



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Minutes

Held on Thursday 23 September 2021 at the Pinner Village Hall @ 8.00pm

1. Apologies for absence

Pauline Aubrey, Margaret Burns, Sybil Noorden, Stuart Berry, Jerome le Forestier, Terry Bloch, David Lovatt

Present

Katherine Sayer (Chairman), Jon Grunewald (Treasurer), Jackie Simeone (Secretary), Sally Wright, Ann & Tom Grady, Orla Beardwell, , Tony & Sue Cash, Simon Cash, Aruna Clinch, Michele & Keith Jenkins, Beryl Newton, Simmon Hill, Mark Maguire

2. Minutes of the meeting of 24 September 2020

Approved

3. Matters arising (not otherwise on the agenda)

None

4. Officers' reports (see separate reports at end of minutes)

- a) Chairman's report
- b) Secretary's Report
- c) Treasurer's Report

5. Election of Officers

The Election of Officers took place as follows :-

Sue Cash has agreed to continue to be our President

Katherine Sayer was re-elected as Chairman
Proposed by Sue Cash, seconded by Simon Cash

Orla Beardwell was elected as Secretary
Proposed by Jon Grunewald, seconded by Anne Grady

Jon Grunewald was elected as Treasurer
Proposed by Jackie Simeone, seconded by Anne Grady

Tony Cash was re-elected as Auditor
Proposed by Katherine Sayer, seconded by Sally Wright

Michele Jenkins was elected as Auditor
Proposed by Jackie Simeone, seconded by Aruna Clinch

Simon is stepping down from the committee after a serving a long term – many thanks for your valuable contributions over the years. The remaining members, Sally Wright, Anne Grady, Sue Cash and Aruna Clinch have agreed to continue which leaves one vacancy.



6. Financial matters

a) Ratification of subscription

It was agreed there is no need to change subscriptions for the foreseeable future. Therefore, full membership will remain at £20, student membership is £10.

b) Ticket prices

Following a discussion, it was agreed, the price will remain at £12 each, and it was felt there was no reason to raise these for the foreseeable future. However, costs are rising, and a close eye will be kept on expenditure. To this end, it will be important for the committee to remain flexible in this regard for the season ahead. Katherine suggested we could raise to £15 ticket to include tea & coffee and a programme which will be considered. It was agreed that the committee can be flexible in this regard.

c) Programme prices

Programmes, teas, coffees & choc ices will remain the same at £1 each.

These items were agreed at the AGM on all counts

7. 2021/2022 productions

November – Les Liaison Dangereuses (director: Sue Cash).

Sue advised that costume hire rates have increased due to the necessity of changing suppliers, and this is a particularly lavish set/costume drama. It is in many respects a rather complicated play to perform and Sue (as do we all) hope our regular audience will return after a long hiatus as it will be stupendous.

February Production – the Cemetery Club (director: Sally Wright)

Sally is very much looking forward to directing this play which she has previously directed with another group. It was noted a smaller cast production was deliberately chosen to mitigate any future restrictions due to the Covid pandemic.

May Production – One Man, Two Governors (director: Aruna Clinch)

Aruna's directorial debut for Pinner Players and she will arrange a reading for members later this year.

Licenses are available for all 3 productions.

8. Social and Fundraising

The Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday 10 December and the Christmas Ladies Wot Lunch will be held on 15 December at ZaZas in Pinner. A quiz will be scheduled for March/April 22 with Sally as the Quizmaster. Aruna suggested advertising the event dates soon so these are in members' diaries. Aruna also suggested encouraging both members and potential newcomers to come to the Friday rehearsal to socialise and meet members of the group.

9. Any Other Business

- Mark queried the process around how the committee makes decisions on plays. The April and October meetings are where plays are reviewed, and the season discussed. In **April**, members are offered the chance to bring their ideas for plays to read over the summer and a list is drawn up and advertised. **October's** looks at the season ahead. Regarding the above, we do need more directors, *but how can we encourage people to take on this role?*
- Sue also mentioned that we need to boost the current mailing list. It would be beneficial to know how many tickets are purchased via this source as a starting point.



- Aruna has contacted other local groups to see if they are willing to advertise our plays on their social media and obviously this would work vice versa.
- Keith raised a query re how do we generate more fresh air in the hall? The hall does have air conditioning but its noisy and opening the windows during the autumn/winter productions would be too cold. As this affects more than just our group, it will be discussed at a future committee meeting as this may be a question for PADCA.

