

Village Players' Information (VPI)

July-August 2016

Annual General Meeting.

The AGM 2016 was an average in terms of attendance with 19 Members present (30% of Membership) + 16 Apologies for Absence of whom 8 nominated proxies.

The full minutes are attached at the end of this Newsletter (pages 1-7).

Unfortunately nobody came forward to stand as Business Manager, so this position is still vacant. Should anyone be interested in taking up this position, please contact either Susan Morris (susanmorris21@hotmail.com) or Colin Gamage (gamage@bluewin.ch).

The VP Committee for the Season 2016-17 is:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Chris Hemmens | Treasurer | Derek Betson |
| Administrative Director | Susan Morris | Publicity Manager | Alexis Munier |
| Production Coordinator | Daniel Gardini | Membership Secretary | Dorothy Brooks |
| Events Coordinator | Mary Couper | Technical Manager | Ian Griffiths |
| Secretary | Colin Gamage | | |

Please find the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting attached at the end of this document (pages 4-10).

FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS & EVENTS:

N.B. AS OF SEPTEMBER, CLUBNIGHTS WILL START AT 19H30

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH – AN “AS YOU LIKE IT” EVENING

Come and perform whatever you like: a comedy sketch, a song, a poem, a soliloquy...

If you would like to participate in this fun, informal Clubnight by performing yourself, please let us know by email as soon as possible!

Please contact Mary Couper at: coupermar@gmail.com.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20TH – AN EVENING OF SKETCHES

Organised by Daniel Gardini and Chris Hemmens.

NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12TH – NEED SUGGESTIONS FOR PRODUCTION

Please contact Daniel Gardini at: Daniel.gardini@hispeed.ch

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH – CHRISTMAS PARTY

If you would like to volunteer to help organize this event, please contact Mary Couper at coupermar@gmail.com

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GAOS www.gaos.ch

26-28 Aug Hair – The Musical

Recital Alexis Munier & Naomi Yamaguchi Bohn

1 July 7 pm Eglise St François, Lausanne – entrance free, no reservations, donation appreciated.
Featuring a mix of operatic duets and solo arias for soprano, starting with Mozart and ending on Verdi in a journey through some of the most powerfully emotional arias of all time.

VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Chairman | Chris Hemmens | 079 658 42 95 | chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk |
| Membership | Dorothy Brooks | 078 624 66 35 | dot.brooks@hotmail.com |
| Administrative Director | Susan Morris | 021 964 52 05 | susanmorris22@hotmail.com |
| Production Coordinator | Daniel Gardini | 078 286 95 74 | daniel.gardini@hispeed.ch |
| Events Coordinator | Mary Couper | 079 703 75 04 | coupermar@gmail.com |
| Publicity Coordinator | Alexis Munier | 076 559 0378 | alexismunier@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Derek Betson | 021 635 30 84 | derekhbetson@msn.com |
| Secretary | Colin Gamage | 021 701 31 58 | gamage@bluewin.ch |
| Business Manager | Position vacant | | |
| Technical Director | Ian Griffiths | 078 713 94 43 | ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com |

& HELPERS

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Newsletter Editor * | Susan Morris | | susanmorris22@hotmail.com |
| Fliers & programmes | Dorothy Brooks | | dot.brooks@hotmail.com |
| Costume & Props tracking | Catherine FitzSimons | | swissfitz@yahoo.com |

* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25th of each month

**VP EVENTS CALENDAR BELOW
FOR EASY REFERENCE**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Preview of our next VP events to be held at the
Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy (CPO), Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne
(as of September) at 7.30pm – doors and bar open at 7.00pm
(**Playreadings** will take place in the theatre, not the bar area)
www.villageplayers.ch

CLUBNIGHT*: An “AS YOU LIKE IT” evening

Thursday, September 15th – 19h30. Entrance free.

Come and perform whatever you like: a comedy sketch, a song, a poem, a soliloquy...
If you would like to participate in this fun, informal Clubnight by performing yourself,
please let us know as soon as possible.

Please contact Mary Couper at: coupermar@gmail.com

CLUBNIGHT*: AN EVENING OF SKETCHES

Organized by Daniel Gardini and Chris Hemmens

Thursday, October 20th – 19h30. Entrance free

More information soon.

PRODUCTION or CLUBNIGHT***

November 10th, 11th, 12th

Suggestions welcome!

