



Minute of AGM Meeting

Menzies Hall 7.30 pm 20th May

2025

**1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** Sheila Fraser, Rosie Walters, Jane Stephenson, Gavin Patterson, Lorna Flisch, Tony Flisch, Sarah Walker, Barbara McLeod, Cindy Gray, Margo Campbell, Nigel Pope, Jeannie Woodburn, Gerry Eckersley, David Smith, Jackie Smith, Ellen Ross, Siobhan Hewitt, Helen Watson, Anne Hillis

**Apologies** received Irene Kelso, Anna Foran

**2. Minute of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the AGM of 2024 was adopted – proposed by Margo, seconded by Jane

**3. Matters Arising**

- We had purchased Radio Mics
- Tiles issue still ongoing.

**4. Chairman's Report**

See below

## 5. Treasurer's Report

The full Accounts were examined by Gill Smith FCA, to whom our grateful thanks are due and are appended to the minute.

### Notes

- The year had been financially successful, Snow Queen made £4,000 profit and Night Shift £400. Something in the Basement made a £450 loss.
- The cost of productions had stayed stable

### Questions

- The Sports Club membership costs may be changing. We need a better way to share our membership list (Tony still has a set of Sports Club membership cards for some members)
- It was suggested we raise our membership fee to £25 as we anticipate the Sports Club might be raising their fees. Sarah agreed to request that the Sports Club honour Existing fee of £20 for the coming year for FADS members.

Sarah proposed we raise our membership fee to £25 Lorna seconded and Members agreed to accept this measure.

Adoption of accounts: Accounts adopted-Proposed by Nigel seconded Jackie.

## 6. Safeguarding PVG etc.

- Tony explained that on 1st April 2025 this became a Legal requirement for the Club. He is at present re-writing our policy.
- Jackie has agreed to be our PVG lead. This will be dealt with ready for September.

## 7. Committee Members

**Chair** Tony Flisch is standing down.

Barbara proposed Margo as Chair, seconded Gerry

**Secretary** Helen Watson

**Treasurer** Sara Walker

### Committee:

Rosie Walters

Jackie Smith

Ellen Ross

Gavin Patterson

Siobhan Hewitt (proposed Gerry seconded Jeannie)

Lorna Flisch (proposed David seconded Barbara)

Co-opted Jane (FOH etc.)

Existing committee were proposed and seconded as a group  
by David and Anne Hillis

The committee members stepping down were thanked.

#### 8. Future Productions

- In Autumn, "Cinderella " will be the Pantomime produced by Gavin
- In Spring, "The Farmer wants a Wife ", a full length play Gavin will produce 1<sup>st</sup> week in May.
- David & Jackie will again be happy to work with youngsters in the Spring.
- Naomi to be approached in the first instance to ascertain if she still wished to direct Feb youth production as per her thoughts last year.
- One Act SCDA and /or non-competitive one act Spring Production to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

#### 9. Discussion:

- The Social committee to arrange a Barbecue later in the summer and perhaps arrange a Karaoke night for younger members.
- To improve communications during productions a Wireless system would be good. It would cost around £600 for a set of five. The new committee will look into this.
- There had been questions raised about SCDA reimbursements and costs of taking productions to other venues. The committee should discuss a guideline for the future.
- The following was suggested after discussion: That £2,000 would be provided by the club to take "In the Basement " to the National Drama Festival in Bromsgrove. This action was proposed by Rosie seconded by David that the club sanction this. The vote was carried.

#### 10. AOCB

- Balfron High School are performing "Grease" 11-13<sup>th</sup> June
- David mentioned that Nigel had won a top award in Washington DC with his elephant film which will be shown on Channel 4.
- Margo thanked Tony for his hard work as Chair.

- The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm at Rosie's House.

#### Chair Report 2025.

This time last year I agreed to become caretaker Chairman-for-one- year to allow the club to function as there were no volunteers at the AGM. Getting Office Bearers and even committee members can be difficult, but it is a wake-up call for the club for it to have been close to ceasing to exist for want of someone to be Chair. What follows here is my take on the years events – any errors or omissions are entirely mine.

I was lucky to have a strong team of committee members appointed at the same time. We focused initially on improving member contact with named committee members being allocated a small group of our members to liaise with. This worked well to begin with, but I don't think we followed through with it well enough as the year went on and other things demanded our attention.

Kevin ran a workshop in May on his proposed play Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town' written in 1938. It became clear however that we would not be able to cast it.

The first of two FADS social events of the year was the 10-year anniversary of our British Final win with Victor's Dung. We viewed the video of the performance in Birsay followed by a meal at the Sports Club. This was both enjoyable and poignant following the death in 2022 of Ian Howie who had played Victor.

Later we enjoyed a BBQ at the Hub which was a great opportunity for a social catch up.

