



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Rushen Players held on Monday 9th October at 7.30pm at Marashen Crescent, Port Erin

Present: Catie Angus, Ron Beswick (chair), Ian Galloway, Ailsa Harrop, Robyn Hughes, David Leiserach, Sarah Lockyer, Norman McGregor-Edwards, Michaela Morris, Adrienne Sanderson, Jon Quillen, Matthew Warren

Apologies: Brian Matthews, Jack Verity, Neill Angus, Susie Beswick, Margaret Galloway, Jane McGregor-Edwards

- Adoption of Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Minutes accepted, proposed by Catie seconded by Adrienne.

- Chairman's Report

Another successful year, despite again suffering some disruption. Covid saw the November play rescheduled to January. Following that, the Two One Act plays production was disrupted by bad weather in March and only one of the three planned nights at the Erin Arts Centre was able to go ahead.

A good variety of interesting plays were performed by the Rushen Players through the year, which were enjoyed by audiences across nine evenings of entertainment. This included a very successful performance at MADF Easter Festival of One Act and Full Length Plays, at which *September in the Rain* received five awards.

The social event in January was well attended and we have attracted a number of new members, including Sarah who directed our May production.

For the coming year we should continue to look for challenging productions that we enjoy, without worrying about making a profit at each performance. Comedies are a good way to raise funds, but it is time to retire Inspector Pratt.

Special thanks were expressed to Neill for his work as treasurer and to Jonathan Latimer for acting as the auditor. Thanks were also expressed to Robyn for her work as secretary and to everyone who contributed to a successful year. Looking forward to next production.

- Treasurer's Report (NA)

A successful year for the society which saw the accounts grow by a small surplus of £28.21. Membership subs remain consistent and the society has cash reserve in excess of £6000.

- Adoption of 2022 Accounts

Adoption of the accounts proposed by Ian, Norman seconded.

- Productions – Reports by Directors

- i. Secondary Cause of Death (CA)*

A great cast and crew who, despite some hiccups including the postponement of the production, pulled together to put on a highly enjoyable show. Very well received by the audience. Special thanks were made to David, who constructed the set for the November production before having to dismantle and later reassemble it for January.

- ii. Escaped Alone (CA)*

Presented as a dramatic reading in March, it is a challenging play, that deserves to be produced fully. Catie hopes to be able to take it to the MADF Festival next year and is currently working to assemble a cast.

- iii. September in the Rain (SB)*

Jack had been instrumental in arranging to produce this lovely production. Despite only being able to perform one night at the Erin Arts Centre before taking it to the MADF Festival, it was very well received by both audiences. A fabulous cast and crew who worked hard and came away with 5 awards. It was also a valuable experience working with the team at the Gaiety.

- iv. Twelfth Night (SL)*

Thanks were expressed to committee and everyone who supported Sarah's first time directing for the Rushen Players, in the first Shakespeare performed by the group in many years. Despite the tight rehearsal time, challenges for the cast and attracting audience it was a successful and enjoyable production. The 1980's setting, which made the production more fun and accessible was aided by Ron's assistance with the soundtrack, and the cast and crew in sourcing costumes and props.

The production also showed what can be done without a full set, and put the performances in full focus. More rehearsal time and earlier casting would have helped, as would earlier access to the Erin Arts Centre. More, and earlier advertising would also have helped audience numbers, but it was good to get

featured in the local press and there was good engagement through Facebook posts.

Thanks were given to the backstage crew, Brian for filling the role as prompt, and to everyone involved in what was a great first experience directing for the Rushen Players.

- Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Adrienne apologised for missing the nomination period but asked if Jon could be considered by the committee as a new member. After a brief discussion to determine if a quorum was present Adrienne proposed the nomination and Robyn seconded.

- Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Ron proposed John Latimer to continue, seconded by Norman.

- Annual Membership Subscription

Ron proposed this remain at £10 single, £15 joint. Ian seconded.

- Amendment to Constitution (if any proposed)

None proposed.

- Open discussion of future plans of Rushen Players

Jon has offered the use of a facility to build sets if required. While there is currently no storage available on site, if the group were to purchase a container this could potentially be kept on the land.

Jane would be keen on reading Alan Bennett's *Allelujah!* as a potential for future productions. Adrienne also suggested *Jack Absolute Flies Again*.

It was raised that while scripts were previously purchased through a deal with the Bridge Bookshop, Concord Theatricals stipulates that a number of scripts be purchased through them when applying for a licence. This should be considered when organising future productions.

- Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting ended at 8pm

Robyn Hughes
Secretary