More information to follow.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 15th – 19h30. Entrance free

If you wish to help organize this event, please contact Mary Couper at
coupermar@gmail.com

For more information on **Productions: contact Daniel Gardini - Gardini.dan@gmail.com

*For more information on the **Clubnights**: contact Mary Couper - coupermar@gmail.com
or visit the Club Website: www.villageplayers.ch

M I N U T E S
OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Thursday 16th June 2016
at the CPO – Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy
Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne

Chaired by: Chris Hemmens.

Present: Colin Gamage; Denise Gamage; Dorothy Brooks; Derek Betson; Barbara Balbo; Gwen Czajkowska; John McKillop; Sylvia McKillop; Alexis Munier; Ian Griffiths; Vivienne Furtwangler; ; Susan Morris; Heather Gavin; Mike Scott; John Holmes; Daniel Gardini; Julia Krämer; Geoffrey Peek.

Start: 20:20

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE and CHECK THAT A QUORUM IS ATTAINED

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Karen Rochat; Sylvia Rubli; Ian Kirby; Pamela Buhayer; Christa Baan; Mary Couper; Helen Thrupp; Eva Jensen; Sally Zobrist; Jacqueline Dubois; John Middleton; Pamela Jenkins; Cathy FitzSimons; Zelda McKillop-Weber; Alec Thomson; Sara Barmada.

There were 8 proxies, from Ian Kirby; Pamela Buhayer; Christa Baan; Mary Couper; Eva Jensen; Cathy FitzSimons; Zelda McKillop-Weber; Alec Thomson.

The Treasurer reported that the current membership shows a total of 64 paid up members. A quorum for an AGM according to the current Constitution is "one fifth of the members of the Society". Thus for the AGM 2016 a quorum for voting is 13. With 19 members present, plus the 8 proxies meant that the quorum was met and that voting could take place.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18th June 2015

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Mike Scott, seconded by Barbary Balbo and voted unanimously.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS and ACCEPTANCE OF SAME

The proposal, seconding and voting on all reports together was to be done at the end of the presentation.

3.a Acting Chairman – Chris Hemmens

Thank you all for coming to the 2016 AGM. It's been a year full of ups and downs for the Village Players but all-in-all I think it's been a good year, particularly in regard to the success of Blackadder which, it cannot be emphasised enough, came out in the black, excuse the pun, by a significant amount. I'm leaving out the details in favour of reports to come but I'd like to lead you all in a big hand to Daniel and Julia for organising such a successful and well-received production. We got a number of new members and a lot of positive press that we should try and build upon in the coming year.

This comes after the absence of a November production that should remind us that we continue to be short of suggestions for productions. This must be addressed if we want the Village Players to continue and this should be our primary focus for the year to come.

I would like to thank the committee for accepting me as acting chairman as of March this year. The vetting process was extensive and thorough. After a rigorous background check and competition with thousands of other candidates, I am over-the-moon that I was chosen. Thank you all for this great opportunity. I hope I can live up to the standards that you've all come to expect from your elected officials.

Our club nights continue to demonstrate the diversity of our group and are both varied and fun. Because they're free to attend and open to all, these are what we should be using to show potential new members what the Village Players are here for. In addition, if they're done right and adequately publicised, these can always be used to make money for the club which, in turn, will keep us running.

In short, if we wish to continue, we need to concentrate on making productions and publicising club nights. These are both crucial and I want everyone here to actively pursue those goals. For those who are not here tonight, spread the word, find new members, and be positive. We ended on a high this year and we should try and keep that momentum going into the new one.

Thank you.

Chris Hemmens

14th June 2016

3.b Treasurer – Derek Betson

As I am no good at understanding financial documents I have kept the paperwork that I have given you to read to a minimum, and hopefully, in plain language.

The first document shows the status of the clubs bank accounts on 31st May 2016, and the income and expenses for the year 1st June 2015, up to 31st May 2016.

Our Business Account (which is the normal everyday account) shows Fr. 11'363

Our Savings Account shows Fr. 11'366 and I have Fr. 242 in the cash box at home.

Adding these amounts together makes Fr. 22'972

In the section called Surplus & Deficit you can see how we got money this year and how we spent it. I will not itemize all the figures. But generally you can see that we had an income of Fr. 4'390 from Membership Subscriptions.

In the next section below you can see that the clubs basic running costs were Fr. 5'769

Going down a bit you can see that we had expenses of Fr. 7'713 for Productions and Events, while there was an income for these events of Fr. 7'895.

