

Pontardawe Film Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 14th April 2014

1. **Apologies:** Jane Hallett, Carol Rea, David Rea
2. **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 23rd April 2013**
The minutes were previously circulated, and were accepted as an accurate record.
3. **Matters Arising:**
Actions from the last AGM: A Committee was set up. Membership, a form collecting information on how people heard about the film has been added to the audience reaction slips. Standing Orders – details have been added to the membership form and it is happening. A sign posted post film discussion table – we did this for a while, but it didn't work that well so it went by the by.
4. **Chair's report**
THE NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE
A working committee was formed to share the load. This has worked well. The aim was to get back the club atmosphere of old, to share the workload of running the club and to get social events going again. We have done this over the last year and there is more to come. It seems to have been a success.
SECRETARY
We have lost David Rea, he has done a huge amount of work since the very beginning. He was instrumental in forming the film club 15 years ago. We should put on record our gratitude and write to him to thank him for the work he has done over the 15 years.
Action: GET A CARD FOR DAVID AND WE ALL SIGN IT AT THE NEXT FILM.
FILM FESTIVAL
The film festival wasn't much of a success, only 15 attended. On the other hand we had a screening of 'Under Milk Wood' with Dr Andrew Sinclair in attendance, which was quite a success. We had a good reaction to that event. We said we wanted to get more of a discussion going on after watching a film – and to read out comments from the slips in the bar after, we haven't done this either. But the social aspect of the club has improved.
FILMS
We had a number of films rated over 80% over the past year, some over 90% audience reaction. Our films reached an average score of 67.5% over the year.
MEMBERSHIP
Membership has plateaued at the 40 members (Currently 43 members). Again we have failed to build the membership.
ATTENDANCE
The best attended film was 'Inside Llewlyn Davis' – probably due to the sell out at Taliesin in Swansea, 'Blue Jasmine' was the next highest. 'No', and 'Under Milk Wood' were the other highest attended films.

FINALLY

The committee structure that has been introduced has worked.
And the social aspect has improved.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DISCUSSION

Film Festival - Should we arrange another? The members love the idea of the festival, and would love to see them retained.

Maybe the way it was marketed hadn't worked. Maybe it should be sold as pay for one film and get two for free and food?

In the past film festivals do really well – and the last failure was a one off?

The fact that the film club is small yet viable, can we carry on the way we are and do what we do, and keep doing it well?

Membership - We are still hovering on the 40 mark at the end of last year, (currently just into the new year we are up to 43.) We lost several members over the last 18 months to two years but for the first time in a while we have several new members and long lapsed members are re-joining.

Some members are now paying direct to the bank so that is good.

Walk Up – this is where the money is, and has attributed to more than half the income. Maybe as we decided last year we do not need to increase the membership as this would reduce the income from walk-up?

Not on NPT what's on website – The film 'Like Father Like Son' was not on the Pontardawe Arts Centre What's On (online booking system). Could we ensure that all Film Club Films are on the online booking system? Emyr pointed out that this was a one off, that he had alerted Arts Centre staff to the problem but it wasn't rectified. Angie said that all films were added and if anybody notices that an event isn't added, to let her know, and she will get it sorted our straight away.

Trailer – The little trailer before the films has been beneficial. It is great that it is shown before normal cinema films as well raising awareness of the film club activities. Thanks to Emyr for producing it.

Email Communications List – The email reminders are very useful. Emyr asked if too many were being sent out and the answer was NO... keep them coming! We now have a clipboard left in the bar so people can request to be added to the mailing list. Could this be mentioned in the chairman's introduction to the films please?

Adverts – The adverts before the film are repetitive and boring, do we have to have them? – YES! It helps fund the Arts Centre, pay the staff's wages, and keep the place open thus allowing the club to function at a subsidised rate.

5. **Treasurer's report**

Another steady year, for the third year on the trot.

Due to the timing of payments, the payment on record in the accounts to the Arts Centre is for the previous financial year. The fee for this year will be in the next year's accounts.

The total of 50 memberships shown in the accounts differs from real membership due to the fact some people paid late last year (in April) and this they paid early (in March).

This year the payments from walk-ups was steady.

As long as we get the same numbers this year we should be all right. If we lose 20% of membership we will struggle, we spent more on refreshments this year than in previous years - £163.76. We need to be careful with this figure, we can't

allow that to slip.

In the discussion that followed it was revealed that this figure included all the costs for the Dr Sinclair/Under Milk Wood night and the costs of his accommodation, feeding him etc.

Each film has costs us £130, subsidised to a degree by the Arts Centre.

The accounts were accepted by the members and agreed upon.

FILM SPONSORSHIP

John is tasked with drawing up a proposal that we can take to local business.

We are looking to raise about £50 per film, with the aim to raise a total income of about £500 per annum.

Action: Produce the proposal and circulate it around local business.

6. Election of officers and Executive Committee

John proposed that in light of the vacant position of Secretary that we elect the following roles only tonight, Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary and the Working Committee, and that we task the committee with the job of filling the secretary's role.

OFFICERS

CHAIR – *John Puzey (re-elected)*

TRESURER – *Jim Rees (re-elected)*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – *Emyr Morris (re-elected)*

SECRETARY – *postponed*

COMMITTEE - *Michelle, Dominique, Kevin, Angie, Hamish, Clare, John, Jim and Emyr. (Other members are very welcome and can be co-opted at any time)*

Action: And we allow the committee to arrange the other areas of responsibility and to appoint a secretary.

John thanked Emyr and Jim for all their hard work over the year. The committee has made a big difference. John would like to thank the committee for all they have done as well. Thank you also to Angie and the Arts Centre team without whom we wouldn't exist.

7. Awards

The poorest films, as cited by the Pontardawe Jury were:

(3) *Mud* - 59.6%

(2) *Looking for Hortense* - 57.8%

(1) *Beyond the Hills* - 40.27%

The three best in reverse order were:

(3) *The Patience Stone* - 84.72%

(2) *Wadjda* - 87.5%

(1) *Nebraska* - 95.37%

8. AOB

Angie told us that the BFI have an enormous amount of funding for specialist programming.

They can help fund add-ons, additions, talks, festivals etc. At the next selection

meeting we need to come up with ideas to add added value to our films and then Angie can apply for funding on our behalf.

Dominique is organising a Fund Raising Motorbike Trip to India. She suggested we could tie an event around the film Mondo Sahara and an awareness fundraising event for her charity ride.

9. THANKS

Chair thanked all the members for their continuing support. Wonderful to see such a well attended AGM.

The chair closed the meeting.