



## FADS AGM 2021

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - online, via Zoom  
commencing at 7:30pm

### MINUTES

**In the Chair via Zoom:** Kevin Boland

**Present via Zoom:** Margo Campbell, Laura Cranstoun, Gerry Eckersley, Tony Flisch, Lorna Flisch, Anna Foran, Sheila Fraser, Cindy Gray, Ian Kidd, Rowena Laing, Jonny North, Gavin Paterson, Ellen Ross, David Smith, Jackie Smith, Jane Stephenson, Sarah Walker, Helen Watson, Allan Watson, Jeannie Woodburn.

**Apologies:** Andy Barr

#### 1. Welcome

#### 2. Minutes of 2020 AGM (Approved 24th November 2020)

##### Matters Arising:

##### 1.1. Policy of reimbursing expenses to SCDA - No benefit, so discontinuing!

Tony clarified that the practice had been adopted so that the true cost of the Festival was reflected in the accounts. Anna reiterated Lesley Syme's response, that it was of no direct benefit to SCDA and would cut down on paperwork if it was stopped.

##### 1.2. Ticket prices

*Committee has discussed and agreed this proposal on 11<sup>th</sup> Jan:*

*The TicketSource booking fee (7% + VAT) should be included in the price and that we should not offer OAP discounts, as the over-60s make up such a large proportion of our audience.*

*'Standard' prices going forward should be:*

- *Musicals / big shows: £12*
- *Panto: £10 Adult, £5 under-16, Family (2 Adults, 2 U-16s) £26*
- *Plays £8.50, with '2 for 1' possible on opening night.*

*Publicity to display 'Booking fee included', so audience are aware we do pay a fee.*

*Kevin suggested an early booking incentive for members, where they don't have to pay a booking fee, so it was agreed that a £1 discount will apply for all member bookings before a cut-off date.*

All present agreed to the above – Proposed by Tony, Seconded by Jonny.

### 1.3. Amendment of Constitution

There was a discussion about the proposed amendments and the following was agreed:

- 'The' to be removed from Club name.
- Information relating to the proposed discontinuation of the need for Members to complete a new membership form each year is not appropriate for inclusion in the Constitution but could be an addendum.
- Under 'Management and Organisation', point (a) shall be amended to '**...normally** four ordinary committee members'. All present agreed that it was beneficial to have flexibility.
- Under 'Management and Organisation', point (b) shall read: 'A Vice-Chair shall normally be elected in the second year of the Chair's two-year term and shall normally be proposed for the position of Chair in the following year's election.' Proposed by Anna, Seconded by Tony.

Several Members wanted to ensure that the progression from Vice-Chair to Chair was not automatic and that an open election for the position of Chair would continue to be held every two years.

- Under 'Finance', the proposed insertions related to the appointment and activities of an Independent Examiner were agreed – as suggested by Gill Smith, the current Club accountant. Proposed by Sarah, Seconded by Jonny.

@Sarah to make all changes to Constitution and forward to Tony.

## 2. Chair's report

See full report attached.

## 3. Treasurer's report

Anna presented the Club accounts for 2020-21. There was a discussion around Grants:

- Anna asked about funding from the wind farm in Fintry – David said it isn't currently available, but suggested community grants.
- Gerry suggested we may be able to apply for Kippen community grants, as we are a community Club, not just for Fintry!
- David suggested we apply for the '[Arnold Clark Community Fund](#)', which helped the Bowling Club.

Gill Smith was re-elected as the Club's Independent Examiner – Proposed by Sarah, Seconded by Jonny.

## 4. Membership

### 4.1. Membership numbers for 2020-21:

41 paid-up members (35 Adult, 1 Student, 2 Junior, 3 Primary)

Sarah also reminded the club about the Members' page on the website.

### 4.2. Membership Fees

Due on 1<sup>st</sup> May – the start of our financial year

Currently: Adult £20.00 / Junior £5.00 / Primary £1.00

*£15 per member paid to Sports Club (Costume store, props store & social membership)*

There was no objection to membership fees staying the same for the 2021-22 year, however it was noted by several Members that, because such a large proportion of the fee goes to the Sports Club, perhaps we should consider raising it in future – particularly as some other clubs charge significantly more. Gavin gave the example of Kirkintilloch, which charges £50.

