



# WELWYN THALIANS

## RECORD OF AGM

|                         |                             |                                  |                                |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Meeting Venue:</b>   | Remotely via Zoom           | <b>Date of Meeting:</b>          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2020 |
| <b>Time of Meeting:</b> | 8.00pm                      | <b>Duration:</b>                 | 60 minutes                     |
| <b>Chair:</b>           | <b>Attendees:</b>           | <b>Apologies</b>                 | <b>Distribution:</b>           |
| Vinnie Clemmens         | Executive Committee Members | Brian King Tim Spink (President) | Email                          |

### Point

#### No. Item

- Welcome:**  
Vinnie welcomed all to the meeting, postponed from March, due to the Covid Pandemic.
- Apologies:**  
Brian King, President, and Tim Spink, member of the executive committee.
- Last Year's Minutes:**  
No matters arising. Minutes proposed by Alison D and seconded by Angela M.
- Matters arising:**  
None
- Chairman's Report:**  
Vinnie reported that the Thaliens put on two good shows in the year January to December 2019, namely Pirates of Penzance and Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. We also hosted a Gala Night to celebrate our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. This was on a casino theme, with gaming tables (for fun only), lots of elegant attire, and including a showcase of talent from the upcoming shows.  
Vinnie pointed out that the day to day running of the hall takes a lot of time and money. We have a new extension to the stage, thanks to the hard work of Tim and Martin. The committee has new ideas for maintaining and enhancing the hall during the coming months.  
2019 saw the passing of Geoff Kite, who was a very generous supporter of and fundraiser for the Thaliens.  
The main challenge currently is that of adapting to the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic. The committee has worked tirelessly to ensure that some kind of service has been supplied, albeit remotely at times, in order to ensure that the society has kept running. This has included quizzes, workshops, fitness and dance sessions and play readings. Vinnie thanked all committee members for their continued hard work.

Proposed: Mandy S

Seconded: Martin L

#### 6. Treasurers Report: (Angela Monaghan)

Accounts are drawn up on income and expenditure. They are independently reviewed by Peter Sayers. Angela thanked Peter for acting as scrutineer.

Although Pirates was a great show, overall profits were down (Angela's financial statements were displayed on the shared screen). Ticket Source works well for us, with the small percentage paid well worth the service provided.

With theatre charges at the Hawthorne so high, it has become even more of a challenge to make a profit. Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, although another great show, made a big loss. It is very uncertain whether we will be able to perform at the theatre again.

As the result of a fraudulent transaction against one of our hirers, we have recorded a loss of £1500 income. The issue is currently with the ombudsman.

Our financial situation remains fragile.

Kat said that we could do more in terms of fundraising for the society. She suggested that if we enrolled with Amazon we could get a percentage of purchases made. She also suggested that we look at what other societies are doing. All ideas on fundraising will be gratefully received.

Proposed: Tammy W

Seconded: Martin L

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**7. Secretary's Report:**

Mandy gave an entertaining account of the May 2019 production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, which she directed. She stated that we had tried to modernise the show, for example by re wording the Major General's song, to include references to Trump and Social Media. Thanks to Alison Downes for lyrics, and to Clive for a superb performance. The choreography was also updated, thanks largely to Tammy's Essex girls with attitude. The police force was an all women brigade, led by Sergeant Downes, who also provided some of the choreography. The pantomime pirates were led superbly by Adam, with Alex and Mel portraying the hero and heroine more than ably. How Mel reached those high notes so effortlessly we will never know. Louise made both a convincing dowdy maid in the first half and a totally transformed pirate sidekick in the second half. She also provided one of the most memorable moments during one performance, when she (belatedly) slid onto the stage amid great expectation from the rest of the cast on stage. Another humorous moment was supplied when, due to the late appearance of the Essex girls, Mandy found herself singing to the audience (whilst ably operating the spot at the back of the hall).

Thank you to Louise and Tammy for costumes, Peter Farrell for his expeditious piano playing, and Vanessa and Nick for props and *disco* lighting.

Mandy finished by saying that the show had been great fun to direct, and that 'We will be back!'.

Nick then gave a report on the November 2019 show, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Nick was co-director for this show, under the wing of Mandy as principal director, but he was also largely involved with props and setting, which proved to be quite a challenge. Some of his most vivid memories are of *so many plants* and a huge bed which always seemed to be on the wrong side of the stage. He had also had to be a stand in once for Alex during rehearsals, which had shown him what a fantastic character actor Alex was. Thanks to Tammy and Alison for their choreography and Tim for his set creation. The band sounded great, although the double bass player was rather prominently positioned in front of the stage! Nick thought that the dynamic between Alison and Adam had worked surprisingly well, and loved how the characters portrayed by Alex, Peter and Tamsin developed from seemingly two dimensional representations into real, believable personalities. Nick praised the ensemble for their work and said that the show would have been nothing without them. Moreover they supported the whole show, being relied on and stepping up to the mark constantly for backstage jobs, ensuring props were in the correct place, etc. The backstage challenge had at first brought Nick out in a cold sweat, but Mandy particularly, along with the other backstage crew and ensemble, had been amazing in their support.

Nick finished by saying that the show had been terrific fun to be part of, and a great testament to the power of teamwork.

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**8. Election of Chairman, Officers and members of the Executive Committee:**

All committee members were re-elected en masse.

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**9. Election of Life Members:**

n/a

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**10. Election of Legal Advisor:**

To be appointed by the Executive Committee as and when required..

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**11. Election of Auditor/scrutineer:**

Peter Sayers re-elected

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**12. Resolution to amend rules/new rules:**

None . However there will be an amendment to the wording and clarification of the membership fees statement.

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**13. AOB:**

None

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**14. The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.**

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