

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

Sunday 11th June, 2023.

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 – Nick Lawrence 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 17	Mark Allen
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 18	Pauline Surrey
District 9	Keith Smithers	District 19	Graham Botterill
District 10	Mark Donalds	** absent	

1. Apologies for absence: Brenda & Gregory Gower, Alan Backhouse, Philip & Elizabeth Knight, Pamela Depledge, Kevin & Lorna Wilson, Chrissie Blow, Kay Green, Sally Macdonald, Susanne Crosby, Swanmore Drama Group.

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.
Mabel Mayrick, Peggy Pearson, Virginia Hayden, Ian Perry, Betty Richards, Lance Milton, Helen Mills, Sue Treacher, Bob Cousins, Nigel Finch.

3. Report of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th June, 2022.

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: " I wish to welcome Martin Sampson, who has agreed to be our Regional Treasurer - following the death of our previous treasurer, Nigel Finch, and welcome Susanne Crosby as Regional Rep for District 1 following the demise of Lance Milton. Mike Mullen stood down as Regional Youth Coordinator during the year, and we hope to announce the appointment of two Youth Coordinators – one for the East and one for the West. Two long serving members retired during the year and were presented with certificates of appreciation – Margaret Coltman and Gregory Gower. Chris Horton has taken on the role of Regional Editor. Districts 5 & 6 have been amalgamated to form District 5 – Kent Medway and Thanet. Cheryl Marksford, Rep for District 6, requested a change to Assistant Rep alongside Gordon Harris. So, although there will now be 31 groups in District 5 there will be three reps to give all the support required - Regional Rep Gordon Harris, and 2 assistants Cheryl Marksford and Mary Wills. The Regional Committee met by Zoom in February, May, September and in person in November. Whilst meeting in person is preferable, meeting via Zoom leads to a higher level of attendance. NODA Theatre Summer School got back into the swing of things at the end of July and welcomed back many returnees but also the usual approximately 25% of newbies. This year's Summer School is rapidly filling up but there are a few places left.

The National Conference in Plymouth, when Nick became President, was held in September albeit with lower numbers than pre Covid. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend following my accident at the beginning of September, but by the end of November, I was back visiting shows, while Regional Reps visited over 250 shows. Communication is the bane of my life, and I would encourage each society to update their details with NODA at least on an annual basis.

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.

You will notice that throughout I have avoided the word amateur. Yes, we do indulge in a pursuit in an unpaid capacity however productions these days are far from incompetent or inept in fact several of those that I have seen this year would grace the professional stage with ease. We will continue to support you. Please continue to do what you do - enjoy your hobby and entertain your audiences with pride. Thank you all for the support you give NODA in all its activities whilst we support both societies and individuals to the best of our ability. This is my report and I offer it for adoption.”

6. Membership Secretary's Report: The Membership Secretary's Report had been circulated and placed on the NODA website prior to the meeting. There were no questions and John Barnes was thanked for all his hard work.

7. Treasurer's Report: – We do not have a formal report this year, following two years without a Treasurer however there is very little activity apart from Celebration Day. All our figures have been part of the NODA audit which has successfully been completed for 2022. Should anyone require further details I will endeavour to find out the answers.

8. President's Address: Like your home society, NODA is looking forward to a bright future after the lockdowns. We recently had an independent survey taken of our activities and we are now in the exciting process of planning for the future. Your region will be planning various exciting events and workshops which we trust will help to continue to inspire you to maintain high standards in performance.

Our C.O.O., Dale Freeman, has been working his magic and we have been able to rekindle some good relationships with the rightsholders. We will keep talking to them and keep raising our general concerns. Many of the most popular shows are owned by American companies and our local rightsholders can only pass on the licences given to them. NODA appreciates that this does restrict our members, but keep talking to your rightsholder and they will be happy to help you out as much as is possible.

As you will be well aware, NODA will be holding its annual Summer School at Yarnfield Park in July. I have been attending the School for many years. It's amazing how much there is still to learn about our hobby. Every year I am reminded of techniques I had forgotten to use, or introduced to new techniques being used in the profession. Financial support is available if the courses stretch your finances. Talk to Councillor Andy or your local representative and consider advancing your skill by a week with fellow NODA members.

I have been enjoying my trips about the country to see productions and celebrate special occasions with you. My congratulations go to all societies celebrating special anniversaries this year. On particular pleasure this year has been the number of drama productions I have been privileged to enjoy. The D in NODA is especially precious and the Immediate Past President, the Vice President and I are keen to support as many drama groups as possible.

You deliver a magnificent community service by sharing your hobby with your local community. As President I get to sit amid audiences which are so enthusiastic to share these special events with their families and neighbours. It is particularly stressful at the present with

our patrons leaving it later and later to book their seats, but I encourage you to be “Bold and Resolute” and trust them to turn out. Your local community loves coming to the local am drams and it does form a vital part of the neighbourhood spirit.

I hope you enjoy your day together. Take every opportunity to network and pick the brains of your colleagues while we are all together.

9. Election of S.E. 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 Regional Representatives 2023-2024: 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 17	Mark Allen
District 7	Doreen Grierson	District 18	Pauline Surrey
District 9	Keith Smithers	District 19	Graham Botterill
District 10	Mark Donalds		

11. Appointment of officers 2023-2024

Hon Treasurer	Martin Sampson
Hon Secretary	Pauline Catterall
Hon Membership Secretary	John Barnes

12. Appointment of co-opted members 2023-2024

Hon Editor	Chris Horton
Hon Awards Secretary	
Hon Web Manager	Mark Donalds
Media Guru	Mike Mullen
Drama Advisor	Margaret Field

13. Any other business: 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.