



Shiplake and Dunsden  
Dramatic Organisation

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2003  
AT 8.00pm IN THE PLOWDEN ARMS SHIPLAKE**

**Present**

Gareth Jones, Hilary Tucker, Liz Thomas, Mel Crowder, Angela Jones, Rosemary Appleby, Steve Watkins, Pam Hudgell, Neil McAdam, Mark Manson, Neil George, Angela Cadman, Beryl Lawson, Fredric Lawson, Liz James, Hugh Steele

**Apologies**

Linda Glithro

**Nomination of Chair for the Meeting**

Liz Thomas nominated Gareth Jones, Hilary Tucker seconded this, and Gareth was subsequently elected as Chair by the Meeting.

**Adoption of the Constitution**

Gareth explained that, pending the AGM, the Society had been operating in accordance with the interim constitution dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2003. It was proposed to adopt this as the Society's formal constitution.

Gareth distributed copies of the proposed constitution [**copy available on the SHADDO website**] and explained that it was based on the recommended NODA draft. This model was also designed to accommodate the requirements of societies with charitable status, and would thus be suitable for SHADDO if it was ever decided to take such a route forward.

Gareth went through each clause of the constitution, explaining the main points, and answering queries.

There was some discussion concerning clause 5 and the definition of the 'Parish' for the purposes of the constitution and society membership. It was agreed that clause 5 would be re-worded, with a definition of the Parish to be based on those living within a defined radius, in km, of the Shiplake Memorial Hall. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would agree the precise wording in line with a map of the area, ensuring that the definition included (*inter alia*) Shiplake, Binfield Heath, Emmer Green and Harpsden.

The Meeting voted to adopt the constitution dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2002 as the Society's formal constitution, with an amendment to clause 5 (and any clause affected by clause 5) as to the geographical definition of the 'Parish'.

**3. Nominations for Officers and Members of the Executive Committee**

Hilary Tucker (Secretary) reported on the nominations received [**copy of nomination list available on SHADDO web site**].

The following were duly elected to form the Executive Committee 2003-2004:

Chair: Gareth Jones  
Vice-Chair: Liz Thomas  
Treasurer: Neil McAdam  
Secretary: Hilary Tucker  
Committee: Neil George  
Hugh Steele

Liz James  
Mark Manson  
Fredric Lawson  
Steve Watkins  
Mel Crowder

#### **4. Chair's Report**

Gareth Jones delivered this report [**copy below**].

The report covered SHADDO activities and the Society's evolution from its foundation to date. It dealt with productions, organisation of the Society and future events. Gareth recorded his thanks to everyone on the Executive Committee, and everyone who had helped SHADDO in any way, for their input.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Neil McAdam delivered this report [**copy available on SHADDO website**].

Neil produced cashflow statements covering the last two years, and explained the income and expenditure figures in detail.

Balance sheets are being prepared.

It was decided that an inventory of assets and equipment should be made, and agreed with the Memorial Hall Committee.

#### **6. Determination of Annual Subscriptions and Fees**

The following annual subscriptions were proposed by Gareth Jones (and seconded by Steve Watkins). The Meeting agreed to adopt these as follows:

Member: £10.00 annual subscription

Associate Member: £10.00 annual subscription

Junior Member: £5.00 annual subscription

No joining fee

The Executive Committee to set the rehearsal and performance fees (subject to the fee 'caps' set out in the constitution).

#### **7. Recommendation for Honorary Life Member**

It was proposed that Jane Edwards should be elected as the first honorary life member of the Society, in recognition of her outstanding contribution. This was proposed by Hilary Tucker, seconded by Mark Manson and unanimously carried.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

Steve Watkins was appointed as the Society's auditor for the purposes of clause 18 of the constitution. Steve was proposed by Fredric Lawson. This nomination was seconded by Liz James and this was carried by the Meeting.

It was agreed that an Executive Committee Meeting would follow the AGM to discuss future productions.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

## **Chair's Report for 2002/03**

Three years ago Shaddo's predecessor – the Millennium Amateur Dramatics (or MAD) group performed its first work – the pantomime Aladdin. This was a resounding success, generating substantial funds for the Shiplake with Dunsden Parish Appeal, revealing many previously hidden thespian talents, and giving a lot of fun to many.

Two years ago the challenge was to transfer the Pantomime to a new venue – the Shiplake Memorial Hall. With financial support and a lot of encouragement from the Shiplake Memorial Hall Committee we equipped the Memorial Hall with a lighting capability and staged Robin of Shiplake.

This year we had another huge challenge, when we learnt that Jane Edwards was to move to Devon. As most of you know Jane was the inspiration and the driving force behind SHADDO; there was virtually no area where she wasn't strongly involved if not actually leading. Her leaving would leave a huge gap. None of us felt either willing or capable to step into her shoes. The only way we could see to keep going the tradition she had started was to work closely together. We formed a committee from the group of people who had worked most closely with Jane and who were willing to commit their time into SHADDO. Each person on the Committee has responsibility for specific areas of activity, and in that way we hoped we could share the burden between us.

Jane left us the legacy of a script, and a week booked at the Memorial Hall. Our task was to make pantomime number three happen. Not only did we achieve this, but it was possibly our best yet (despite every early indication otherwise!). And although we tried to share the burden of work between us, inevitably it was the Directors who held it all together, kept everyone motivated, handled all the complaints and lost the most sleep.

So we met our first and most vital objective – that of keeping the pantomime tradition going. We also rehearsed another Murder Mystery, though we didn't perform it until the early part of this year. And we have finally made SHADDO legal – as witness this AGM.

So what about this year to come? Hopefully we will again run a major dramatic performance, which will allow us to say we are indeed a community organisation; and hopefully we will be able to extend our repertory and add a second drama to the annual cycle. However, like all other amateur organisations, we are heavily dependent on people and their enthusiasm and time.

I close by thanking all the Committee members for their time and energy, and thanking all those others who helped on and off the stage, and before and after the productions.