Moving down again to Others, you can see that we had an expense of Fr. 1'002 and an income of Fr. 1'470

Looking at the Totals at the bottom of the page you can see that during the last 12 months we had total expenses of Fr.14'484 and a total income of Fr. 13'755

This leaves a loss over the year of Fr. 728

The main reason for this loss is due to the delay in receiving our rent invoices from the CPO. These invoices arrived a long time after the end of our financial year when all the accounts were closed. These late invoices for the 2014 – 2015 year totalled Fr. 5'082

If these invoices had been paid in that year, we would have shown a surplus of Fr. 4'046 for this year. This would have been the largest surplus the club had shown for the last 6 years.

In case you are wondering about the use of the word Surplus, it is because as a non-profit making association we cannot use the word Profit in our accounts.

If we turn to the second sheet called Recapitulation we can see a financial history of our last three years at the CPO.

Really there is nothing new on this sheet; it just shows the figures from the previous years, but done in a historical form.

Second line from the bottom you can see the Fr. 5'035 in late bills from 2014 – 2015 that had to be taken out of this year's finances. Luckily this year we only have carry over bills of Fr. 370 to pay out of the coming year.

You can also see along the bottom line that our membership during the last 3 years has been fairly stable and that we finished this year with 64 people. Comprising 58 paying seniors, 3 under 26's, plus 3 honorary members.

Lastly, and for interest, I can report that we did rather well financially with our Blackadder production. The total cost of the 4 day production was Fr. 4'558, while our income was Fr. 6'751, this gives us a surplus of Fr. 2'193.

This is the best financial result we have had for several years and all involved must be congratulated.

Suffice it to note that we had 15 members in the cast plus 15 members helping out back stage, front of house, lights and sound, as well as several general supporting jobs that needed to be done.

It was really a club event, utilizing most of the clubs active membership.

This then ends my report for the year 2015 – 2016.

Derek Betson

Renens, 16th June 2016

Heather Gavin asked for clarification of the significant Expense and Income shown under Misc. in the Accounts 2015-2016. The Treasurer replied as follows:

The items in the miscellaneous columns are made up of the residue from various items from last year and this year's activity that were paid or received in cash.

Expenditure includes the roll up VP poster Fr. 260, T-shirts Fr. 639 and a cash tray for sorting out loose change.

Income includes old club night hat collections such as, Getting There, Cat's Cradle Fr. 312, Molly Sweeney Fr 305, ITMON Geneva Fr. 1'760, and cash paid subscriptions which amounted to Fr 800 during 2 years.

Normally at the end of each year I clear out the cash box and pay it into the bank. But I failed to do it at the end of the 2014 – 15 year.

Vivienne Furtwangler asked if the Committee agreed to spend almost CHF 800.- exhibiting at the Léman International Fair (ExPat Fair) and does it bring in new members? The Treasurer replied that we are not sure that it brings additional new members but it does increase VPs visibility. He added that we will attend one more time this coming November. Vivienne also wanted it noted for publicity, that the IWC (International Women's Club), Lausanne - a number of whose members attend Village Players' events and productions – only produce their newsletter 4 times per year instead of monthly. So Village Players' events must be advertised well in advance. Vivienne will give details of publication dates.

3.c Administrative Director – Susan Morris.

Although the Committee had no Chairman for most of the year it continued to function, and met every month to keep things running smoothly and make sure that there have been a variety of Club Nights as well as a Production to attend over the year.

As you know, in March, Chris Hemmens volunteered to step in as Acting Chairman and has chaired the last few committee meetings. He is willing to continue in the Chairman's position for the coming year, so we trust he will be elected later on.

Colin Gamage and Derek Betson have also been very active in ensuring that the Village Players have a roof over our heads by participating in meetings with the CPO administration and officials from Lausanne.

Also, the Village Players' website is up and running and is updated regularly. I am pleased to say that it worked very well for the Blackadder bookings.

As I say every year, we welcome members' contributions to both the website, the newsletter and our Facebook page. If anyone would like to be more involved with the communications and social media aspect of this club, please speak to me or the Publicity Manager.

Susan Morris

15th June 2016

John McKillop commented that it appears that the Club had spent over CHF 1000.- on the website but that when he had visited it to book tickets for Blackadder II the site had shown "Fully Booked". The Administrative Director explained that "Fully Booked" flag was a human error and was quickly spotted and corrected. The ticket bookings system should have been set to flag when 100 tickets had been sold per performance. Unfortunately it was first set to flag when 100 tickets had been sold for all performances.

The Treasurer also stated that the costs for the website shown in the 2015/2016 accounts were a "one off" cost for setting up the new website. Future maintenance costs should be only some CHF 100.- per year.

