



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 42nd SEASON

Held on Thursday 25th May 2023 from 8.00 pm at
The Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking.

Present

Ian McGlashan – Chairman – via Zoom
Steve Willson – Hon Treasurer
Stephen Lock – Hon Membership Secretary
Eugene Smith – Acting Secretary

Other Committee members

John Myall (Projectionist); Ishret Mirza (Film Bookings), Michael Widdup

A further 19 members and 13 guests were also in attendance.

1. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Committee members Barbara Millington (Hon Secretary), Jon Millington and Michael Hipkins (Film Notes) and also from Freda Bishop.
2. **Minutes** from the prior meeting held on 26th May 2022 were not available
3. Iain delivered his **Chairman's report** (a copy of which was projected on the Hall screen and is appended to these minutes).

He noted that this has been a particularly difficult season, with lower membership driving a large financial deficit for the year. The popularity of the Club had suffered from enduring COVID anxiety, changing routines post-lockdowns and the increased availability of streaming channels. With an ageing clientele and likely retirements from the Committee, he feared for the Club's future. Given increasing film and hall hire costs, the Committee had agreed to increase the membership fee for next season by £10 to £58, with the guest rate rising by £1 to £6 per film.

He urged members to spread the word about the Club's value and friendly ambience and to bring guests/friends to screenings.

A lively discussion ensued, highlighting the need for further local advertising and publicity. The Club still lacks any social media expertise. A show of hands confirmed that most attendees did not use the Club's website. The Committee

had already identified a list of local organisations/groups and publications to target and would be leafletting details of the new Season in selected areas.

Iain concluded that it was a difficult time with no easy or immediate solution, but that the Club should be able to operate for at least the next season.

4. Steve was invited to present his **Treasurer's report** (again, projected at the meeting and appended to these minutes).

Allowing for likely revenues and costs to end-June, the Club's income for the last 12 months would sum to £2,466 (against £2,915 in the prior year), as membership dipped and income from tea and cake sales fell in sympathy. Expenses at £4,213 were £1,289 higher than last year, mainly higher Hall hire costs as a prior payment-in-advance to support car park work unwound, but also reflecting the impact of inflation on film hire costs and insurance. There had been the cost of two double-bill presentations this season.

The annual deficit of £1,747 had been covered from the savings account. At end-June 23, the cash balances are expected to sum to £5,227. Steve concluded that it was essential to recruit more members.

Members and guests were invited to comment. The cost of printing the film notes (£295 or income from 5 members) was queried, with suggestions that these only be available on-line (or sent out via email) so that members could print off their own copies if they wished, and that reaction summaries be projected before the next show. It was noted that printing fewer copies of the notes would offer a minimal saving as most of the cost is in set-up. By show of hands, nearly all attendees would be prepared to forgo the hard copy notes. The Committee would consider the proposal.

Iain confirmed that the Chertsey Film Society has not resurfaced post COVID and that other Clubs have also experienced a decline in activity.

5. Stephen was invited to present his **Membership Report**. The Club had 39 members this season (easily the lowest he could recall). Average attendance at shows had been 26 members and 6 guests. He noted that total guest attendance was up on prior year and that "Elvis" had drawn the largest audience for the season. He emphasised that even with the price increase for Season 43, this still represented remarkable value, at an average cost of £3.40/film.
6. The **Members' reaction** scores were projected (as shown on page 4 of the notes for "Dream Horse").
7. In the absence of any other candidates or volunteers, the following individuals were **re-elected to their positions on the Committee**

Ian McGlashan – Chairman
Steve Willson – Hon Treasurer
Stephen Lock – Hon Membership Secretary
Barbara Millington – Hon Secretary

Proposed by Phill Boylett and seconded by Sheila Coles.

Other Committee members had expressed their willingness to continue.

8. Any Other Business

Given the Club's position, the Committee were urged to consider a longer and more detailed discussion on the future at the next AGM. It was suggested that the AGM be held separately without the pressure to conclude to allow the film to be shown; or that the AGM start earlier. It was also requested that reports be made available to members before the meeting. The Committee undertook to consider these requests.

Members and guests were invited to make any additional comments, suggestions or observations on this week's reaction sheets.

The meeting closed at 08:50 pm

Eugene Smith
Acting Secretary