

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association held on Saturday 28th September 2024 at 2.30pm at The Crowne Plaza Hotel Plymouth

Officials Present:

Christine Hunter Hughes	National President
Graham Liverton	Vice President
Ian G. Cox	Chairman of Trustees
Stuart McCue-Dick	Vice Chairman & Regional Councillor Scotland
Tessa Davies	Regional Councillor East
Pam Armstrong	Regional Councillor London
Peter Oliver	Regional Councillor North
Leslie Smith	Regional Councillor North East
Kay Rowan	Regional Councillor South East
Graham Liverton	Regional Councillor South West
Andy Brown	Regional Councillor West Midlands
Jacquie Stedman	Chairman of Summer School
Nick Lawrence	Life Member
John Barnes	Life Member

In Attendance:

Dale Freeman	Chief Operating Officer
Rob Williams	Marketing and Publishing Executive

Total member attendees/online/postal votes – 81

Item 1: Confirmation of the Notice of the Meeting

NODA President, Christine Hunter Hughes, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In accordance with Clause 11 C 2 of the Constitution, no resolutions had been received by the due date. Formal notice of the AGM had been sent out and the meeting was quorate.

An updated Agenda was available on the NODA website and copies were available on the day.

Item 2: Apologies for absence

Chris Ingram	Past President
Gordon Richardson	Life Member
Wyn Mason	IM and Honorary Member
Sharon Davies	Regional Councillor Wales & Ireland
Andy McNicholas	Regional Councillor North West
Jules Jones	Regional Councillor East Midlands
Feargal Cavanagh	President of the Association of Irish Musical Societies

Item 3: In Memoriam

As a mark of respect for those who passed away during the past year, and whose contribution to amateur theatre was gratefully acknowledged a short verse was read.

Mentioned specifically were:

Scotland

Bert Lumsden – Regional Rep (District 2 Scotland) 1984–2003, Regional Councillor (Scotland) 2003–2008 & NODA President – 2008–2009 & 2013–2014

Southwest

Janet Elworthy – District 6 Rep member of the Southwest committee for over 25 years, Lyn Caygill – District 5 Rep and Tony Pomeroy – Former Treasurer

Item 4: Minutes of the last AGM held on 16th September 2023

It was confirmed that copies had been circulated prior to the meeting and were included with the Annual Review, both of which were sent on 5th September 2024. There were no amendments to the minutes.

Adoption of the minutes:

Proposer: Stuart McCue Dick

Seconder: Tessa Davies

In favour – 77

Against – 1

Abstentions – 3

The motion was carried. NODA President, Christine Hunter Hughes, signed the minutes.

Item 5: Adoption of the Council's Report for the period ending 31st December 2023

The Annual Report was presented by Ian G Cox, Chairman of Trustees, as per the AGM Book 2024, including a report by Jacquie Stedman, Chairman of NODA Theatre Summer School.

Christine proposed a motion to accept the Council's Reports as a true record of the year's activities of the Charity's Annual Report.

Seconder – Leslie Judd

In favour – 79

Against – 0

Abstentions – 2

The motion was carried.

Item 6: Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

There were no questions from the floor. The President proposed a motion to adopt the accounts as a true record.

Seconder: Robin Kelly

In favour – 78

Against – 0

Abstentions – 3

The motion was carried

Item 7: To Appoint the CIO's Auditors in accordance with Clause 11 (1)(b)(vi)

The Council proposed:
Azets Audit Services
Westpoint, Lynch Wood
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire
PE2 6FZ

Seconder: Katie Jones

In favour – 77

Against – 0

Abstentions – 4

The motion was carried

Item 8: To declare the numbers of Membership, in accordance with Clause 11 (1)(b)(iii).

The membership numbers were displayed on the screen.

The Council proposed the annual subscription payable for membership year as below, inclusive of VAT.

REGION	2023	2018	2023	2023
	Groups	Ind Totals	Hon	Life
East	223		1	15
East Midlands	136		1	6
London	175		1	15
North	85		0	6
North East	157		2	17
North West	239		0	18
Scotland	155		2	43
South East	226		1	9
South West	228		0	5
Wales /Ireland	101		2	8
West Midlands	160		1	7
Overseas	3		0	0
Non Performing Groups (Nationally)	24		-	-
Schools & Colleges	22		-	-
Corporate	11		-	-
	1945	0	11	149

Seconder: Paul Holgate

In favour – 79

Against – 0

Abstentions – 2

The motion to accept these membership numbers was carried

Item 9: Annual Subscription Rates for 2025 in accordance with Clause 11 (1)(b)(iv)

Individual Subscriptions are effective from 1st October 2024 on a rolling subscription, Group Subscriptions are for the twelve months 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The Council proposed that the annual subscription payable for this membership year inclusive of VAT are as follows.

Subscription rates from 1st April 2025	
Band AA (Non-performing)	£55.00
Band A	£90.00
Band B	£150.00
Band C	£205.00
Band D	£237.50
Band E	£260.00
Band F	£299.00

Subscription rates from 1st October 2024	
Individual	£36.00
Joint	£45.00
Schools, Colleges & University Membership	£60.00

Christine noted that an extra band has been added for group membership, and that Individual and Joint Membership fees remained unchanged.

Seconder: Andy Gill

In favour – 77

Against – 2

Abstentions – 2

The motion to accept these fees was carried

Item 10: NODA Ltd Board report

Following the announcement at the last AGM that the Chairman of NODA Ltd would be standing down, our trading arm remains in place with only insurance under its responsibility. All other activities have been transferred to CIO.

