

The Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Cinema Theatre Association, held on Saturday 13 May 2017 at 12.45pm at the 'Memo', High Street, Newbridge, Gwent, South Wales.

Committee present - David Trevor-Jones (Chairman), Ian Meyrick (Vice-Chairman), Neville Taylor (Treasurer & Membership), Adam Unger (Secretary), Richard Gray (Casework Chairman), Ray Ritmeester (Events), Jeremy Buck (Sales), Harry Rigby (Bulletin), Tim McCullen (Press Cuttings), Rachel Marks (Archive), Gary Trinder (CTA North), David Eve (CTA North), Gary Painter (CTA Scotland), John Skinner (CTA Cymru/Wales) and Kevin Gooding.

1. Apologies for absence - Allen Eyles, Clive Polden, Sally McGrath, David Simpson, Ken Roe, Giles Woodforde, Rachel Woodforde, Peter Day, Gerald Glover, Johnnie Cliff, Robert Holden, Sheila Northover, David Smith and Gordon Barr.

2. Matters arising from minutes of the previous AGM - There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report - David Trevor-Jones said this was the 50th anniversary year of the CTA and he was very privileged to be chairing this meeting in such a special year. The year had begun with an event at the BFI Southbank, which was a triumph of organisation by Allen Eyles, who had suggested that this be a public event to encourage new members. The day had culminated with an event at the Regent Street cinema. A special 50th edition of *Picture House* had been published, with thanks to Allen for putting it together. Our patron, Gerald Kaufman, had sadly died in the past year and Allen had accepted to be a patron in recognition of his organising the aforementioned 50th. One of the visit highlights, had been the 50th anniversary to the Granada, Tooting.

One of the most important functions of the CTA is to bring people together. Our three core activities, are, Casework, which will be reported on later. Publishing - no new publications in this 50th year, but hopefully more news on publishing next year. The Archive is drawing-down a lot of money and its future long-term sustainability needs to be addressed. To these ends, we have been seeking new accommodation. Currently, legacies are sustaining this expenditure and he asked people to consider the CTA when making bequests. Giles Woodforde had stood down from the main committee and was thanked for his huge amount of help, but will continue to sit on the publications committee. We were also grateful to Mike Wood for his work on social media.

Geoff Gill asked if the film, *The Final Reel*, shown at the CTA Regent Street cinema event, would be available on DVD? D T-J said he believed that it would be available on DVD and could be publicised in the *Bulletin*.

4. Secretary's Report - Adam Unger reported that there had been an increase of a diverse range of enquiries, including the following: A student sought for her project, the work of the CTA. A location enquiry for suitable London cinemas for a 1950s film. An annual festival in Tooting had again requested our help for guided tours in the Granada. Thanks go to Ken Roe and Nigel Pitt for undertaking these. Much publicity was generated earlier this year with member Anderson Jones's private ABC themed cinema, and AU had received enquiries on this. Also on the media front, ITV News had contacted concerning the closure of the ABC, Bournemouth. Showcase wanted the number of cinemas equipped with laser projection,

which was referred to the UK Cinema Association. A project research wanted more information on the role of women who worked in and owned cinemas. Information wanted on the London Pavilion and its screening of *Outbreak* in the early 1970s. On other matters, members will have noticed in the *Bulletin* and on the website, that committee officers have been allocated cta-uk addresses, which replace their previous private email addresses, with a dedicated information address for general enquiries. Thanks go to Neville Taylor for setting this up. We are now signed-up with the Publishers Licensing Society, which will make available the Bulletin on their online services, for which we receive royalties. We will again have a stand at the annual ABTT Theatre Show in June. We have been most fortunate in receiving this free facility by courtesy of Roger Fox. Finally, Neville Taylor was thanked for all matters relating to the Accounts and Annual Return and also fellow committee members for their advice and support.

5. Treasurer's Report - Neville Taylor presented, the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements of the Cinema Theatre Association for the year ended 28th February 2017 - the Report starting on page 9. As in previous years, the booklet included not only the formal accounts of the CTA Company but also more detailed accounts to inform members about the sources of income and the ways in which the CTA Committee have been spending the funds.

The report to Companies House, as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and to The Charity Commission, as a registered charity, form seven pages of the booklet. Pages 9 and 10 listing the Company's officers and advisors was unchanged from the previous year although the resignation as a Director of Giles Woodforde at the end of the financial year was recorded.

The third page (page 11) sets out the constitution and objectives of the CTA. We had reviewed it and, while there are no major changes, the continuing difficulty in finding a suitable location for our Archive needed to be recorded. As required, this page was signed by our Company Secretary, Adam Unger.

