



LTG Northern AGM

Bolton Little Theatre October 2023

The meeting opened 14:35 in Bolton Little Theatre

Present:

Jo Matthews, LTG Chair, The Questors Theatre, Ealing
Nick Morley, LTG Vice-Chair, Sinodun Players, Corn Exchange, Wallingford
Anne Gilmour, LTG National Secretary, The Questors Theatre, Ealing
Emyr Rhys-Jones, LTG Northern Secretary, Theatr Fach, Llangefni
Kevin Spence, LTG PRO, Doncaster
Michael Smith, LTG NLO, Durham
Michael Shipley, LTG Hon Associate, Bolton Little Theatre
Philip Bradley, LTG Hon Associate People's Theatre, Newcastle
Sheila Cooper, LTG Representative Committee Member, People's Theatre, Newcastle
Brian Stoner, LTG Treasurer, Bingley
Wendy Smith, Durham
David Walton, Bingley
Graham Mitchell, Joseph Rowntree, York
Dan Shrimpton, Joseph Rowntree, York
Jenny Gore, Hebden Bridge
Gilly Walker, Hebden Bridge
Rosie Bond, Ilkley
Julie Johnson, Halifax
Sue Tunley, Grove Park, Wrexham
Mike Rogerson, Wilmslow Green Room
Paul Bury, CHADS
David Wood, Carlisle Green Room
Ian Bowden, Altringham
Ron Markwick Westovians, South Shields
Margaret Bennett, Chester
John Powell, Nantwich
Apologies: Elaine & Steve Pratt, CHADS. Cathy Bennett Ryan, Caxton GRIMSBY. Margaret & Ray Mann SOUTHPORT .Tony Parker, WORKINGTON. Caroline Chapman, Royalty SUNDERLAND. Sheryl Haydock-Howorth, Carver MARPLE. Natasha Binder ,PENRITH . Gill Corteen, ECCLESFIELD Priory Players.

As is traditional we started the meeting with a Round of Applause for all those we have lost in our own theatres with special mention of our dear friend Sandra Simpson who had invited us to Bolton, directed the play and died suddenly last week.

Minutes of last AGM held at Carlisle Oct 2022 approved and seconded as correct.

Emyr Rhys -Jones , Northern LTG secretary read out his Regional Report as follows.

I write this report sat in my little theatre while a professional group is setting up for their performance this evening . It makes me think how lucky these paid groups are to have theatres like ours to perform in for smaller audiences and that we are a backbone to what they do ,as well as supporting them by lending them various items that they don't have with them but our old ,well stocked theatres will have.

I do browse on our websites and it is good to see that our Northern LTG Theatres are now back to normal with a good variety of plays being performed.

Sadly, I have not managed to get to as many theatres in the North as I had hoped that I would. I was lucky enough to get through the snow and watch a wonderful matinee performance of The Revlon Girl at Ilkley Playhouse where the cast could do a better South Walian accent than me.

I was also honoured to be able to see an excellent production of the World Premiere amateur production of Sheila's Island by Tim Firth at Chester Little Theatre which had been directed by their LTG Rep Margaret Bennett. Sadly, one of the cast had a close bereavement on the day of the Premier however that part was well acted/read by the actress who would have been the prompt and it did not affect the performance of a highly enjoyable show.

I should say I have also visited the following theatres without anyone being home (Yes I should have called first) Penrith,(on a tour) Nantwich (Food Festival) and Wilmslow (Mother's cataracts)

I should also like to congratulate the Green Room Theatre, Wilmslow for recently getting the wonderful Sue Johnson (Brookside, Royle Family , Waking the Dead) as their Patron.

I have taken a 6 month break from my Inspectorate job and therefore - I can be in Panto !! I have not acted in my theatre for 15 years so it is such a joy to be back in the thick of it. I'm going to be playing the King in Cinderella .

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our 2023 Northern LTG Conference by kind invitation of Bolton Little Theatre in October where we have a number of interesting demonstrations and talks . Also to let you know that the 2024 Northern LTG Conference will be in Grimsby at the kind invitation of the Caxton Players.

Jo Matthews -

Have a memories book and if you would like to write a few lines about Sandra do please catch me and write a few words - anonymous or name and theatre.

If you have not yet sent Jo pictures for possible inclusion in the LTG Yearbook with name of photographer and production.

Jo wanted to acknowledge how hard working Carol Butler, Bolton Little Theatre has been given the sad circumstances so do please thank Carol for her hard work

14:44 Nick Morley - Vice opened the **Open Forum** - Sheila Cooper, Peoples asked if theatres have a policy on an armoury and how to store weapons and if cutlery is a weapon? . Anne Gilmour (AG) said they had an armoury at their theatre. ABTT spoke at National Conference about their guidance and how you look after them and store them. Rhys said you should keep them secure but let police know if you are using a gun. Jo noted that Stage Manager should track the progress of anything like a weapon. Anne Gilmour said some local authorities may require special things, mention was made of ABTT yellow book and its use for technical matters. Kevin Spence mentioned use of special weapons and a designated

armourer for tracking the gun etc. AG mentioned the big knife in the plays Sheila and Neville's Islands and how it was treated. Westovians - have replica guns and should be locked away and that one of their guns had to be locked away and handed in because it could be converted to a useable gun.

Sue Tunley, Wrexham - had spoken to several people that they should hire a manager - are there other theatres with around 170 seats that have paid manager ?- Bingley, Ilkley? - and Sue would speak to them. Jo noted you move into a world of HR when you employ someone and it's a big thing so get hints and tips. There would need to be very clear about the role and scope of the job. Phil Bradley(PB) moved onto the role of hires and external revenue and also have an odd job man. Its a role they are there to service the hires and their salary comes from that pot. Mentioned Jackie at Crescent as a theatre with paid employees. Brian need to be aware of the relationship between the paid employee and the volunteers. PB noted their members are paid when they service a hire - FOH, lighting, . Bingley - volunteers working on a let are entitled to be paid including bar and FOH. PB said it was not a conflict between being on paid role and volunteer role. Todmorden Hippodrome - have a system where they are paid if there is let in - all bar staff FOH etc. Westovians give out bar vouchers if you are serving but PB noted they are taxable and should be declared. Bolton Little Theatre - are a charity. on Sat 4 Nov at Rugby - we will reprise an employment presentation we did at Stables. Nick noted that they are a charity are limited - Todmorden went down CIO route.

PPL / PPRS issues - Rhys questioned their role and what the bill is for. Steve Pratt is an expert on this and there is Grey Paper on this. They are based in Leicester and Kevin noted they will respond to phone calls. Jo - Did a Creative Lives Zoom on this subject Julie, Halifax - they have a person who notes all the music used and they pay based on that.

LTG Honorary Associate certificates were awarded to Caroline Chapman , Royalty Theatre , Sunderland and Steve Pratt of CHADS , both had sent apologies and they will be taken to them.

Rhys thanked everyone for coming and for all their efforts during the year ,this makes his work easier.

The Conference and Open Forum were closed.