Meeting closed at 10:10pm



Chairman's Report

It'll be a very short speech this year from me, as we've had a very short season!

While play readings continued on Zoom, it was always our intention to get back to performing live as soon as we were able to. After trying to stage Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers* in November and being scuppered by another lockdown, so as soon restrictions were lifted, we rescheduled our May production to the end of June for two socially distanced performances. I am pretty sure that we were one of the first groups to get back to staging live performances post pandemic. It was a huge undertaking for the group what with all the new rules and regulations and I'd like to thank everyone who helped backstage – I'll name check you all later! And many people were taking on these roles for the first time or after a long break, while having to adjust to working in a slightly different way to usual. Finally I must credit the remarkable Simon Cash and the cast for their dedication and devotion to the play, for keeping the momentum going on this production for almost 15 months from start to finish – very challenging.

So now is the moment when I thank everyone and hope I haven't forgotten anyone!

I was really struck when we did *Lost in Yonkers* and Simon organised a very professional staging meeting, in the main hall with all the backstage roles sat around summit style, just how many people it takes working behind the scenes to run the production. There's set design, directing, props, costumes, make up, set construction and destruction, set dressing, stage management, prompt, lighting, sound, box office and front of house, programme and handbill design, photography and publicity. Massive thanks therefore to: Simon, Orla, Sybil, Sue, Annie, Beryl, Tom, Jerome, Mike, Bryan, Chris, Sim, Terry, Max, Nigel, Aruna, Mark, Jon, Lea and myself. And to all the members who pay their subs, volunteer at set build and set take downs, FOH etc... Thanks must also go to Tony and Michele as auditors and Sue, our fabulous President, who will continue in the role. Thank you.

I would personally also like to thank the committee: Jax, Jon, Sue, Simon, Orla, Aruna, Anne and Sally. I know I always say this but I mean it, I honestly couldn't do this without you.

Two committee members – Jax and Simon- are stepping down this year and I'd like to take a moment to thank them both for the amazing contribution they have both made to helping run Pinner players for the last few decades. Jax has been secretary for 16 years and has always got on with the job in a quiet, confident way which lets you relax in the knowledge that what needs to be done will be done and done well. Simon has been a committee member for more years than I can remember (!) and given that he designs, directs and acts for the group and has served as Chairman in his time does more than enough without being a committee member too. We have some gifts from the committee – a token of our appreciation. Thank you again and enjoy getting your evenings back. And Jax, I know the move to Stewkley potentially means leaving the group as well but please come back and visit us!!

I personally don't think any/ many of us are still able to comprehend just what the last 18 months have done to us all. Who can say they came through it completely unscathed? Getting back to performing and staging plays again after a 16 month pause was a really big achievement for us and we should all be very proud. However, we still have a quite a few challenges ahead of us as we move forward in these post covid times.

During my time at Pinner Players there have always been peaks and troughs in terms of attracting new members, finding directors and finding plays to stage. I think we currently in a trough or rather I hope we are soon to emerge from it. We have lost a great many key members over the last few years and it is vital that we rejuvenate our membership base and grow again. We have already made efforts to do this: designing posters and flyers to be displayed here at the hall and elsewhere. A few weeks back we had a pitch at the Pinner Village Show where we promoted the group with said flyers and did card drop to collect names for our mailing list. We are introducing a new Communications Officer role to better focus on how we promote ourselves and our plays to the local community via the website, banners and social media. And I delighted to tell you that Mark has very kindly volunteered to take this on.

Can you remember why you joined Pinner Players? For majority of us it was the desire to act on stage. And yes that is obviously a big part of what we do and we will always need actors. But as a group, we also need directors, committee members and actually anyone who will volunteer and do. We need doers! Helping with props, costumes, lighting, prompting, FOH, set building - you name it, it needs someone to do it. To steal a line from the National Theatre: "Our ambition is limitless. Our resources our not". When I refer to resources – I mean people.

Finally, next year we are rescheduling our anniversary dinner that sees us celebrate 86 years of Pinner Players – we also need a sub ctte of volunteers to help organise that please! And what a great celebration that will be. As there is so much to be thankful and hopeful for. Pinner Players has an exciting future ahead and I really hope we are all still here doing it together.

