

**The Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Cinema Theatre Association, held on Saturday 28 July 2018 at 2.00pm at Kardomah, 94 Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, East Yorkshire.**

**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), Allen Eyles (Picture House), Tim McCullen (Press Cuttings), Gordon Barr (CTA Scotland), Gary Painter (CTA Scotland), John Skinner (CTA Cymru/Wales), Rachel Marks (Archive) and Kevin Gooding.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

**1. Casework Reports - England** - Richard Gray introduced, reporting that 69 cases had been dealt with in England and 8 in Wales. Both he and Peter Wylde presented the following cases: **Grade II\*** - *State*, Grays, Essex; *Palace*, Southall, London; *Granada*, Walthamstow; *Granada*, Woolwich; *Dreamland*, Margate. **Grade II** - *Hyde Park*, Leeds; *Rio*, Dalston, London; *Longford*, Stretford, Manchester; *Odeon*, York. **Unlisted** - *Odeon*, Ashford; *Picture House*, Bridlington, Yorkshire; *Royalty*, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria; *Gaumont Palace*, Doncaster; *Danilo*, Hinckley, Leicestershire; *Odeon*, Bromley, London; *Embassy*, Chadwell Heath, London; *Rialto*, Crystal Palace, London; *Empire*, Haymarket, London; *Futurist*, Scarborough; *Adelphi*, Slough; *Broadway*, Peterborough. **Wales - Grade II** - *Palace*, Conwy.

RG thanked Tim Hatcher, Jane Jephcote and those who regularly attend casework meetings. Also, thanks to the Theatres Trust, Peter Wylde, Vicky Simon, James Weir and Ian Grundy.

**Scotland** - Gordon Barr and Gary Painter reported on the following cases: *New Victoria/Odeon*, Edinburgh (A listed); *Picture House*, Govanhill (B Listed); *Odeon*, Glasgow (B listed); *George*, Portobello (C listed); *ABC/Odeon*, Dumfries (unlisted); *Salon*, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (unlisted); *ABC/Regal*, Sauchiehall Street (C listed); *Picture House*, Campbeltown (A listed). They both have been involved in a documentary on the restored Campbeltown. The Scottish section of the archive will be returned to the CTA Archive.

**Wales** - John Skinner reported on the following 3 cases: *Odeon*, Llanelli; *Castle*, Swansea; *Plaza*, Port Talbot.

**2. Apologies for absence** - David Simpson, Clive Polden, David Vinnels, Brent Skelly, Giles Woodforde, Rachel Woodforde, Sally McGrath, Harry Rigby, Martin Brecknell, David Smith, Peter Day, Gerald Glover, Johnnie Cliff, Nigel Wolland, David Eve and Gary Trinder.

**3. Matters arising from Minutes of the previous AGM** - Anthony Wills asked why the 2017 AGM was the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, when the CTA has been operating for 51 years? Neville Taylor replied that it was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the CTA being a 'company limited by guarantee'. AW pointed out some typo errors, including, under, item 4, end of last para. ...we receive 'royalties', not 'loyalties'. Under, item 5, end of last para. ...rate for business 'rate' relief, not 'rent'. AW also said, that the minutes should be available in advance of the meeting. AU replied that the minutes had been posted on the members area of the CTA website, well in advance of the AGM, with a notice informing of this in the AGM announcement in the Bulletin. AW however thought, that the minutes should still be posted out.

**4. Chairman's Report** - David Trevor-Jones said he had organised the forthcoming trip to Gotland, giving details of this. The CTA is a company limited by guarantee, the Directors of which, had met its legal obligations and signed-off the Accounts. At last years AGM, there had been great debate about the handling of the legacies. He had responded by writing an article in broad outline for discussion, published in the May/June 2018 Bulletin. Archive accommodation was still an ongoing matter, with the current high cost of temporary storage. Various options were being explored to re-house, including renting. There had been a change in planning law, which had meant, we had to recently abort going ahead with new accommodation of great potential. Clive Polden had put in a huge amount of work on this. Another route to explore was Lottery Funding, but this was not an easy undertaking and he appealed for anybody in the room who had the time to devote to this, to come forward. He concluded by thanking the committee for their skills and time.

