

# Minutes of the NODA SE AGM held at The Electric Theatre, Guildford

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2024.

**Present:** as per registered list.

Regional Councillor, Mrs. Kay Rowan, welcomed members and friends to the meeting, and thanked the staff of The Electric Theatre for their hospitality and assistance. She then introduced the President of the National Operatic & Dramatic Association – Christine Hunter Hughes, and the district representatives as follows:

District 1	Susanne Crosby	District 12	Gloria E Smith
District 2	Brenda Gower	District 13	Marie Coltman
District 3	Anne Lawson	District 14	Chris Horton
District 5	Gordon Harris	District 16	Christine Blow
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 17	Mark Allen
District 9	Keith Smithers	District 18	Pauline Surrey
District 10	Mark Donalds	District 19	Graham Botterill
		** absent	

**1. Apologies for absence:** Brighton Theatre Group, Camus, Opera S.E., Brenda Gower, Margaret Coltman, Chesil Theatre.

**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.

Barbara Wells, Roger Rowan, Roy Brown, Sue Telfer, Mick Mucklestone, Maurice Wilkins, Carol Ardley, Jean Edwards, David Turner.

## **3. Report of the Annual General Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.**

Minutes of the meeting 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:** " To begin with I would like to comment on a few individuals. I would like to officially welcome **Martin Sampson** to the team as Treasurer and thank him for his efficiency and attention to detail.

**John Barnes** continues to keep abreast of the changes in membership and regularly sends welcome messages to new groups and individuals. Do make sure you let him know of any changes in your society as well as amending the details on the NODA website.

**Mark Donalds** continues to have a dual role as Web Manager and Regional Rep. If there is anything you wish to have added to the Regional Section of the NODA website please send your request to him. All the details of today's meeting plus photos will appear in that location.

**Mike Mullen** continues to find a niche in his busy schedule to act as our Media Guru to help with the NODA South East Facebook page. Please remember to advertise your productions on the NODA website.

**Chris Horton** has done a marvellous job of drumming up articles and photos for NODA Today over the past year. Could your society provide an interesting article together with some photos? The dates for the next edition are imminent, so please exercise those literary juices and write an article.

The Youth Coordinator title is fairly new and I am thrilled to report that both of ours are ready and able to assist youth groups or sections and would love to hear of any help they could give to our thriving groups.

Your Regional Committee met 3 times in 2023 via Zoom and so far this year have met once by Zoom and once in person. Whilst it is not ideal to meet via zoom it does attract more attendees due to other commitments.

I attended 4 Council meetings in 2023 travelling to Peterborough or Warwick with only one via Zoom. The National Conference in Preston, when Christine became President, was held in September and I was privileged to join her for that event.

I continue to be involved in the organisation of Summer School. Sadly, I was unable to attend the actual school in 2023 due to my husband's failing health but I managed to keep involved with regular chats. I look forward to meeting up with everyone again, and hope that we have a great representation from the south east this year.

I travelled over 3000 miles during 2023 and visited 48 societies to see shows or present awards. Amongst those visits I wrote 14 reports on the productions. Yours reps viewed and reported on a total of over 300 shows during the year.

During 2023 almost 150 awards for service were purchased by societies thus celebrating the many hours and indeed years that members put into their hobby whilst at the same time contributing to one of the NODA income streams.

Your Regional Committee is a very dedicated team, and I would like to thank them on your behalf for their contribution to the activities of NODA in support of your societies.

We continue to be amazed at the standard of productions which continues to rise significantly as do the aspirations of production teams throughout the region, and as a committee we are truly privileged to be able to share in all your successes. Thank you all for the support you give NODA in all its activities, whilst we in turn support both societies and individuals to the best of our ability".

## **6. Membership Secretary's Report: NODA South East Membership Report for 2023**

At the end of 2023 the membership stood at 268 comprising 225 societies and 43 individual/joint members/Life members.

At today's date the membership totals 254 comprising 213 societies and 41 individuals etc.

