

Minutes of the NODA SE AGM held at the Playhouse Theatre, Whitstable, on Sunday 18th March, 2018.

Present: as per registered list.

Regional Councillor, Mrs. Kay Rowan, welcomed members and friends to the meeting, and thanked the Lindley Players for their hospitality and assistance, particularly Cheryl Mumford who coordinated all the performances, and the Chairman of Lindley Players - Peter Bressington. She then introduced the President of the National Operatic & Dramatic Association - Mr Nick Lawrence, and the regional representatives, as follows:

District 1	Dee Sharpe	District 12	Gloria Smith
District 2	Brenda Gower	District 13	Marie Coltman
District 3	Anne Lawson	District 14	Chris Horton
District 5	Gordon Harris	District 16	Rita Boffin
District 6	Cheryl Mumford	District 17	Mark Allen
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 18	Pauline Surrey
District 9	Jose Harrison	District 19	Jon Fox
District 10	Mark Donalds		

1. Apologies for Absence: Kath May-Miller, Caroline Tajasque, Jim & Eileen Hatley, Walton & Weybridge A.O.S., Philip Rainforth, Lorraine Palmer, Frant Pantomime & Dramatic Society, Greg & Brenda Gower, Chris Horton, Jackie Kenyon, Rita Boffin, Woodchurch Players, Overton Dramatic Society, Kat Wooton, Helen Saxton, Ian Llewellyn.

2. In Memoriam: The following long-standing members of societies in the SE Region have died this year. They were remembered with a minute's silence.
Philip Hall, Betty Packham, John McWilliams, Brenda Welch, Vincent Atwood.

3. Report of the Annual General Meeting. Minutes of the meeting held at Barnham Community Hall on Sunday 2nd July, 2017 had been circulated and posted on the NODA website. These were not read out.

4. Matters Arising: there were none and the Minutes were duly signed.

5. Councillor's Report:

“This year I have visited 33 societies and seen a very wide range of productions. Societies are widening their experiences wherever possible and challenging themselves. The main problem with modern shows is the ever-rising costs let alone the number of men required – the perennial problem. Without exception I was given a warm welcome for which I thank those societies most sincerely.

I mentioned last year the rise in standards of production and this year there seems to be no limit to the challenges people set themselves in doing more and more complicated productions and even small societies performing in a small village hall constantly aim to produce more complex productions with great ingenuity and success. The production teams are to be applauded for their innovation.

Throughout the year I have attended Council meetings in Warwick and Peterborough. I attended the National AGM in Bristol. During 2017 I was privileged to be part of the team which facilitated the move of the NODA Theatre Summer School to its new venue Yarnfield Conference Centre in Staffordshire. Despite the change more than 230 students attended from all over the UK and Europe. This year the figure, so far, is 221 students with some 50+ spaces still available for those still wavering. I look forward to meeting all those attending from the south east at Yarnfield in August.

We need more members to utilise the new NODA website and to ensure the details for their society are correct. The changeover to the new system has now been completed. One of the main problems has been the need for every society to log in again and reset their passwords. It remains an essential task of all societies to change contact details whenever changes occur on committees.

The South East Facebook page is beginning to be used more, but I am sure there are many societies who would benefit from spreading their news more widely.

NODA Today our magazine has had its ups and downs recently but is now on much smoother course with our new member of staff, Becky Owen-Fisher, who is our Marketing and Publishing Executive. She has some splendid ideas and recently led a very successful Editor's training. Keep your articles and especially photos coming for the South East pages of NODA Today. Alongside that there was training for our Treasurer Keith with the new Finance Manager and Mark Donalds benefitted from a session with Gordon Richardson and Dale Freeman concerning the NODA website. Dale Freeman has settled well into his role of Chief Operating Officer and there is a great feeling of everything moving forward with purpose.

Your committee always work very hard and I would like to thank them, on your behalf, for all their efforts including their unstinting support for me. Thank you too to the societies and individuals who support and promote NODA in all its activities. I wish everyone a very successful 2018. This is my report and I offer it for adoption."

6. Membership Secretary's Report: John Barnes reported that there were now 251 member societies in the region, and 83 individual members. Societies were asked to ensure that details of their NODA rep. were up to date, and were reminded that some subscriptions were overdue! Thanks were expressed to John for once again efficiently maintaining our records.

7. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no questions. Keith was thanked for all his hard work, particularly with all the changes to the bank account and to the system of reporting.

8. President's Address: - The President of NODA, Nick Lawrence, was welcomed to the meeting. He outlined the various roles of N.O.D.A. and stressed that it was a "service industry" and was there to help. Societies were urged to use the facilities provided by membership of N.O.D.A. for help with any queries or problems. He concluded with a memorable quote: "NODA is like manure – spread it around to make talent grow!"

9. Election of SE Councillor Kay Rowan – proposed by Nick Lawrence, under Rule 23 no other nominations having been received, Kay Rowan was duly elected to serve as Councillor for the South-East Region.

10. Election of Representatives for 2018-2019 – proposed en bloc by Kay Rowan

District 1	Mrs Dee Sharpe	District 12	Mrs E. Gloria Smith
District 2	Mrs Brenda Gower	District 13	Miss Marie Coltman
District 3	Mrs Anne Lawson	District 14	Mrs Chris Horton
District 5	Mr Gordon Harris	District 16	Mrs Rita Boffin
District 6	Miss Cheryl Mumford	District 17	Mr Mark Allen
District 7	Mrs Doreen Grierson	District 18	Mrs Pauline Surrey
District 9	Mrs Jose Harrison	District 19	Mr Jon Fox
District 10	Mr Mark Donalds		

11. Appointment of Officers 2018-2019

The south-east committee wish to appoint the following members:

Hon Treasurer	Mr Keith Smithers
Hon Secretary	Mrs Pauline Catterall
Hon Membership Secretary	Mr John Barnes

12. Appointment of Co-opted Members 2018-2019

The south-east committee wish to co-opt the following members:

Hon Editor	Mr Gregory Gower
Hon Awards Secretary	Mrs Margaret Coltman
Hon Web Manager	Mr Mark Donalds
Youth Advisor	Mrs Jackie Kenyon

13. Regional Conference 2019 – Sunday 24th March, 2019. – venue to be notified.

14. Any Other Business: Dale Freeman – Chief Operating Officer at NODA head office) outlined the new G.D.P.R. regulations which come into force at the end of May, and reminded members that there is a NODA fact sheet on this.

Thanks were expressed to all who had contributed to making the day a success and to members for promoting and supporting NODA within their societies.

Presentation of awards: The presentation of Poster & Programme Awards, Accolades of Excellence and Regional Awards then followed.