Marion Kennett asked if buying a property had been explored? The Chairman replied that we were not in a financial position to do this. Ian Meyrick added, that the Archive committee had looked at various options. Buying a property would have its disadvantages, such as the upkeep. Stuart Smith suggested joining forces with other like-minded organisations looking for a property. The Chairman replied that he was talking to two potential organisations on this matter.

**5. Secretary's Report** - Adam Unger said that a steady range of enquiries had been received during the year, many of a routine nature. Among the more interesting enquiries were, a location manager working on the TV series *Endeavour*, seeking a suitable cinema organ for filming. An enquiry about the Magnascope projection system installed at the former Carlton, Haymarket, London, for the screening of *Wings* in 1928. Another similar request was for a cinema with a 3D screen and enough room to accommodate a live orchestra. Nigel Wolland had very kindly assisted with this. A student in Northern Ireland doing a Master's Research Project on cinema preservation in that region. A property consultant was seeking to purchase a theatre to convert for mixed use. This was referred to the Theatres Trust. An unusual request came from John Allison of pop duo *The Allison's*, who had a hit around 1960; wanting publicity about a talent show he had appeared in at the Gaumont, Shepherds Bush. An appeal was made to us, to contribute towards the salvaging of the frontage of the Sandonia cinema in Stafford. We would need to ascertain a lot more information before taking this matter any further. AU was currently organising a visit to the BFI Poster Collection in Berkhamsted for mid-October. We do have an online listing with *Yell*, which is updated. On matters regarding the **CTA Website**, our Webmaster, Rachel Woodforde, had conveyed, that she hoped that members would continue to use and enjoy the website. If you should have any questions and suggestions, then please contact her direct. Finally, Neville Taylor was thanked for all matters relating to the Accounts and Annual Return - also fellow committee members for their support.

**6. Treasurer's Report for 2017/18** - The Chairman read-out the Director's Report, informing of Neville Taylor's intention to stand-down as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, at the end of this financial year. NT thanked him and appealed for someone to step-forward to

take on these posts. He said that he would offer training and support to his replacement. Tim Hatcher proposed thanks to NT which was seconded by Richard Norman.

Neville Taylor presented, the Report of the Directors and Financial Statements of the Cinema Theatre Association for the year ended 28th February 2018 which is included in the booklet containing the agenda for this meeting etc. The Report starts on page 11.

The first six pages, after the title page, constitute the report to Companies House, as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and to The Charity Commission, as a registered charity. The Company's officers and advisors were listed, and this list is unchanged from the previous year. Also set out are the constitution and objectives of the CTA. These had been reviewed and, while there were no major changes, the continuing difficulty in finding a suitable location for our Archive was noted. As required, this page was signed by our Company Secretary, Adam Unger.

The responsibilities of your Directors for the financial affairs of the company appears next. Also, the formal signed declaration from the examining accountant, that our accounts had met with the requirements of the relevant Acts of Parliament. The latter part of the report indicates that the accounts had been examined and approved without reservation by Mr. Kenneth Wilson, Chartered Accountant, who had signed his statement to that effect.

The following pages (15 to 17) comprised the actual accounts of the Company which were examined and approved by the Board of Directors at their Annual General Meeting held on the 14th June 2018. The Balance Sheet showed that the total value of Net Assets at the year-end had decreased by £16,664. This is a reflection of 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.

The Income side of the Income and Expenditure Account showed that subscriptions received during the financial year were £936 more than in the previous year - largely as a result of life membership payments. Total sales were similar to those in 2016-17 but more profitable following the reprints of the ABC and Gaumont-British CTA books. Although visits and lectures appeared to have incurred a loss, this was due to payments for the visit in April 2017 in the previous accounting period. In fact, there was an overall small surplus of £259. 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 add 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. Yet again interest received had declined. Only one small additional legacy was received during the year from the estate of Peter (Paul) Scott and the final balances of the legacies of Robert Stoker and Clifford Shaw were paid.