On the next page (Page 12), are shown the responsibilities of your Directors for the financial affairs of the company and the formal signed declaration from the examining accountant, that our accounts met with the requirements of the relevant Acts of Parliament. This part of the report had been approved by the Company's Board of Directors and had also been examined, approved and signed by Mr. Kenneth Wilson, Chartered Accountant.

The next page was the **Balance Sheet** for the year to the 28th February 2017. The total value of Net Assets at the year end increased by £47,405. This was entirely due to the receipt of legacy payments which had prevented the increased costs of running the CTA further depleting our assets. The M&G Charibond value was shown at net cost as its actual value fluctuates from day to day - for instance, on 5 May this year, the value was £49,614.19 rather more than the value shown at the end of February.

The next page (page 14) is the **Income and Expenditure Account**, and we looked first at **Income**. Subscriptions received during the financial year were £401 more than in 2015-16. A lack of new publications during the year to attract members' attention had lead to a fall in total sales of £1,632. However we were pleased to note that the actual profit of £826 on those sales was a useful addition to income.

The total of the year's **visits and lectures** etc. included payments received in advance for the visit in April 2017. Deducting that amount from the total of £8,589 left a small surplus of £187. There were no large **donations** again this year so the amount received was comparable with last year. The Committee was grateful to all of those members who added a few extra pounds to their subscription renewal.

Normal **sales** of books etc. lead to a reduction in the holdings of books compared to the previous year, that the reduction was more than previously was a result of a lack of purchases of new stock.

A number of **legacies** received during the year brought the total income from that source to £59,193. The sums came from the estates of the following: David Stride, Robert Stoker, Clifford Shaw and John Benzing. The last being with the requirement that it be used to produce an issue of *Picture House* with material about the Grosvenor cinema, Rayners Lane of which he was particularly fond.

Administration expenses here showed a decrease of £3,335 compared with the previous year's which included the one-off costs of moving the Archive into a storage facility. The additional costs of storage, compared with those formerly incurred, had been paid out of legacy funds. This amounted to some £800 per month.

Interest rates continued to be dismally low, we had received £559 less this year than last. Work by our accountant had ensured that we had received no demands for Corporation Tax again this year.

The bottom line showed a surplus for the year of £47,405 substantially more than last year's figure of £11,263. However, the point was made that this was entirely because of legacies received. Your Committee remained determined that the legacies should not be used for the day to day business of the Association except in emergency.

The formal accounts of the Company and Charity ended on the next page with some explanatory notes.

As in previous years, a more detailed analysis of the income and expenditure accounts follows on pages 16 and 17.

General **income** on page 16 before including the legacy was £45,883 - £1,445 less than the previous year and, as said previously, this resulted from the reduced amount of sales and interest income. The total income, after taking into account legacies and visits etc, of £120,376 is £26,070 more than last year but did include income for a visit in the next financial year. If this were excluded the grand total would be £111,969.

On the **expenditure** side on page 17, book purchases were about half of last year, distribution costs increased and royalties were included this year, but still the total cost of sales was down on the previous years. Membership costs were largely unchanged except that *Picture House* was not included for the 2016-17 year as it was paid for from a legacy. General expenditure was, in total, comparable with the previous year but note that Archive

costs were less and Casework costs higher. Banking charges showed a small increase due increases in credit card terminal charges.

Although the total of general expenditures was reduced, it was noted that it still exceeded the amount of general income. Donations were made from legacy funds to the Save Britain's Heritage in support of its appeal to save the *Futurist* cinema in Liverpool and a donation was given towards the restoration fund for the *Picturehouse*, Campbeltown.

The total operating costs at £71,288 were £10,361 less than last year and resulted in a surplus on the account of £49,081.94. After deduction of the decrease in book stocks, this agreed with the surplus shown in the Company accounts of £47,405.28.

The next page (18) showed the effect on our publication funds of sales and the costs associated with producing *Picture House*. At the bottom, was to be found an analysis of visits, lectures etc. income and expenditure showing that there was an overall surplus of £187 which had been transferred to general funds.

Page 19 gave the use of the association's funds showing income and expenditure from each fund and amounts transferred between different funds. At the bottom of the page was a summary of the various accounts in which the CTA's assets are deposited.

The back page of the booklet indicated where legacy funds have been used in connection with the website improvement, the archive and for caseworker costs in connection with listing applications.

Our grateful thanks were due to the reporting accountant, Kenneth Wilson, who as well as his annual scrutiny of the accounts, had also dealt with HMRC in connection with Corporation Tax. He had indicated that he would be content to continue to act in this position and the AGM of the Trustees had been pleased to confirm his appointment.