Item 11: To state the Chairman of Trustees for the years 2024/2025, in accordance with Clause 18 (5).

The current Chairman, Ian G. Cox will continue in post until September 2025, as will Vice Chairman, Stuart McCue-Dick.

Item 12: To Accept the proposed amendments to the NODA Constitution in accordance with Clause 28 of the NODA Constitution

All the amendments and constitutional changes, as proposed by Council in July 2024, were contained in the delegate pack. The online/postal votes were split by the following categories:

Proposed Change to Constitution	In Favour	Against	Abstentions
Grammar	31	1	0
Membership	30	0	1
Meetings	30	1	1
Trustees (12)	30	2	1
Trustees (15)	30	1	1
Trustees (18)	31	0	1
Trustees (18.5)	31	0	1

Christine Hunter Hughes confirmed that the in person meeting wished to vote on a motion to accept the changes en bloc.

Seconder – Rob Williams

In favour – 46

Against – 2

Abstentions – 1

The motion was carried

Item 13: The Presidential Address

President Christine Hunter Hughes delivered the Presidential Address. She will present the President's Award at a later date.

Item 14: President of the Association of Irish Musical Societies

Christine Hunter Hughes explained that usually at this point in the meeting, President of AIMS, Feargal Cavanagh, would be invited to address the meeting, but unfortunately because of illness, he and his wife, Annette, were unable to attend on this occasion.

Item 15: To declare Regional Councillors for the year 2024–2025 in accordance with Clause 11 (1)(b)(v)

The individuals were asked to stand as their names were read out.

NODA East – Mrs Tessa Davies

NODA London – Mrs Pamela Armstrong

NODA North – Mr Peter Oliver

NODA North East – Mr Leslie Smith

NODA Scotland – Mr Stuart McCue Dick

NODA South East – Mrs Kay Rowan

NODA South West – Mr Matthew Heaton

NODA West Midlands – Mr Andy Brown

NODA Wales & Ireland – Mrs Sharon Davies (absent)

NODA East Midlands – Ms Jules Jones (absent)

NODA North West – Mr Andy McNicholas (absent)

Christine Hunter Hughes welcomed new Councillor, Matt Heaton and presented him with the regalia.

Item 16: To elect, in accordance with Clause 11(1)(b)(v), Life Members of the Association to serve on the Council

Thanks were expressed to outgoing Life Members, Nick Lawrence, Gordon Richardson and John Barnes. Special tributes were expressed to John Barnes, who stepped down because of the '85 years old' rule and a gift was presented to him.

Mrs Jacquie Stedman was proposed by Council as Life Member on Council.

Seconder:: Mike Smith

In favour – 80

Against – 0

Abstentions – 1

The motion was carried

Item 17: To elect the nominees of the Council for Honorary Membership of the Association in accordance with 11.1.(b)v.

Nomination by Council: Brenda Gower – South East 2

Seconder: Rob Williams

In favour 49

Against 0

Abstentions 0 (no online/postal voting for this motion)

The motion was carried. Kay Rowan, Regional Councillor South East, accepted the medal on her behalf.

Item 18: To declare the election of the Vice President and the President of the CIO for the year 2024–2025, in accordance with Clause 18(6)

The Vice President for the year 2024–2025 was declared at Kay Rowan.

NODA President presented the Vice President's Badge to Kay Rowan.

The new President for 2024/5 was declared as Graham Liverton and Christine Hunter Hughes invested him with the Presidential regalia. She also presented a President's Consort medal to Ann Liverton.

Chairman Ian G Cox invited the new President of NODA to speak. The new President, Graham Liverton, addressed the meeting as per the AGM Book 2024.

Item 19: To confirm, in accordance with Clause 18(9), the nominee of the Council for Life Membership of the Association.

As the Past President Christine Hunter Hughes already holds Life Membership of NODA CIO this item was not required. However, she was presented with her 65-year long service award by new President, Graham Liverton, who then concluded of the formal part of the meeting and handed the meeting to Chairman, Ian G Cox.

Item 20: Presentation of National Poster and Programme Awards

The Chairman, Ian G. Cox, then announced the winners of the poster and programme awards as listed below and President, Graham Liverton, presented the

awards to those present.

POSTER

Winner – GUYS & DOLLS East Cheshire Musical Theatre Company Northwest
Runner Up – TOWARDS ZERO Portishead Players – Katie Jones collected the prize
on behalf of Portishead Players Southwest

PROGRAMMES

Barnes

Winner – THIS HAPPY BREED The Playhouse Theatre East Midlands
Runner up – FRANKENSTEIN A MONSTER IN PARIS Oldbury Rep – Andy Brown
collected the prize on behalf of Oldbury Rep West Midlands

Perkins

Winner – ANYTHING GOES The Norbury Theatre West Midlands
Runner Up – WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION Neston Players Northwest

Peacock

Winner – THE WIND AND THE WILLOWS Tavistock Musical Theatre Company – This
prize was collected in person by a representative of the group Southwest
Runner up – KINKY BOOTS Carlton Operatic Society East Midlands

Item 21: Close of meeting and date and place for next AGM in 2025

Ian G Cox announced that the next Annual General Meeting will be held on 27th
September 2025 as part of a NODA celebration day in Winchester.