

Minutes of Committee Meeting - 17 January 2023

Present: Hannah Bradley Croall
Wendy Brindle
Martin Foreman
Alma Forsyth
James Scott
Alastair Smith
Kate Stephenson
Claire Wood

1. Apologies: Siobhan McGovern
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Hannah and seconded by Martin and Wendy.
3. **Tunnel Vision update:** Being among the judges for the SCDA one act play festival, Kate left the meeting for this item. Martin reported that director, Claire M, had informed him that rehearsals were well underway, confirmed by James who is in the cast. Set design, lighting and sound had been simplified and were in hand. Hannah drew attention to the licence which EGTG has for use of commercial songs. For sound effects, however, we should search for those which are rights free. Set builder, Alastair, will mention this to Claire M at their next meeting.
4. **Copenhagen update:** The production dates have been moved to the week of 14 to 20 May 2023. Claire W and Alma reported an excellent turnout for the table read on 12 January, which was most encouraging for director, Ross Hope. Auditions will take place on 19 and 22 January. Lighting expert, Gordon Hughes, will be part of the production team. Claire W will contact the Roxy regarding our contract for the upstairs venue. Hannah confirmed it should not be subject to the same profit-sharing arrangement applied to use of its main hall. Ross and Hannah will be meeting soon to discuss publicity.
5. **Fringe 2023 update:** Wendy reminded us that we need to register our two Fringe productions (*crackers* and *Shakers*) by 8 March in order to benefit from 'early bird' rates. She will, therefore, need information from the directors, Claire W and Hilary Spiers. In the meantime, Claire W will contact Hilary S regarding dates for a read through and auditions (probably in April). A production manager will have to be assigned to Hilary S and it was suggested that one person might be manager for both Fringe shows. In the Newsletter to announce the cast of *Copenhagen*, Hannah will put out a call for such a person.
6. **StagEHd update:** Hannah reported that the 2023 project has received funding from The National Lottery Awards for All Scotland. She is required to submit EGTG policies, in particular that concerning safeguarding, by 13 February 2023. Hannah is following up funding for publicity sites and is also proposing a photo opportunity with the EGTG Committee at the Ross Bandstand. Replying to a question from Martin, Hannah confirmed that submissions have been received from both former and new participants. In addition, student Alistair Stewart, a volunteer from 2022, wishes once again to help on the production side. Hannah will draw up a draft programme by 6 February and will put out a further call for submissions if necessary. The only financial cost to EGTG will be to extend its insurance to cover the dates of the project.

7. **Keys update:** Martin has prepared a table showing who has which keys to BP and HS. Hannah confirmed that Chris Allan's key to HS has been passed to Kate as Head of Wardrobe and Alma confirmed that she has given the BP key formerly held by Anji Harkness-Robertson to Ross H., director of *Copenhagen*.
8. **Membership update:** a) Martin's proposal to scrap friends' category and show fee – As the former had been adopted for a trial period of one year and had not been successful, the Committee voted to accept Martin's proposal (1 abstention = Hannah). The proposal to abandon the show fee brought forth a wide-ranging exchange of views focussing mainly on the difficulty of extracting it from performers and its contribution (if any) to EGTG finances. Since this coming year will see a renewed vigorous application of the Constitution regarding Membership and performing, the Committee voted to scrap the show fee (1 abstention = Alma, 1 against = Claire W). Alastair confirmed that a vote by the Committee on this issue complied with the Constitution. Hannah suggested a quarterly social get-together of the Membership might help to boost numbers. b) Martin proposed a rolling 12-month Membership year instead of the current calendar year. Hannah has found software which would permit this at no or little cost. Alastair reminded us that such a change would have to be put to the Membership at the AGM. The Committee agreed to do this.
9. **Agatha Christie props:** A group known to Chris Allan has asked to hire costumes and props for its production of an Agatha Christie play. Kate and another Committee member will arrange to meet its representative(s) at Home Street.
10. **Constitution, Article 5, 3rd para:** Alastair explained that EGTG is a non-incorporated charity registered in Scotland. If members of the Committee are sued, EGTG will relieve them of all costs up to the limit of its assets, following which the individual Committee members will be liable. Alastair will send a link so that we may consider if EGTG should be converted to a charity with limited liability.
11. **Composition of Committee:** a) Following our meeting on 11 December, Alma resigned from the post of Vice-President with immediate effect and from that of Secretary with effect from the AGM to be held in March 2023. Martin asked if (Alma willing) it would be possible for her to continue taking the Minutes without being a member of the Committee. Alastair was of the opinion that there was nothing in the Constitution to prevent such an arrangement. Alma is open to this suggestion and will consider it. b) Martin proposed that Robert Wylie be co-opted on to the Committee. From the discussion that followed, the principal hesitation was that Robert W has no record of involvement in EGTG and is unknown to most of the Committee members. The upshot was that Alastair seconded Martin's proposal and a vote was taken with four in favour and four abstentions (Alma, Hannah, James and Kate). If Robert accepts the invitation, there will still be a vacancy on the Committee. Hannah suggested putting out a call for a prospective Committee member in the next Newsletter. The AGM of 21 March 2022 stipulated that the next AGM should be held in March 2023. To that end a discussion ensued as to the possible composition of the Committee which might be put before the membership for approval. The result of that discussion was: President – Hannah; Vice-President – Claire W; Treasurer – Wendy; Membership Secretary – Martin; Honorary Secretary – Martin (with the possibility of delegating Minute taking to non-Committee member, Alma); Head of Wardrobe – Kate; Members – Alastair, James and Siobhan. Alastair is considering his position.

12. **AGM:** Hannah and Martin proposed combining the AGM with a 'scratch night'. A discussion ended with agreement in principle for a joint AGM/'scratch night' to be held on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at a venue to be decided. As only EGTG members may vote at the AGM, Kate suggested a Newsletter inviting interested parties to attend and pay their Membership fee on the night. Hannah then summarised the content of future Newsletters – *Copenhagen* cast, *Tunnel Vision* at the SCDA one-act festival, call out for production managers, call out for a new Committee member and date of AGM. Then, as required by the EGTG Constitution, a Newsletter containing formal notification of the AGM would be issued 30 days before the event.
13. **AOB:** Kate reported an income of £330 from the sale of some of our vintage costumes. Further meetings with interested parties will be arranged. She received the Committee's sincere thanks for giving EGTG the benefit of her expert knowledge on costume.

The next meeting will be held via zoom on **Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at 19h30.**