

SWINDON FILM SOCIETY.

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 2023.

The meeting started at 9.30pm

1 Apologies:

Virginia & Liam Griffin, Lizzie Brown, Marilyn Rowland & Lewis Dawkin-Jones

2 Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Robert Elrick, Committee Chairman addressed.

Reviewed and accepted. No matters arising

3 Annual Reports 2022-2023 Season

Finance

Rosemary Young, Treasurer confirmed, as per the Income and Expenditure Statement to be found on SFS website, that income increased to £9,300 which amount included sales of DVDs and donations. Outgoings increased to £9,255 (£668 more than previous year). Thus, the modest profit of £45 that was achieved, the first such profit since 2019-2020 season, is considered satisfactory.

Income currently is beginning to return to 'pre-lockdown' levels. The increased membership and ticket prices are helping to defray increased costs e.g. DVD licence and venue hire costs. There are no current plans further to increase prices but they will be held under continuous review.

There has been a significant increase in both membership and attendance income in the current season. This, and assets of £10,641, will enable the Society to continue to provide a full programme.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Elaine Sheppard, seconded by Rosemary Savage and carried unanimously.

Thanks were given to Ian Robertson who 'signed-off' the accounts.

Membership Attendance and Reactions

Lyndy Griffin, Membership Secretary provided details. There were 173 Members, 20 more than during Covid period but fewer than the average of 225 prior to lockdown. However, there was 1/3 more Pay-as-You-Go Members and Guests.

For information, current membership is similar. We may well be facing more competition with the possibility of the Greenbridge cinema complex re-opening under new ownership (Vue) and plans to show films at the GWR Carriageworks.

Average attendance was 82 (57 previous season) Highest audience 105 - *Parallel Mothers* lowest 67 - *Miracle on 34th St.*

Audience reactions average 76%, top, 93% - *Miracle on 34th St.*, lowest 58% *Martin Eden*.

4 Marketing

The continuing appeal for a new Committee Member with Marketing experience has not, thus far, succeeded. As in previous years, design and distribution of publicity material was used to underpin your Society's efforts to ensure knowledge of and interest in our programme. Thanks were given to Rachel Martin for artwork and design and Richard Turpin, who maintains our website swindonfilm.org.uk.

Your Society has also been fortunate in that Sue Pycroft, a Member, has produced excellent articles, taken up by the likes of local newspapers and other publications, as well as local radio stations. Thanks were recorded for Sue's contribution to 'spreading the word'

5 Election of Committee

The request for new Committee Member(s) was repeated.. No offers were received on the night.

All current Committee Members indicated their readiness to remain in post; this was accepted. 11 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

6 Current/Future Plans

Robert spoke the intention to continue to provide a wide range of interesting international cinema that reflects our world. The difficulty sourcing of comedy films, particularly non-English language was described.

Rosemary Savage spoke of her appreciation of seeing the culture of other nations. Lyndy spoke of the positive reaction thus far to this year's programme. She spoke also of the increasing difficulty in sourcing DVDs due to non-availability or cost.

7 Any Other Business

There being none, the AGM closed with thanks to the Committee.