



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Rushen Players held on
Wednesday 30th October at 7pm at Marashen Crescent, Port Erin**

Present: Catie Angus, Neill Angus, Ron Beswick (chair), Ian Galloway, Margaret Galloway, Robyn Hughes (secretary), Steve Jones, David Leiserach, Sarah Lockyer, Brian Matthews, Jane McGregor-Edwards, Norman McGregor-Edwards, Adrienne Sanderson, Jack Verity

Apologies: Matthew Warren, Jon Quillin

- Adoption of Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Minutes accepted, proposed by Ian and seconded by Catie.

- Chairman's Report

Another successful year, this time with no disruptions due to Covid or the weather. Four successful productions, eight evenings of audience entertainment including two evenings at the MADF Easter Festival of Plays, at which Jude Dicken was awarded Best Actress for her role in *Two*.

We continue to enjoy staging productions at the Erin Arts Centre and have made excellent use of Marashen Crescent and Reart y Chrink as rehearsal spaces. Reart y Chrink has also allowed us greater ability to cope with larger cast sizes. Rehearsals can also resume at St. Catherine's Church Hall now that the improvement work has been completed.

We should continue to look for challenging productions that are enjoyed by the cast and crew. We are lucky to have a loyal audience who enjoy our performances, and profit does not need to be the goal.

Special thanks to Ailsa Harrop for hosting last year's Christmas party; to Neil and our Auditor Jonathan Latimer; to Robyn for her work as Secretary; to Jane and Norman for their help and success running the raffles; to Brian and Judy for hosting our aftershow parties and providing much welcomed bacon sandwiches; and to everyone involved for another great year.

The donation raised at *Le Grand Return* performances for the Colby British Legion was much appreciated and we are looking forward to the next production of *A Christmas Carol*.

- Treasurer's Report (NA)

Another successful year, with income being raised by both *Comic Potential* and *Le Grand Return*. Having reviewed the accounts, Jonathan Latimer has suggested that a donation of up to £1000 could be made to promote the arts. It was suggested that a donation to the Erin Arts Centre would be appropriate.

It was raised by Jane and Norman that inflation is increasing the price of raffle prizes. This is not yet affecting the funds raised by the raffle, but is something to bear in mind for the future.

- Adoption of 2023 Accounts

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jack and seconded by Brian.

- Productions – Reports by Directors

- i. *Comic Potential (SL)*

A slightly different choice of play, but very much enjoyed by the cast and audience. Well acted with great support from the tech and backstage teams. The minimal set once again worked well and much was achieved through props and costume. A special thank you to Graham for stepping in and performing brilliantly when Steve unfortunately came down with an illness. Good advertising on Facebook. However, it was noted that posterage in local businesses can be difficult during Autumn due to Hop-tu-Naa and Remembrance events.

- ii. *Escaped Alone (CA)*

A brilliant play that was felt to have been unfairly adjudicated. Only two nominations were awarded; Best Actress and Best Dramatic Moment. However it was a great experience: the cast and crew did brilliantly and it was a lot of fun to put on with great teamwork.

- iii. *Two (JV)*

Again, it was felt to have been an excellent play that was judged harshly by the adjudicator. Nominated for: Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Dramatic Moment, Best Comedic Moment and Best Youth Actress, with Jude taking the award for Best Actress. It was felt by Jack that the space at the Gaiety was not right for the production and that the intimacy had been lost. Despite this, it was an enjoyable production and thanks were expressed to everyone in the cast and backstage crew.

iv. Le Grand return (CA)

A last minute find for the Spring production, but one that was well received by the audience. A slightly smaller cast than previous productions, but splitting the original single female role into three increased the parts and involved more members. Laughs and tears, and a good collection raised for the Colby British Legion.

- Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

There were no nominations.

- Appointment of Honorary Auditor

John Latimer is happy to continue in the roll of Honorary Auditor.

- Annual Membership Subscription

To remain at £10 for a single membership and £15 for joint.

- Amendment to Constitution (if any proposed)

None proposed.

- Open discussion of future plans of Rushen Players

MADF Festival 2025: Robyn would like to perform *Blood of the Lamb* if a director is available. Jack is considering *A Separate Peace* by Tom Stoppard. As it is the 75th Anniversary of the MADF Festival it was felt that at least one entry should be submitted.

A Committee meeting will be scheduled after *A Christmas Carol* is finished.

Special thanks were expressed from the Committee and members to Ron for all of this work as Chairman over the past year.

- Any other business

There was no other business

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Robyn Hughes
Secretary