There was a discussion about the amount FADS pays the Sports Club, which we had agreed with Brenda in the 2019-20 Club year to set at £750, based on an average membership of 50 over previous years. Sarah confirmed that Brenda had been happy to accept a reduced payment of £600 for 2020-21, to account for our reduced membership this year.

Ian asked whether we were tied in to having the costume store at the Sports Club and David reminded Members that we contributed £10,000 to the build of the extension. It was generally agreed that the £50-£60 a month we pay represents very good value, especially as we have the props store as well. Cindy emphasised that we can also use the room above the bowling alley (although Brenda has tried to charge us for it in the past!)

Sheila reminded Members that Sports Membership includes a free (non-alcoholic) drink with every meal, so it doesn't take too many visits to cover the £15!

## **5. Election of committee members**

- Kevin and Anna remain in their respective roles of Chair and Treasurer for a second year.
- With Sarah stepping down after two years as Secretary, the only proposal was for Sheila and Tony to share the responsibilities – Sheila to formally occupy the post and Tony to support her, primarily on the technical side. Sheila was duly elected to the position of Secretary, unopposed, and Tony to the position of Ordinary Member.
- Gerry, Jeannie and Andy were all happy to be re-elected as Ordinary Members, with no other Members standing for election to the Committee. (Rowena & Laura stepped down after 2 years)
- Ordinary Members were proposed by Cindy, Seconded by Jonny.

## **6. Club roles/responsibilities**

The Club Roles & Responsibilities document was discussed and the following responsibilities were allocated, in addition to those roles already filled:

- Secretary: Sheila
- Technical: Tony, in addition to Sam
- Social: Anna
- Child & vulnerable adult: Sarah
- Grants: Anna, in addition to Cindy
- SCDA liaison: Tony
- Hall Committee liaison: Sheila

## 7. Future productions

### 7.1. Calamity Jane – licence currently reserved for October 2021

Cindy suggested waiting until after 21<sup>st</sup> June to see how the pandemic restrictions are looking...

### 7.2. Pantos

*Currently waiting in the wings: Beauty & the Beanstalk (poss. Jan 2022), Babes in the Wood (poss Dec 2022/Jan 2023), Rapunzel (poss Dec 2023)*

The matter of directors for pantos was discussed and it was generally agreed that, because of the scale of productions, inexperienced directors should have a mentor to support them.

Kevin had put out a general request for panto Directors in his February 2021 communication with Members:

We are sorted for the next three panto seasons with Beauty and the Beanstalk up next written by Jean Woodburn and produced by me. Gavin is in the process of Fintryfying 'Babes in the Wood' for the following year. Currently we have no director or producer for this and likewise for 'Rapunzel' written by Laura and Iain for Xmas 2023. These plans may of course change dependent on public health restrictions. **Experienced directors/producers required. GREAT TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK PLEASE**

## 8. Club evenings/social events

Kevin emphasised the success of the Zoom socials so far – a couple of examples:

- Gin Tasting evening: 26 attendees (11 Members, 15 non-members)
- First video/photo retrospective evening: 26 attendees (19 Members, 7 non-members)

With restrictions lifting and the weather improving, everyone was keen on the idea of a barbeque, possibly at the Bowling Club.

The current Social Committee was confirmed as: Jackie, Rowena, Ellen & Anna.

Play readings were discussed, with Margo expressing a particular interest and saying she had already read a couple that might be good for FADS. Cindy confirmed that reading evenings hadn't been terribly successful over Zoom, so Margo was co-opted onto the Social Committee to lead these events in future.

## 9. AOCB

- Sheila said she has around 10 large A4 files of FADS records/history and asked whether Members would be happy if this was loaned to the new Fintry Museum at the Sports Club. There was no opposition to this, but it was raised that we should try to digitize as much as possible (over time!) then it can be stored and shared via the website.
- Jonny raised the current practice of only paid-up Members being allowed to audition and said he strongly disagreed with it. Several other Members agreed - **@Sheila** to put on Agenda for next Committee meeting.

## CHAIR'S REPORT

Lockdown has brought the normal activities of our drama group to an abrupt halt with the cancellation of "Calamity Jane" last year in March with only days to go till opening night. While still on the cards to go perhaps in October this year there have been no clear signals from government or otherwise of a clear path forward. Cindy and Rowena have till June to make the final call whether to go ahead with this project or shelf the whole idea. The decision is of course solely with the production team, cast and crew.