David Vinnels said that we should have the Accounts in advance in order to assimilate the information. NT replied that they could be posted out with the Bulletin or a copy emailed on request, which the committee will consider. Marion Kennett asked if the legacies were invested separately? NT replied that they weren't, but were drawn upon when needed. Brent Skelly said that there seemed to be a huge legacy cash asset and asked what the money is to be used for? NT replied that it would be expended for specific projects such as the Archive. DT-J added, that the fundamental principle agreed upon was not to use the legacies to subsidise the running costs of the CTA, but to advance the objectives of the society. It was now clearer, that the legacy is going towards the Archive, which is the most comprehensive of its type in the country and we are worried about a sustainable future for it. We were currently looking for a new archive home. Ideally, we would buy a cinema building but the legacy funding was not enough to sustain such expenditure. Martin Brecknell asked if the CTA could not have worked with the Castle, Homerton, in supporting them and getting archive space there? DT-J replied that our past experience of working with operators had not been a happy one, with security of tenure one of many issues. Ian Meyrick said it would be an ideal situation to find a small theatre to own and rent it out to exhibitors. We had also used legacy funding for the website and casework. Following on from this, Ray Ritmeester suggested a questionnaire to members on premises, inviting suggestions. DT-J thought that this should be discussed further in committee. David Eve said

it was good to float this idea to members and get a response and encourage people to leave a bequest to the CTA. Anthony Wills suggested employing some paid staff rather than rely on volunteer help. DT-J replied that once you start paying staff, this creates a strong disincentive to those volunteers. However, for the Casework, we are using the services of Peter Wylde on a consultancy basis. He also cited the THSA, who had turned over to paid staff, which had not been successful. Ian Grundy asked if we had considered placing the Archive with a heritage body, such as the BFI. DT-J replied that this had been discussed, but some drawbacks had been identified, such as being properly conserved, lack of easy access perhaps leading to no access and losing control of the holding. We had approached the PPT and Cinema Museum, but these organisations can have financial problems and be worse off than we are. Chris Plaister thought the CTA could be in a position to build an institution as legacies are likely to increase. Money shouldn't be wasted on renting but to buy a freehold building. DT-J agreed that renting was 'lost' money, but our priority wasn't to fritter away the legacies. NT confirmed that we were paying the charitable rate for business rent relief. Stephen McEvoy suggested using premises outside of the South East. DT-J replied that it was a good point, although volunteers live in the London area - moving out could foster new ones. Ian Meyrick thanked the Treasurer for his hard work.

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2017/18 - The Chairman reported that Giles Woodforde had stood down from the committee and there were no other changes. The meeting agreed to elect the committee and officers en-bloc. This was proposed by Ian Grundy and seconded by Nigel Wolland, which was carried unanimously by those present.

Re-appointment of Accountant - The Board of Directors had re-appointed Kenneth Wilson, which was carried unanimously by the meeting.

7. Archivist's Report – Clive Polden was absent, but submitted the following report: Despite our temporary accommodation, the past year has been as busy as ever in the Archive. We are still dealing with enquiries and receiving visitors, but some material is not so easy to access, so booking in advance is essential. We have been particularly busy researching the history of the CTA itself for the latest edition of Picture House. The focus of the volunteers has been on completing outstanding work and projects and to clear the backlog of filing. Tremendous progress has been made on the filing with only a small proportion left to file, which we hope will be completed by Christmas.

Since last years AGM we have received and answered over 70 enquiries from individuals and organisations. As ever these enquiries have been most varied, ranging from information for books, websites and TV programmes to research into family history, a growing line of enquiry, assisting community projects dedicated to reopen local cinemas and the usual unidentified cinema photographs.

We have had particular interest in the role of women in the exhibition industry, as projectionists during the war, female management or as organists. We have had two novelists researching specific information to ensure their stories are authentic and a couple of enquiries about ghosts in cinemas. We have received not one but two enquiries from our antipodean cousins looking for evidence of the release of Australian films at leading UK cinemas. The closure of the last ABC cinema in Bournemouth generated an enormous amount of interest and we were dealing with these enquiries from well before the cinema closed up to a month or so afterwards, such was the varied interest in this matter.

We have received many donations from members and non members alike over the past year. This included a wonderful coincidence, where the manager and the chief projectionist of the Savoy/ABC cinema Brighton were individually busy gathering material from this cinema to build up a substantial and fascinating collection covering the running of a major cinema over several decades. Presumably each was oblivious to the others collecting. What was even more extraordinary the families of these individuals totally independently chose to donate these collections to the Archive this year, and made contact with me within a couple of weeks of each other. This really goes to show you never know what out there is waiting to be discovered. We have also recently received a very substantial donation of photographs, slides and other documents collected over a long period of time by one of our devoted members who simply needed to downsize. This collection covers the whole country but is particularly strong on the West Midlands and cinema organ photographs. Once completely catalogued and sorted will be a valuable addition to our holdings. We accept donations of all types of material as physical items or as digital photographs or scans.