Katherine Sayer, Chairman

September 2021



Secretary's Report

This has been another unusual year whereby the normal social activities have either been Zoomed or cancelled. The Christmas party was one such event that was held via Zoom and whilst not the same, did bring us together virtually for a glass or two and see the season in.

The New Year saw us still in times of uncertainty with no indication of when we would be able to return to the stage. Nothing else to do but follow the Government's advice and guidelines and review monthly. Thankfully, we were able to put on *Lost in Yonkers* albeit to a reduced audience, but it was a triumph, and everyone involved should be applauded.

Luckily, we were able to hold the Summer BBQ – the rain kept away and it was lovely to catch up with each other on a purely social basis. Many thanks to Simon and Cindy as ever for opening up their home to us all.

There will hopefully be a Christmas Ladies wot Lunch and the Christmas party will go ahead this year – bring on the games!

We have 43 paid up members; 8 Vice Presidents plus a scattering of "honorary" members who are invaluable to the group. Newcomers and interested persons are also included on the mailing list in the hope they will be encouraged to join and attend. A gentle reminder that subs are due – a annual direct debit can be set up very easily and then you don't need to think about it again!

We are also looking for ways to boost our membership which is looking a little on the low side currently. I know these are difficult times to encourage people to join and if anyone has any ideas or thoughts on this, do let a member of the committee know.

On a personal note, following our house move last year, I have reluctantly accepted I will need to step down as secretary – especially as things are returning to normal and in terms of the monthly committee meeting, which will revert to being held at a members' house rather than on Zoom.

I have enjoyed immensely being part of such an enthusiastic, passionate and supportive committee and have seen 4 Chairpersons during my years as Secretary. I will miss it very much, but I'm still a Pinner Player and look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Finally, keep well, stay safe and keep dancing.

This concludes my final Secretary's report..

Jackie Simeone, Secretary

September 2021

Pinner Players AGM September 2021 : Treasurer's Report

I think we can all agree that this has been a difficult year for our club, because of the continuing Covid 19 crisis. Usually we perform three productions a year, each one making a surplus. In this financial year we have performed one production which made a loss.

We were intending to perform "Lost In Yonkers" on 19th to 21st November 2020 but the government imposed a new set of lockdown rules and on 5th November we had to announce that the performance was cancelled, and we refunded the tickets of the few who had bought them. By then we had spent £90 to hire the PADCA lounge for rehearsals so that represented the loss on that production.

We performed the same play, "Lost In Yonkers", on 24th and 25th June, two nights instead of the usual three. We went to considerable trouble to make sure that our production was Covid-secure, with reduced seating, a one way system of entering and leaving the hall, all tickets purchased in advance and not at the door, and all refreshments brought to the audience seats rather than served within the Village Hall bar. As an experiment we had an online programme which you could read on your smartphone. A simplified paper programme was also available to those who wanted one. The play was a great success – impeccable performances from a very talented cast, directed by our inspirational Simon Cash. I sent out an audience survey to ask our audience if they were comfortable with our Covid precautions. The feedback from the audience was very encouraging – they enjoyed the play enormously, were glad to see live theatre again and felt very safe in the Hall with our Covid precautions. The net loss on the production was £286.92. The ticket price was £12 and perhaps we could have charged more. We did not sell coffees or programmes, or advertising space in our programme. With reduced seating, and over just two nights rather than three, we would not really have been giving our advertisers value for money. Our production this November will be rather expensive in terms of costume hire and I hope this meeting will agree that the committee can, at its discretion, increase the ticket price to a maximum of £15 per seat. That was agreed at last year's AGM.

Subscription income remains steady, £840 this financial year as against £850 last year. Donations this year amount to £2291.37 and the main reason for this impressive figure is that our beloved and late lamented Tim Hood bequeathed £2,000 to Pinner Players in his will. I was not proposing to earmark this sum for any specific purpose.

I recommend our subs remain at £20 for adult membership, £10 for student membership. These rates date from 2008 and I think are good value.