We also held play readings organised by Margo through the summer period.

Following the AGM, we invited Naomi to one of our meetings to talk about Youth issues, she came up with a few good ideas, sadly though, she was unable to proceed with her idea of directing a youth play for the festival. We felt it worthwhile and such a semi-formal link with the youngsters could be beneficial for the future.

We were lucky that David stepped up and agreed to direct and produce 'The Snow Queen' as our Christmas show. This was not a panto but had some of its elements. David wanted to use a video wall instead of conventional scenery which brought its own challenges. A very strong technical team worked hard on sound (with the new digital sound desk), the video wall and lighting. FADS bought an Apple Mac Mini to facilitate this.

Some, including myself, had reservations over both the cost and how effective the wall would be – but it made a huge difference to the show. And we made a good profit! We acquired an experienced new member, Liz Adnitt as the Snow Queen, and then lost her immediately after as she moved away. Thanks to David for a huge amount of work, but he needed more support- directing and producing a big show is too much really for one person.

David and Jackie worked with FADS youngsters in the February school break to produce "Heroes of Stirling". This was a free event (thus avoiding the need for a Child Entertainment licence) and was funded by FADS. It was a well-attended and successful event.

The next production was our SCDA competition entry 'Something in Basement' by Don Nigro directed by Gavin. This double hander was written for a male and a female, but Gavin could see it would work with a single sex pairing and applied for permission to do this. Permission was granted but it came with a condition – Philip had to be called Cecilia. The gender change proved successful, and the team worked incredibly hard on refining this production, which got better at every stage until we encountered David Price at the Scottish final, who, despite glowing praise in both the public and private adjudications, placed us 4<sup>th</sup> equal out of 8). FADS has been there before, and such an outcome is hard to take when so much praise came from so many quarters, including some of the other teams. FADS' points total at District was 81 (7 more than the nearest other play; at Division we got 94 and at Scottish it was 85 with the winning play scoring 90. The team hopes to finish on a higher note by taking the production to the National Drama Festival in Bromsgrove at the end of July/beginning of August.

I have always believed that FADS has a responsibility to try to accommodate as best we can, all those members who wish to be involved. A quick poll of our members gave

us 4 ladies of a certain age. Lorna and I looked through catalogues and read some real stinkers until a search of the SCDA library now conveniently located in Stirling revealed 'Night Shift' which was entered with 94 other plays in the 2002 Play on Words contest. We all liked it, and Peter gave us the rights and the video rights free of charge. Our cast of Margo Jeanie Irene & Rosie worked hard at their parts-culminating in three nights of a Play some Pakora and some plonk. We got a polite request to remove the reference to A Play, a Pie and a Pint from the producer Li Kennedy which was quickly and satisfactorily resolved with the final communication wishing us every success in our play run. Peter Whiteley attended all 3 performances and coincidentally met an old acquaintance with whom he had lost touch. We were set to end on a high note when Rosie was taken ill and was unable to perform on the last night. There was only one solution and Lorna donned Rosie's costume which was far too big for her and read in the part. The audience entered into the spirit and had a great time. Afterwards. Peter told us that this had been one of the best experiences of his life. I know! We donated £200 to 'Highland Hospice' in lieu of royalties.

Anna had undertaken to produce a safeguarding policy which she did and after some revision with the help of SCDA's Carole Williams was adopted by the committee as policy. This was very timeous as PVG changes came into force on 1 April which placed a legal responsibility on the club to have no one in a regulated role what is not PVG'd. Jackie and I and, more recently, Margo too have been working on this for a few months so we can have procedures ready before the first production involving children and young people. Previously PVG registration was advisory. Much more on this and Child Entertainment Licence later.

A running theme through the year was providing a lockable space to keep plays etc. Initially the plan was to locate a cupboard in the green room – this went wrong and we ended up with three quarters of a cupboard. My next bright whizz was to put a door in the lighting loft to secure the area at the back. This was approved by the Committee and the Menzies Hall Management Committee, but I've now been let down by two joiners and it still hasn't happened. Any suggestions as to reliable joinery welcome. We also had issues with the young Farmers using FADS equipment etc with no real control from FADS – following discussions with the YF and the Hall Committee, I

drafted an agreement that governs the use of lighting and sound by hall users. This is now embedded in the Hall booking procedures.

So, I've come to the end of my 'Chairmanship in Spite Of Myself' and we head into the 25-26 season with a new Chair and a Cinderella Christmas Panto to look forward to.

Followed by the Fairmer wants a wife in Spring. My personal thanks to Sarah, Helen, Nigel, Ellen, Rosie Jackie and Gavin for their support and all they have done over the last year, and I wish the new Chair and FADS well for the future!

Thank you

Tony Flisch May 2025