

# PLAYER-PLAYWRIGHTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM 2016 took place at 7.30pm on Monday 17 October 2016  
at the North London Tavern, 375 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 7QB

Apologies: Peter Vincent, Kara May, Sarah Leigh, Rebecca Finch, Peter Skyte. John Morrison, Phil Mison, Eamon McDonnell, Christa Engelbrecht, Phil Philmar

Present: Mary Conway and Ninaz Khodaiji (ch), Peter Thompson, Tony Diggle, Giles Armstrong, Francis Beckett, Kevin Mandry, Richard Evans, Ajay Gohil, Bill Gordon, Ross Frowen, Rebecca Lyon

**Mary Conway and Ninaz Khodaiji, joint chair**, welcomed those attending. In many ways it had been a very successful year, with membership at an all time high, good quality Monday plays, with directors making an input, and interesting evenings with members of the Industry. Casting had been very good and NLT had allowed rehearsals in the Cavendish room on Sundays and Monday afternoons. The strategic aim to help writers put plays into production was being met and our aim for the audience receipts to cover the rent was being realised (just). On the other hand we need script assessors and mentors from the membership to take over from John Morrison; and the website needs further work. We get on well with the management of the present venue but always keep an eye out for suitable alternatives in Central London. Next year we plan to repeat successful initiatives like the casting day, the improvisation sessions, internal competitions and a monologue evening. We also plan another open competition in which we will have the support of a well-established Camden theatre and assistance with Arts Council grant applications. The upturn in our fortunes this year was due to very hard work by committee members in particular **Peter Vincent, John Morrison and Peter Thompson** who are all standing down and **Peter Briffa** who is giving up the very entertaining blog on which he previewed our events and reviewed our activities [applause all round].

**The minutes of the AGM** were approved, subject to the deletion of the comment, attributed to the treasurer, that we were no longer financially sustainable into the future(!)

**The Treasurer's report** was presented by **Tony Diggle** and is attached. Membership was up to 142 and average attendances were up from 25 to 30 but these figures were boosted by an increase in guest attendances that covered a fall in regular attenders and the bank balance was very slightly down on last year.

**The Programme Secretary, Francis Beckett**, reported that the guest speakers had been allowed a whole evening each, which was good, and that the quality of the writing was up. He was inviting Nick Wood and Marc Blake along as next year's guest speakers and he was planning to recruit a team of 6 or 7 members who will read and assess scripts, according to common criteria, and provide a mentoring service.

**Mary Conway** reported on the continuing success of the Collaborative Project and **Rebecca Lyon** reported on Casting which was difficult when new writers stayed aloof from the casting process [and made late amendments to the script!]. The casting team really needed an extra member. The website had been a disappointment because of the practical difficulty of maintaining it without involving its designer. Facebook postings had been good and our publicity was yielding a steady stream of inquiries from new writers and actors.

**Elections** followed, with the following outcome:

- \* Mary Conway and Ninaz Khodaiji were re-elected joint chair on the proposal of Francis Beckett, seconded by Giles Armstrong.
- \* The Secretary (Peter Thompson) did not offer himself for re-election and there were no nominations for a successor so the office remains currently vacant.
- \* Tony Diggle was elected Treasurer on the proposal of Bill Gordon, seconded by Giles Armstrong [to be assisted by Ajay Gohil and Kevin Mandry]
- \* Giles Armstrong was elected Awards Secretary on the proposal of Francis Beckett, seconded by Ajay Gohil;
- \* Francis Beckett was elected Programme Secretary on the proposal of Rebecca Lyon, seconded by Tony Diggle;
- \* Rebecca Finch and Rebecca Lyon were elected casting Secretaries on the proposal of Bill Gordon, seconded by Kevin Mandry;
- \* Sarah Leigh was elected Competitions Secretary on the proposal of Peter Thompson, seconded by Rebecca Lyon; and
- \* Rebecca Lyon was elected Website and Publicity Officer on the proposal of Mary Conway, seconded by Ninaz Khodaiji.

To assist in filling the vacancy left by Peter Thompson's standing down as Secretary it was agreed that (a) Peter would prepare a Job Description that listed his current responsibilities [see below] and (b) filling the vacancy should be an item for general discussion on Monday nights.

Three serving members of the Committee, Kevin Mandry, Eamon McDonnell and Richard Evans, were re-elected on the proposal of Peter Thompson, seconded by Mary Conway.

**Other business** included

- (a) discussion and general support for an Open Competition next year
- (b) arrangements for the **Christmas Party on 5 December** which will be on traditional lines including a modest entrance fee, buffet and entertainment, organised this year by Helen Oakleigh and
- (c) various tributes to the outgoing secretary, Peter Thompson and a presentation of wine by the Committee in appreciation of his many years of patient and supportive work for the organisation.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm                      Peter Thompson

**Secretaries current responsibilities**

- 1 Taking, writing up and circulating minutes of meetings
- 2 Answering inquiries, by letter, email and telephone about membership and the programme and making contact with others
- 3 Processing membership applications
- 4 Maintaining a database of members
- 5 Informing the membership by email of P-P activities and the successes of individual members
- 6 Sending letters of thanks to guest speakers
- 7 Preparing voting forms and programme notes for competitions
- 8 Meeting and greeting new members on Monday nights