Last year we had a very substantial fund of money in our bank accounts, totalling £18,007.89 which I was encouraging the club to make good use of. As at year end August 2021 the total was similar: £17,961.50 thanks in large part to Tim Hood's generous donation. The club has spent £1,000 to purchase a lighting desk and lighting packs from Chris Cooper who has retired and is no longer able to do the lighting on our productions. It would be an option to create a Capital Account for this sum, but I have chosen not to do so, and I would be happy to discuss this if anyone wants to. In the new financial year we have just spent £4,192 on wood which we will be using to make new flats to replace our worn-out

flats, and we have spent £1,320 as a down payment towards our new lighting bar which will provide much better lighting for our “in the round” productions on the floor of the hall. Those sums will appear in next year’s accounts since they were spent after the beginning of the current financial year. What it does mean is that at the time of this AGM our bank balances are currently reduced to a total of £10,637.05.

That concludes the Treasurer’s Report and I would be happy to take questions.

Jon Grunewald, Treasurer

PINNER PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31st August 2021

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

EXPENSES	TY	LY	INCOME	TY	LY
AGM Expenses	45.00	45.00	Bank Interest	2.28	17.15
Capital items w/o	0.00	0.00	Donations	2291.37	215.00
Flowers/Gifts/Tributes	0.00	197.88	Hire of lights	0.00	50.00
Garage storage rental	792.50	750.37	Miscellaneous income	0.00	220.27
General postage expenses	102.60	23.40	PADCA rebate	0.00	0.00
Insurance	551.71	551.71	Productions	-376.92	-79.86
Miscellaneous expenses	311.68	347.58	Quiz Evening	0.00	0.00
PADCA Subscription	42.00	42.00	Subscriptions	840.00	850.00
Photographic expenses	0.00	17.64			
Sound and lighting hardware	1024.90	147.72			
Social Activities	145.79	53.72			
Stage Intercomm system	0.00				
Stationery expenses	18.78	6.42			
Website expenses	0.00	217.18			
 Surplus/Loss in the year	 -278.23	 -1233.51			
 TOTAL	 2756.73	 1272.56	 TOTAL	 2756.73	 1272.56

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Balance b/fwd from previous year	0.00		Depreciation	0.00	
			Balance c/fwd to next year		
			Balance written off this year	0.00	
 TOTAL	 0.00	 0.00	 TOTAL	 0.00	 0.00

CLIFF MEYLER STAGE FUND

Expenses in year	0.00		Donations in year	0.00	
Balance at year end	150.86				
 TOTAL	 150.86		 TOTAL	 0.00	

BALANCE SHEET

Net Worth b/fwd from previous year	18408.74	19642.25	Barclays Bank Business Account	10630.52	10628.24
Add this year	-278.23	-1233.51	Barclays Bank Current Account	7330.98	7379.65
Cliff Meyler Stage Fund	150.86	150.86	Payments in advance	319.87	551.71
			Petty Cash	0.00	0.00
 TOTAL	 18281.37	 18559.60	 TOTAL	 18281.37	 18559.60

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge, these figures represent a true statement of the accounts of Pinner Players Theatre Company.

Honorary Treasurer

Honorary Auditors

AKel & *H. Jewley pp*

Date 12/9/2021

PINNER PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY

YEAR TO THE 31st AUGUST 2021

PRODUCTION ACCOUNT

	Production A "Lost In Yonkers"	Production B "Lost In Yonkers"
	November	June
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Banner	0.00	0.00
Costumes & Wigs	0.00	128.58
After Show Party	0.00	0.00
Furniture	0.00	35.00
Hire of Hall	0.00	662.25
Hire of Lounge	90.00	405.00
Hire of Store	0.00	50.00
Lighting	0.00	216.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Postage - Leaflets	0.00	0.00
Printing - Leaflets	0.00	0.00
Printing - Programmes	0.00	68.00
Poster handbill distribution	0.00	0.00
Properties	0.00	52.11
Royalties	0.00	201.60
Scripts	0.00	0.00
Set Builders expenses	0.00	50.00
Transport expenses	0.00	0.00
Set Construction & Dressing	0.00	117.05
Sound	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	90.00	1985.59
<u>INCOME</u>		
Advertisements	0.00	0.00
Box Office (& donations)	0.00	1591.67
Coffee	0.00	0.00
Ice Creams	0.00	47.00
Programmes	0.00	0.00
Performance fees	0.00	60.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00	1698.67
NET SURPLUS	-90.00	-286.92