Administration expenses were higher than previously mainly because of the decision to reimburse the Archivist for unclaimed expenses for travel from home to the archive at least monthly for some 12 years. For 3 years, a 300-mile round trip and, for the remainder, a 150-mile round trip. The additional cost of archive, compared with those formerly incurred before it had to be placed into a storage facility, had been paid out of legacy funds. This amounted to some £9,000 per annum.

No demands for Corporation Tax were received this year.

The deficit on the Company's ordinary activities were larger than the previous year at £28,515 resulting in a deficit which was reduced by legacy income to £16,664 for the financial year, as previously noted in the Balance Sheet.

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 18 and 19.

General income on page 18 before including the legacy was £46,421 - £537 more than the previous year and, as said before, this resulted mainly from increased subscriptions income. The total income, after taking into account legacies and visits etc, of £68,788 is £51,583 less than last year when there was a large income from legacies. If legacies were excluded the reduction in income was £4,239.

On the expenditure side on page 17, total cost of sales were less than the previous year. Membership costs were largely unchanged. General expenditure was, in total, comparable with the previous year but note that Archive costs were higher for the reason previously noted and Casework costs higher. Overall the total of general expenditures was higher, it should be noted that it exceeded the amount of general income. The total expenditures, after deducting amounts spent out of legacies were £19,592 more than last year and resulted in a deficit on the account of £16,484.20. After deduction of the decrease in book stocks £180.28, this agreed with the deficit shown in the Company accounts of £16,664.48.

The next page (20) showed the effect on our publication funds of sales and the costs associated with producing Picture House and reprints of the two CTA books. At the bottom, was to be found an analysis of visits, lectures etc. income and expenditure showing that there was an overall surplus of £258 which was transferred to general funds.

Page 21 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 maintenance, the archive and for caseworker costs in connection with listing applications. The expenditure on the major case relating to listings was shown at the bottom of the page.

Our grateful thanks were due to the reporting accountant, Kenneth Wilson, who had indicated that he would be content to continue to act in this position and, at the AGM of the Trustees, they were pleased to confirm his appointment.

**7. Archivist's Report** - Clive Polden was absent, but submitted the following report:

Although the Archive remains in temporary accommodation great efforts are being made to find a permanent new home for the collection and it is now hoped that this matter will finally be resolved in the coming months. In the meantime, we continue to make do with

temporary accommodation in Bromley by Bow. Although far from adequate, we welcome visitors to undertake research but as it may take time to locate certain items, booking in advance is essential.

Since the AGM last year, we had received over 70 enquiries from individuals and organisations requesting information or material from our Archive. Examples of interesting enquiries received this year had been several detailed enquiries on local cinema circuits including Coronet Cinemas of Birmingham, J.F. Collinson's Cinemas and the many companies of Arthur Cohen. We had also provided images for the ever-popular BBC TV show Great British Railway Journey's with Michael Portillo, as well as the genealogical enquiries, enquiries from authors, those undertaking talks, exhibitions and so on. The Archive is also used for preparing visit notes and articles for the Bulletin and Picture House.

We had received many donations this past year, both large and small. We accept material in printed form or as digital scans or photographs. Two donations this past year were worth a mention here and will be featured in the next CTA Bulletin. Late last year we received a large box of papers relating to the Clifton Cinema Circuit. A unique record of a medium sized circuit, the box contained company records and documents, correspondence, publicity material and a great deal of material on Sir Sydney Clift. The second very special donation was in the form of architectural drawings by Irving T Patterson illustrating exteriors and interiors of several George Coles cinemas – as he worked for the Coles practice in the 1930's. These drawings include the unbuilt Ritz Leyton and Odeon Kennington as well as interiors of the Granada Welling, Troxy Stepney and Trocadero Elephant and Castle.

He thanked Rachel Marks for her constant help and hard work in the Archive. Brian Hall for his regular efforts in sorting the files in the Archive and by posting the unidentified photographs each week on the CTA-UK email group and for assisting in many projects at the Archive. He also thanked Doug Raynes whom he could rely upon for any project that he asked him to tackle.

We are looking for volunteers at present to help with a broad spectrum of projects. Especially sought are those that are familiar with Word and Excel and enjoy inputting data on computers – this work can be carried out from home, so you do not need to be able to travel to the Archive to be a volunteer. Even just a few hours every month would be a great help in whatever capacity you may be able to offer your time to the Archive. Please contact him for further details.

