



**Present:** Paul Lewis, Denise Soussi, Mark Jephcott, plus 21 other members attending

- 1 **Apologies:** Steve Williamson, Lorna Kong, Victor Hassan, Val Middleton-Egan, Ian Cole, Martin Pritchard, Fred Donnan, Sue Hinde, Richard Barraclough, Margaret Seddon, Helen Bingle, Diana Boswell, Charlie Cook, Keith Thompson, Caroline Lucas, Ian Kennedy, Di James, Andy Neve, Shan Bristow, Donna Johnston, Ian McBride, Mark Seyler, Jess Trimble (23)
- 2 Minutes from 2022 (circulated) – Matters Arising - none
- 3 **Approval of minutes from 2022:** proposed Bruce Williams, seconded John Chidgey
- 4 **Chairman's report:** Paul apologised to the members for the postponement of the meeting, originally planned for September, and explained that the reason for holding this in December was constitutional: AGMs need to be no more than 15 months apart. Delays were due to problems finalising the accounts, following the employment of an accounting firm outside the Green Room, ensuring correct procedures for allocating items appropriately, and achieving a final balance. It was hoped that the second year with the new system would be easier. Paul emphasised that the finances were in a good state and he would meet with the accountant and the GR Treasurer in the new year and insist on submission of monthly reconciliations. Paul gave sincere thanks to Al Fowkes, who, as the Independent Examiner, had worked long and hard to get the accounts into their final and acceptable form.

Paul was pleased to report that during the 2022–3 season, audience numbers had grown after the problems caused by Covid restrictions and closures. Two productions had had to be cancelled, but two one-act plays entitled **Ladies of Importance** had started the season in place of *Hindle Wakes* (held over due to illness), and **The Hound of the Baskervilles** had proved to be a very successful late replacement for *The Happiest Days of Your Life* (cancelled due to problems involving child actors). *Hound* had achieved 88% ticket sales. **Harvey**, **The River**, and **These Shining Lives** had all been well-received, with Mike Rogerson receiving a Best Director Award from GMDF for *The River*; this production also won an award for Eilidh Pollard for her original, live music.

There had been a well-attended Open evening to introduce plays being scheduled for the 2023-4 season, and the Green Room had taken part in the Coronation event in town, the Wilmslow Community Show, and local Chapel Lane/Love the Lane events. Paul wished to congratulate the previous Social Committee for their work, though Chris McClory and Colette Fitton had now stood down, and Adele Taylor had died earlier in the year. He wished to commemorate Adele for her work as an actress, prompt, bar volunteer and long-time seat-numberer. Paul also congratulated Belinda Coghlan and David Reynolds who had both been GR members for 60 years. And he spoke about further discussions now needed to move the building project forward. 2024 will mark the centenary of the theatre, for which celebratory ideas were being developed. He was delighted to welcome local celebrity, Sue Johnston, as the Society's Patron, and hoped she might be available to become more involved in due course. His final thanks were for the members, for their hard work and commitment to committees, volunteering in all manner of ways, and keeping the theatre alive.

5 **Treasurer's report:** Mark added his thanks to Al Fowkes for his work on the accounts and apologised for their late completion. He reported a year-end figure of over £100,000 'in the bank', following healthy takings from productions of £29,500, plus increased interest on money in the bank, and takings of over £9,000 from the bar/coffee and ice cream sales. Total receipts were £49,500; total expenditure had been nearly £39,000. During the 2022-3 season, there had been eight performances for each show (as opposed to seven in the current season), but agreed that success should be about quality and achievement, and not equated automatically with monies taken.  
Acceptance of the Accounts: proposed by Mike Rogerson; seconded by Clare Lewis

6 **Proposal to adopt Revised Rules for the Society**

Copies of the revised Rules had been circulated and were available at the meeting, with amendments marked. Paul commented on the main change, of restricting the membership of the Executive Committee to Trustees only, positions listed in the Rules. But he reiterated that any member might request attendance (with seven days' notice) at an Executive meeting if they wished to make a report, raise ideas, express opinions relevant to taking the Society forward. The plan was that a Social Committee would report to the Executive via the Vice Chairman (currently Lorna Kong), and the Publicity Group would report via the Secretary (Denise Soussi).  
Revised Rules – the vote taken was carried by majority of those present, with one abstention

7 **Motions for discussion** – none received

8 **Election of officers:** Denise read out the nominations, all proposed and seconded, as follows: confirmed in post: Paul Lewis as Chairman, David Reynolds as President; Pat Barrow, Jacque Bilsborough, Jeremy Cleverly, Sue Offer, and Peter de la Wyche as Vice Presidents, with new nominee – Belinda Coghlan added; Lorna Kong as Vice Chairman; Denise Soussi as Hon Secretary; Mark Jephcott as Hon Treasurer; Celia Bonner as Artistic Director; Bruce Williams as Theatre Manager; and John Chidgey as Registrar. The position of Hon Solicitor was still vacant. The Executive committee would confirm members of other committees.

9 **Presentations:** David Reynolds presented the annual Sheila Hine Award to Belina Coghlan for her significant contribution to the theatre in many capacities, in over 30 productions.

10 **100 Club draw:** Winning names were drawn as follows:  
Ruth Hemp (£100); plus four winners of £25 – Margaret Seddon, Linda Batson, David Russell, and Dorothy Harding.

11 **Any other business:** John Chidgey mentioned that he was needing to find a few more male cast members for the January production of **Murder in the Studio**.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.