

Aberdyfi Players AGM – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 @ 7.30 pm – MINUTES

**Apologies:** Wendy, Beth, Colin & Jane, Hillary, David Gosney, Trish & Mark, Alison Sayes, David Rhyn, Doris O’Keefe, Jan Rajput, Dot Grey, Carol Rodgers, Margaret Jones, Marina?

**Present:** Des, Trevor, Debbie, Alison, Carol Curtis, Rachael Cartwright, Elaine Foote, Mo Richards, Marion Washington-Jones, Alan Winspear, Valerie Dyer, Robin Dyer, Myra Dods, Ian Dods, Ken, Jenni Tinsley, Pam Williams, Susie Maslin, Gareth Pugh, Maciek, Angie, Annie, Su Tacey, Meurig,, Louis, Terry, Dan, Dennis, Dai, Helen.

1. There were No Matters Arising from Minutes of the 2013 AGM. Proposed by Helen & seconded by Angie.
2. Committee Members & Roles: Trevor (Chairman), Des (Vice Chairman), Alison (Secretary), Debbie (Treasurer), Sally, Steph, Beth, Rachael, Lisa, Su, Louis, Elaine, Pam  
The Chairman announced that he would be standing down as Chairman. Also, the Chairman announced that Alison would be standing down as Secretary. New roles to be discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting. There was discussion about the procedures with when people should stand down and when new roles should be taken up. (Des, Gareth, Sally). It was decided that the committee would revisit these procedures and look in detail at the constitution re resignation.
3. The Treasurer’s Report 2013/2014: Debbie gave her annual report based on Caesar the Panto. At the close of business 31/03/2014 there was :-

£17 100.21 in the Deposit account

£6 708.43 in the Current account

**£23 808.64 in TOTAL**

Debbie went through all financial items as follows:-

2013/2014	Income £18 587.82	Expenditure £16 984.26	Profit £1 603.56
<b>Income:</b>			
Interest	£8.52		
Ticket Sales	£11 256.00 (£300 more than last year)		1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend (341 unsold) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend (84 unsold), Sold a lot on door 2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend Both Saturday pm almost sold out
DVD	£864.00		
Donations	£200.00 (1 anon, 1 Ynys Hir)		
Membership	£911.00 (adults & children)		
Advertisements	£1 160.00 (down by £120.00)		
Programmes	£496.00 (down by £25.00)		
Raffle	£1 271.00 (up by £13.00)		
Ice Cream	£631.00 (down by £93.00 – cost us £112.94 so made £518.06 as opposed to £140.00 on previous year)		
Tuck	£1 190.30 (cost £656.71 made £533.59 last year we made £281.80)		
<b>Expenditure:</b>			
DVD	£840.00		
Boat Race	£10.00		
Kids party	£86.24		
Insurance	£358.78		
Tea/Coffee/Biscuits	£349.07		
Mobile Phone Top Up	£20.00		
Printing Posters/Tickets	£561.06		
NODA Membership	£154.80		

Scripts	£523.59
Banners	£74.47
Photos	£30.00
Hire of Hall	£3 104.75
Donations (Schools x3)	£300.00
Donations (Youth Club)	£100.00
Donations (Toddlers)	£50.00
Programmes	£628.93
Lighting	£203.07
Sound	£1 787.52
Tuck	£656.71
Ice Cream	£112.94
Props	£3 102.10 (about same as previous year)
Costumes	£3 330.23 (about same as previous year)

Questions raised from Treasurer's Report were: Des: Nice to see a surplus, but why were there savings on tuck & printing? Debbie: In-house printing of programmes made a saving. Pop corn and slush puppy drinks were new this year and sold out. Angie: The new Sound desk this year is shared asset between Aberdyfi Players and the Neuadd Dyfi, concerns over it being used outside of Neuadd Dyfi – insurance issues if kit used elsewhere. The Chairman thanked Debbie for her report.

#### 4. The Chairman's Report

Well I think you will all agree that it has been a great year again for the Players and this time it seems to have been a year of Firsts you will see what I mean.