**8. Election of Officers and Committee for 2018/19** - The Chairman said the meeting usually elected the committee and officers en-bloc, which was agreed upon. Their election was proposed by Ian Grundy and seconded by Stuart Smith. Nick Taylor had agreed to represent CTA North, following the resignation of David Eve and Gary Trinder, on having moved South. His election was proposed by Neville Taylor and seconded by Ian Meyrick.

Marion Kennett asked about Gary's and David's future involvement in the CTA. The reply was that they would be active in the Bournemouth area. The Chairman said that it was good to have a large committee which helps spread the workload and welcomed Nick Taylor to the committee.

**9. Membership Secretary's Report** - For this report, Neville Taylor thought that it might be more interesting to report on changes in the membership of the CTA since the last AGM, rather than for the March 2017 to February 2018 period of the financial year.

44 new Full Members had joined, and 3 renewing members had enrolled an Associate Member. In addition, we had been pleased to welcome one new member taking up Life Membership from the outset. In addition to these 48 entirely new people, 23 members, whose subscriptions had lapsed at some point, had re-enrolled. Five annual members had now subscribed as Life Members bringing the total of Life Members to 82.

Our sincere condolences had been sent to the families and friends of the 13 members of our Association who had passed away in the past year. The names had been published in the CTA Bulletin and in some cases, obituaries had appeared, but, while their names were on the screen, he asked all present to remember them during a minute's silence.

Six members had taken the decision to resign their memberships during this period - down from the ten reported at the last AGM. Sadly, one person was terminally ill. But one member had "lost interest" and another gave the "escalating cost of living" as the reason. Although one of the others was regretful, none gave any reason for their departure. Also, he was pleased to say that the number of members lapsing in the year had been 58, no increase on that reported at the last AGM.

It had proved very difficult to instil an interest in our subject among those who do not remember visiting the splendid cinema buildings of our younger days. Less than 10% of members are under 50 years old and, of these, only 4 members are under 30. As a result, the age profile of the CTA continues to move upwards - over half the membership is now over the age of 70, among them are 11 members who soldier on in their 90's.

21 of the renewals due in May and June 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.

The total of 1,038 paid-up members represents a net loss of 13 members since the last AGM.

**10. Bulletin Editor's Report** - Harry Rigby was absent but had submitted the following report: He thanked all members who had contributed items for the Bulletin over the last year. In particular He would like to thank Neville Taylor for helpful proof reading and Tim McCullen for sifting through the press cuttings. As reported in previous years, the press cutting service – although valuable – does not claim to be exhaustive so please continue to send in anything you see that is cinema-related. He still has a small stock of articles and photos, but more are always welcome. Please may he repeat his usual request for submissions to be sent electronically, where possible.

He hoped that all enjoyed the coverage of the CTA's Centenary in 2017. The extra material in that year meant we had four 36-page editions and two 32-page ones. So far this year, we have had two 32-page Bulletins, one 36 page and one 24-page editions. The extra work in producing the larger issues is made easier if contributors can observe the deadline, which is

always the 20th of the month prior to publication. You will all have seen my note that the deadline for the Sept/Oct Bulletin on 20 August will have to be absolutely rigid due to my annual holiday.

The next Bulletin will mark 20 years since he took over as editor. He was prepared to continue as Bulletin editor for another year, should the AGM so elect. However, he would like to retire in the not too distant future, so if anyone would like to take on the mantle, please let the Committee know.

**11. Any Other Business** - The Chairman said that the Casework team would like somebody to take on cases for the Northern region. Anthony Wills paid tribute to NT who had 'fantastically' fulfilled both roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. He suggested that these two posts should be separated in the future and that he much enjoyed receiving the CTA E-News which NT sends out. Ian Meyrick thanked Jeremy Buck and Peter Staveley for transporting and setting-up the bookstall. Ray Ritmeester thanked David and Margaret Williams for organising the AGM venue and the Hull weekend. Finally, the Chairman paid thanks to Ray and the Kardomah for hosting the AGM.

The meeting was declared closed at 4.44pm.

Adam Unger

Company Secretary