All other plans for 2020 had to be shelved even the AGM was postponed till later in the year by which time many of us had a basic understanding of zoom and it was able to go ahead online. Committee meetings and rehearsals for "Roaches Coaches" have only been made possible by this means. While not ideal, and I appreciate that some members may be on zoom a great deal with work, it was our only means of communication, crude though it may have been at times.

All national competitive drama was all but cancelled by SCDA other than an online monologue competition. We were represented by Gavin Paterson in a piece written by Mike Tibbetts. While the piece wasn't selected to go forward to the final, the judging panel offered many positive observations peppered with bit of constructive criticism. Gavin did say it had been a rushed job to learn and film the piece. Four days between receiving the script to submitting the final piece. Well done though Gavin and Mike for representing FADS under lockdown at a national level.

The highlight of our club's achievements during the past year of lockdown has to be the podcast production of "Roaches Coaches". With one episode in the bag, and an audience of 560 as of the end of April, episode 2 is well on its way. With Episode 3 being released by the autumn. Sooner if we are able to meet inside as originally planned. A huge effort by writer and director Ian Kidd, technical wizard Sam Yoffe and producer Laura Cranston. While all cast thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the rehearsing and recording process, they were equally delighted and proud to promote to all they knew the podcast on Spotify. The technical effects and quality of sound were as professional as any Radio 4 drama I have listened to, and I await, with bated breath Episode 2. (Expected mid-summer 2021) This has been a breath of fresh air for cast members and audience alike, I can only trust the production team have had as much fun, if not more, in producing this gem under severe restrictions. We have invested in purchasing quality microphones and a laptop for recording and editing purposes. This has allowed this project to go forward and produce a quality radio production.

The social committee have not been idle either and have adapted to the new normal with zoom Christmas and Burns' evenings with in-house entertainment. Then there was a gin tasting evening (a great recipe for a good night – alcohol and nibbles with a little banter thrown in for good measure.) Then most recently, after Tony shared some archive materials he had, with commentary from Sheila at the Xmas Party, he has put together another two evenings that have sung the praises of FADS since it was formed back in 1977. Highlighting productions, performers and performances and backstage personnel. The Focus? Members having fun working together towards a common goal. I understand he has a vast collection of material and there are several evenings ahead if this lockdown continues. Now that the longer summer nights are with us, we will not ask him to give up any more of his valuable time from his garden and current building project. What's the old saying: "Make hay while the sun doth shine" But once the clocks go back, we could be tempted to follow on from where we got to last time, that Epic in the Park, a forerunner to T in the Park – Midsummer Nights' Dream in the grounds of Culcreuch Castle. I had only recently moved to the area and remember vividly the beautiful evening we sat picnicking while being

served all the Shire could aspire to in iambic pentameter washed down with a glass of homemade mead. Those halcyon days of social interaction indeed.

Where do we go from here? We have three Xmas productions for the next three years waiting in the wings but without a complete lifting of restrictions in the near future they look perhaps prematurely over ambitious. What can we plan for? Your ideas and input here would be invaluable. Could the traditional Fintry Panto be downsized and made covid safe for participants and audiences?

Perhaps we need another outdoor production to tempt our audiences back after a year of isolation and cultural starvation. People will be apprehensive to go back to their old ways of packing into a theatre or village hall and proceed to exchange bodily fluids through sneezing, shouting, (Oh yes, they will) and eating and drinking. Already, before the restrictions start lifting this coming Monday there is talk of the Indian variant being present from Tynemouth to Glasgow. Experts are advising caution in easing restrictions. The future looks uncertain. Next May/ June may be a time to plan for a community piece to mark the end of this pandemic with a piece of theatre that commemorates what we have come through in an outside multi venue reflective piece.

Alternatively look at previous events Midsummer Night's Dream, or new ventures: The Hired Man, Larkrise to Candleforth, The Ship, The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Something that would adapt to staging outside with changeable conditions and most importantly, inspire audiences. Perhaps over a longer period – weekends – weather permitting. I'd be interested to know your thoughts on this.

Finally, I've asked Tony, Jonny and Sam to start compiling an inventory of technical equipment. Perhaps we need to consider doing the same for our other resources, costume, props and scenery. This would help our treasurer Anna when it comes to insuring our resources and possibly in future, instead of rummaging around the green room or the dunny. It would be a great way of involving some of the younger newer members and let them know what we have to go forward with. If you are interested in taking this or any other activities forward, please speak to a member of your committee so we may develop and prepare ourselves for the challenges ahead.

- Kevin Boland