I would like to thank Rachel Marks for her endless dedication to the Archive. Brian Hall for his determined efforts to organise our files and for posting our unidentified photographs on the CTA-UK Yahoo group each week, and thank you to all those who provide who contribute to identifying cinemas as part of this group. I would also like to thank Doug Raines for his continuing support and hard work in sorting our various records.

We continue to look for new volunteers to help out at Bromley-by-Bow in East London. If you are not able to travel to the Archive there is also IT work that can be done from home, if you have a computer and internet connection. So please contact me for further information.

8. Membership Secretary's Report – Neville Taylor said that since his last report, with a few exceptions the newcomers to the ranks of the CTA had joined through the membership page of the CTA's website. This had been found chiefly through internet searches but also by reading the website address on our flyer. He added at this point a request, to those of you who have old membership application forms to please dispose of them as the subscription rates are out of date. The present flyer is not an application form and does not show the subscription rates.

There had been 39 new Full individual members, 2 Full Corporate memberships and 5 new Associate members in the past year to 1st May. Three one-year complimentary memberships had been granted to recognise significant help given to organisers by staff of venues visited by CTA members. In addition to this total of 49 entirely new members, 26 former members who lapsed before the last AGM had now rejoined.

Three Full and One Associate, previously Annual members, had now taken out Life Membership.

Our sincere condolences were sent to families and friends of the 12 members of our Association who had passed away in the past year. Sadly these included one Life Member and several members who had been members for 20 years or more. We were also saddened to learn of the death at the age of 86 of one of our patrons, Sir Gerald Kaufman PC MP.

Ten members of the CTA had resigned for various reasons often age or health related. It was rather unusual to receive the comment with a resignation that "there is too much coming

through the letter-box!" Deaths and resignations were perhaps to be expected in light of the age profile of the Association. About 40% of members are over the age of 70 and another 25% over 60 compared with only 9% who are under 50.

Following the change last year, from issuing a final reminder to overdue renewers in a separate mailing to sending it with the next issue of the *Bulletin*, he was pleased to say that the number of members lapsing in the year had fallen from 78 last year to 58 this year.

29 renewals due in March or April had still not been paid although some of these subscriptions could still be expected - and even this was less than reported at last year's AGM. He was pleased to report that the remaining total of 1,051 paid-up members was actually 25 more than reported last year. Of the total number of members, 76 are Life Members.

John Skinner said he had been distributing the CTA flyer in Wales and thought that not including a membership form might be a disadvantage. NT replied that having a hard-copy form had resulted in no response. Ian Grundy asked if there were plans to increase events for public access? DT-J replied that there were possible plans for the end of this year's 50th. London Open House also provides an opportunity for public access, but opening our visits to the public would undermine the benefits of membership. Allen Eyles was keen to promote screenings with the BFI and Regent Street Cinema, therefore, screenings were seen as the best way forward with the public.

9. Bulletin Editor's Report - Harry Rigby said that it all generally works well. He repeated his request, that all items sent in for publication should be done so electronically. Next year (2018), would see his 20th year as Bulletin Editor, when he wishes to stand-down from the post. He appealed for a replacement to come forward.

10. Casework Reports - Wales - John Skinner spoke on the following 6 cases: Albert Hall, Swansea; Castle, Swansea; Central, Porth; Palace, Conwy; Palace Theatre, Swansea; Plaza, Port Talbot.

England - Richard Gray thanked John for his presentation. 86 cases had been dealt with in England. Both he and Peter Wylde reported on the following cases: **Grade II*** - State, Grays; Electric Palace, Harwich; Himalaya Palace, Southall. **Grade II** - Picture Palace, Dudley Hill, Bradford; Whiteladies, Bristol; Majestic, Leeds; Forum, Liverpool; Curzon, Mayfair; Globe, Stockton-on-Tees. **Unlisted** - Regent, Bournemouth; Bronte, Haworth, Yorks.; Futurist, Liverpool; Ritz, Southgate, London; Carlton, Haymarket; Odeon, Kensington; Odeon, Leicester Square; Paramount, Manchester; Odeon (Broadway), Peterborough; Futurist, Scarborough.

RG thanked Tim Hatcher, Jane Jephcote and those who attend casework meetings. Also, thanks to Peter Wylde, Vicky Simon and John Skinner.

Scotland - Gary Painter reported on the following cases: Picture House, Campbeltown (A listed); County/George, Portobello (C listed); Kings/ABC, Kirkcaldy (B listed); Odeon, Edinburgh (A listed); Broadway, Prestwick (C listed); Cosmo/Glasgow Film Theatre (B listed).

The *Moving Image Archive* has a new home in Glasgow. Both he and Gordon were undertaking walks and talks on Scottish cinemas including walking tours of West End cinemas.

11. Any Other Business - No matters were raised.

The meeting was declared closed at 4.03pm.

Adam Unger