The first First came about ten months ago when we took part in the raft race during Lifeboat week and, thanks to master raft builder Des, a skilful and mighty crew and a scintillating run by Usain Hiatt we managed to win first prize and on the first attempt aswell. Mind you we did ride our luck a bit, if we had had to paddle for another ten metres we probably would have sunk with all hands. Are we going to have another go this year to try and retain the trophy, I hope so.

The next First is of course the Panto and it really was the first performance of Caesar anywhere and as we have heard from Limelight scripts we did a really good job. Personally I think it is the funniest show we have ever done and there was a standing ovation, another first.

It was heartening to see so many first timers on the stage although I'm not convinced that Ed has never done it before after his wonderfully over the top Basildon. Everyone really worked on their characters very hard each giving 100% or in Jan's case 120% and of course this is down to the fantastic work of our directors Su and Angie, a formidable pair of ladies I think you will agree who know what they want and how to get it, they even got the better of Des on occasion, no mean feat!

We also had some big shoes to fill this year, Brian and family decided to retire from Panto we knew this time would come eventually but the new sound team of Terry, Colin and Jane filled those shoes and eased into their role like real pros. A couple of hours tuition with Tim Mole and Des was all they needed to find their way around the sound system and speaking as stage manager I realised after a couple of rehearsals that we had nothing to worry about, there were a few stray farts but hey so what? what's a few stray farts between friends? A big well done and thanks to them.

Lisa took on the task of musical director and, as we all knew she would she used all her musicianship and experience to get the best from the band, the chorus and the children. I have to say that every performance of Ar lan y mor did bring a lump to my throat, those harmonies – wow. Let's not forget her acting debut either, another first.

There are so many people who contribute to the show and to name them all would take far too long but I think we all know how well we all did the only problem is that in the tradition of the Players we have to do better next year.

I hope the DVD screening becomes a regular occurrence it was an inspired idea and a great success so thanks to all involved in arranging it and setting it all up it was a really great evening. By the way Des that was the first time that I saw the boat in action from the front, I wasn't sure about it when I saw the prototype but when I saw it gliding across the stage from the audience viewpoint I was really impressed. If only they could have seen the chaos in the wings trying to get the thing off!

So that was the panto which brings me to the last first as it were and this was first prize in the village quiz, well done everybody involved including the cheerleaders and supporters. As you know I am standing down as chairman and I would like to wish whoever takes over all the best and thanks for your support over the last year, a short innings I know but I feel that the Players need someone younger and with fresh ideas to take us forward. I get the feeling that things are going to get better and better for the Players in the coming years I mean look at the number of firsts we had in this one year alone.

Thank you very much.

5. Matters arising from 'Caesar': Des: No agreed Photo policy caused a problem with the video team this year. Need to have a robust policy in place that everyone understands before next year. The 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting will discuss this within the constitution. Val: What is it all about? Des: Photos on stage, backstage, during performances by audience and photos going on social media etc. Annie: It would be nice to make a video diary of The Backstage crew during their work. Mike: The problem is that principals encourage photos with people after the show. Jane: NODA and touring theatres have national policies. Des/Trevor: Yes we have it but we need to tailor it to our own. Angie: Ticket Prices should go up so that Friday nights are cheaper than Saturday nights. Louis/Dan: Vary seat prices as to location in the auditorium as well. Debbie: Go with the majority. Su T: Up price on last performance. Angie: Up the price on both Saturday performances. Helen: Are we covering costs? Are we out to make money? People travel for the weekend and that costs so you could end up pricing yourself out of the market. Des: I have mixed feelings but there are different strategies. Angie: But the hall was empty the first Saturday – maybe need to be cheaper first weekend? Su T: Title of Panto may have effect on numbers. Next year the Panto will be "Ali Ba Ba and the Raiders of the Lost Pyramid" a title more people will be used to. Dan: Make tickets £1 more then use extra £1 to sell the tickets online as it is difficult to sell tickets in shops locally to a global audience. Angie/Su T: £7.50 Adults £3.50 Child. Debbie: we are a village Panto and I would be happy to pass over the reins to someone else to make it more high tech. Elaine: I agree with Helen, if wheel ain't broken then don't fix it. Rachael: We increased membership to cover tea/coffee/biscuits & insurance. Sally: It is not to do with the money but I think of how the actors must feel acting to a ½ empty hall. Increasing numbers creates atmosphere. Jane: Having no railway at that time this year was not helpful. John: We have always made a loss on the matinee in the past. Debbie: There are lots of new groups coming now to the matinees, brownies, WI – Barmouth, Bowling Club of Machynlleth, The Trefeddian Hotel were not so many this year, Dolgellau Brownies. We need to sell more tickets for 1<sup>st</sup> night and 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday. This year the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday night was low on numbers and it could also be to do with dates and when people get paid. I think we should keep the prices the same £7.00 Adult & £3.00 Child. Val: Could we approach the new cinema to advertise for us. All: Need to address marketing, Cambrian News, Timing of adverts, More colourful posters. Jane: The BBC to "squirts" which are Free adverts on spare air time. Angie: I think Val's suggestion is good, in-house advert (clip or show) in the adverts at the cinema. Mike: should we consider extending adverts to \Dolgellau and Machynlleth. We already do that. Trevor: new members need to see Beth who knows about the stock of sweatshirts/fleeces.