Society membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March

Individual/Joint Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Members were reminded to send details of any changes to their committees to the NODA Head Office and NODA SE Membership Secretary.

There were no questions and John Barnes was thanked for all his hard work.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** –. The South East region held no chargeable events in the year, so received no Income other than an allocation from central funds to enable the payment of costs and expenses. The South East region also has very limited costs. The breakdown of Expenses and Costs for the year is as follows:

Show visits:	£ 2,679
Workshops:	£ 25
Regional conference	£ 869
Bank Charges	£ 36
Total Expenditure	£ 3,609

These are the only items in Receipts and Expenditure for the year.

**8. President's Address:** Good Morning – I am delighted to be back with my friends in NODA South East, celebrating our wonderful hobby with so many like-minded people.

There are some changes afoot within NODA at the moment to ensure that NODA remains relevant, visible and valued in our every changing, post-covid world, and you will be advised of these as soon as we know, but thanks to our hard working and dedicated HO team for all the work they do to assist us in all our endeavours.

I would also like to thank your Regional Councillor, Kay, and your regional team for their unstinting help and encouragement to the many groups that make up NODA South East, and for arranging this AGM and Celebration Event. The AGM is a legal requirement, whilst the celebration, is a celebration of NODA and of our hobby; but so much work goes into the organisation of these wonderful gatherings. In fact, without the regional representatives and all the regional teams I am not sure there would be a NODA for us to celebrate.

Some of you will remember that I was the NODA National President in 2019 and 2020, so I now hold the dubious honour of being the only NODA National President in peacetime to serve 2 consecutive terms as President, but still did not manage to serve for a full year. So, I am back again, and this time I hope to serve a full year. I have been lucky to visit so many societies, (123 to date) and see so many different, varied and wonderfully performed productions, and been warmly welcomed by each society.

This is a good opportunity to remind everyone that any and all NODA Societies can invite the President to their productions. I am always delighted to be invited, and if I can possibly come, I will. However, it is best to get in early as I have already had to remind myself several times that, no matter how hard I try, I cannot be in two places at the same time.

I think we have the best hobby in the world, providing as it does, friendship, camaraderie and a real sense of achievement as you continue to entertain local audiences to such a high standard. Carry on the great work. Thank you, NODA South East!

**9. Election of S.E. Councillor – Kay Rowan** – proposed by Christine Hunter Hughes – 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 Regional Representatives 2024-2025: Proposed and re-elected en bloc:**

District 1	Susanne Crosby	District 12	Gloria E Smith
District 2	Brenda Gower-absent	District 13	Marie Coltman
District 3	Anne Lawson	District 14	Chris Horton
District 5	Gordon Harris	District 16	Christine Blow
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 17	Mark Allen
District 9	Keith Smithers	District 18	Pauline Surrey
District 10	Mark Donalds	District 19	Graham Botterill

## **11. Appointment of officers 2024-2025**

Hon Treasurer	Martin Sampson
Hon Secretary	Pauline Catterall
Hon Membership Secretary	John Barnes
Youth Coordinator East	Susanne Crosby
Youth Coordinator West	Mark Allen

## **12. Appointment of co-opted members 2024-2025**

Hon Editor	Chris Horton
Hon Awards Secretary	
Hon Web Manager	Mark Donalds
Media Guru	Mike Mullen

## **13. Regional Conference 2025 Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (to be confirmed)**

**14.** We have received a message from the Chief Operating Officer Dale Freeman and I propose that a copy is made available on the South East section of the NODA website and also in the next newsletter.

The salient points include a reminder of all the NODA benefits, plus an appreciation of the NODA awards available. A whole section refers to future changes coming over the next 12 months including the new brand strategy. This includes new marketing and branding, enhanced volunteer training programme, new investments in technology and website design plus improved social media communications some of which are already in motion. Details will be announced at the end of September during the National Conference in Plymouth. The challenge will be for all of us, both committee and members, to make NODA relevant, visible and valued so that we can all thrive and aspire to be the best we can.

**15. Any other business:** Thanks were expressed to Christine Hunter Hughes and 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.