acceptable amount for the current season).

Elaine Sheppard commented that the Committee had done well to manage to ensure the continuing viability of SFS, proposed acceptance of the Financial Report, this was seconded by Sheila Gough and was carried unanimously.

Membership, Audiences and Reactions

Lyndy spoke of the reduction in Membership numbers to 153 (previous year 215). Pay-as-you-go attendance fell considerably. Even so, the number of full members was higher than the 10-years' average. Audience attendance averaged 57 with the highest attendance being 79 for *A Season in France*. Attendance has improved considerably thus far this season, average 90, which includes 105 for *Parallel Mothers*). Average reactions for the season was

74%.

No questions arose.

Marketing and Advertising

We were fortunate in obtaining voluntary help from Sue Pycroft, a member with deep PR experience, who wrote a piece for us that has been published widely by the local media including the Swindon Advertiser and a number of parish magazines & websites. Thanks were given to Sue by Robert and your Committee.

Robert spoke of the continuing need for additional Committee member(s), particularly for someone with marketing knowledge/experience.

Current and Future Plans

Our aim is and must be to increase attendance at our film shows. We intend to continue to show a wide range of international films. Members were asked for comments on the past, current and future programmes and suggestions for the future. Comments included the desire for fewer 'political' films and more 'up-lifting' films (Ivor Cheater), the point being made that during the times in which we find ourselves, entertainment of a lighter nature is appreciated. Comment also was made that English language films have a place in the programme.

SFS has a commitment to world cinema, many in foreign languages. However, it is always the case that English language films are included.

Any Other Business

It was noted that the temperature control in the Arts Centre had improved - less cold. The Committee was thanked for its efforts. Robert then thanked members and looked forward to the continuing success of SFS.

The meeting closed at 21.50 hrs.