6. Neuadd Dyfi Developments: Des: we all agree to refurbish the stage but this will cost a fair bit. Would like to concrete in underneath, raise the roof and improve the Lighting. I cannot find any source of funding for stage structure. The Arts Council (Burgess) held meeting with Des and was very genuinely impressed but no pot of money. However, potential money for lighting. Des explained that he had put an application in to The Peter Saunders Trust and had been given £2 500. Discussion over Lighting and that a new up-to-date desk would cost £20 000 with LED rig. Des and Ian are going on a course re. Lighting to Cwmbran, paid for out of lawnmower sales. Des had a couple of applications pending. The Arts Council £2K to £3K. Ian: Just look at the Lighting bar above us, it dates back to the 1960s and 1980s. It would be a saving in the long run on electricity as these new LED lights used so little power. Des: There are lots of things I want to do. An engineer is due to sort out the air-conditioning but it has been quite difficult to pin him down as he is a one man band. Debbie: What about the upkeep of the hall, painting, heating, fridge? As a paying customer we need to ensure that the hall is suitably clean and free from obstacles such as tools. Angie: Yes, we need to raise standards of cleanliness of hall, kitchen and toilets. It must be raised at the next Neuadd Dyfi meeting. Gareth: Can I suggest that Aberdyfi Players write a letter to the Neuadd |Committee re. cleanliness of hall. We need to have a mixture of everyone helping out. Des: I am usually the one left clearing up at the end of a rehearsal. Debbie: But paying someone to clean up and pass costs on to Aberdyfi Players. Debbie: Paying customers expect the hall to be ready for each booking and free from tools, cups etc. Des needs matched funding and there is a shortfall of £3K approximately. Su T: I suggest we give Des £3K as a maximum. Debbie: We donate £3K but if money comes up from elsewhere the surplus is used for cleaning and purchasing a new fridge. Unanimous agreement for suggestion.
7. Aberdyfi Youth Theatre: Run by James Lucas, 6 to 8 youngsters have been involved. It needs a better structure perhaps more formalised between Theatre Roux, Neuadd Dyfi & Aberdyfi Players. During the sessions stagecraft is learned. If The Arts Council is involved it needs all policies to be in place. Costs - £40 per term. Su/Angie: We would like them to join in with Aberdyfi Players. Need to set up a meeting with James.
8. Open discussion: Already covered.
9. The Future: Next year's Panto is "Ali Ba Ba & The Raiders of the Lost Pyramid". Volunteers for the raft race – see Pam. Debbie: DVD – all spares have gone – need prepayment and then they can be ordered for £12.00. Please can we not sell DVDs to non-members as it is a lot of hassle. Ken: Price of membership query? Jenny: Membership prices went up 100% from £5.00 to £10.00 per year, how much money did we make from membership and how many members do we have? Debbie: £911 taken in fees. Pam: we have 50 x £5.00 = £250.00 for children. There are 65 x £10.00 adult members but is is hard to say as some are family membership. Sally: Vote of thanks for Debbie please – applause. Val: Do we have a membership card? Trevor: to be discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting.
10. AOB: 1<sup>st</sup> Committee meeting – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 6.00pm  
Meeting closed at 21: 15