The Secretary gave an update from the CPO Committee meeting 18th May 2016 of the status regarding the future of the CPO. Véronique Biollay-Kennedy is in contact with, and has attended meetings, concerned with the process necessary to launch a "démarche participative" (joint consultation) to plan for the future of the CPO. This is likely to be a very long process. In the meantime, after the summer when the new Municipal (David Payot) has taken office, the Ville de Lausanne will be contacted to follow up the signature of the extension of the "droit de superficie".

The next CPO Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29th June 2016 and Mike Scott and Geoffrey Peek will attend to represent the Village Players.

3.d Production Coordinator – Daniel Gardini

What a strange season it has been. It started off rather weak, with short term members dropping out of a production resulting in its cancellation and basically a lack of motivation from everyone to put on anything other than play readings.

But the second term turned out better. As producer and co-director of this May's production, I can confirm that it is a stressful and tiring job, but when you see the whole team coming together and helping out at the technical and dress rehearsals, it really warms your heart. Plus, if I can do it while running two jobs, writing classes and still have a sort of social life, anyone can.

I must, as Production Coordinator, remind you that the Village Players is not just a social group, but a theatre group and that, in order for the Club to survive, we need people to come forward with projects and plays. Events are one thing, but without productions this club will not be able to survive.

Which brings me to the next point: we are still currently looking for a November 2016 production. We have a project in mind for May 2017, but this winter we need you to come up with an idea. So please contact me if you have something in mind.

I thank you all for listening to my rambling and I wish you a pleasant evening. Thank you.

Daniel Gardini

16th June 2016.

When asked, the Production Coordinator stated that the dates for the November 2016 production are Thursday 10th – Saturday 12th November 2016. There was then some discussion on what could be produced, but no firm ideas resulted.

3e. Events Coordinator – Mary Couper

This has been my first year coordinating the events and it has proved thoroughly enjoyable.

The year started with an 'As You Like It' variety evening in September, which proved so popular that the Committee has decided to start the year with another one. This was followed by a double bill of two very different short play readings by Dorothy Brooks and Paolo Garcia. In November in place of the production we were entertained by an original play reading, The 'Dakin Enigma' written by Mike Scott followed in the second half of the evening by a celebration of prose poetry and music devised by Mike Scott and Heather Gavin. In December, the traditional Christmas party was ably organised by a new member, Hanadi together with Susan Morris.

In January 2016 we had an innovation – an evening of storytelling which was ably organized by John Middleton. This brought us to February where a very select group played at karaoke run by Daniel Gardini. Then in March we came back to our roots with a classic play reading 'Amphitryon' directed by Christa Baan. In April again Mike Scott and Heather Gavin treated us to an evening of eccentricities entitled 'Mr. Ping and the Squeaky Clean Tie Pin'.

I would like to say a very big thank you to all those who were responsible for these most enjoyable evenings.

We are now in the process of devising the programme for 2016- 2017. I have so far received proposed ideas for a number of play readings but there is still space for more. If anyone of you is interested in organizing one of these events, I would be very happy to hear from you. As I mentioned at the beginning of this report we will be holding a variety evening to start the season and if you are interested in performing in this event I would again be most pleased to hear from you.

I will add a final note that as from September, the Club events will be starting at 19.30 instead of 20.00.

Thank you all for your participation. This is your club and without your input, we would not survive.

Mary Couper
10th June 2016

Acceptance of the Committee Reports was proposed by Geoffrey Peek, seconded by Vivienne Furtwangler and voted unanimously.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE SOCIETY

The auditor, John Middleton, was not able to attend the meeting. He had verbally reported to the Secretary earlier in the day that he had audited the accounts and had produced a positive report, but was not in a position to send this in time for the meeting.

The Secretary stated that he will include the auditor's report in the minutes of this AGM and that these will be distributed to the membership.

Chris Hemmens suggested that acceptance of the audited accounts be delegated to the Committee. This suggestion was formerly proposed by Sylvia McKillop; seconded by Ian Griffiths and voted as follows:

In favour (including proxy votes) 24; against 1; abstentions 2.
Thus the proposal was accepted by a majority vote.

The day following the AGM, the Secretary received from the Auditor his report as follows:

I have audited the accounting records consisting of several hundred of movements and the financial statements of THE VILLAGE PLAYERS for the year ended 31st May 2016 as presented to me by the Treasurer.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

In my opinion, the Income/Expenditure statement presented showing an Operating Deficit for the year of CHF 729.- (Expenditure over Income) and the Balance Sheet showing Gross Assets of CHF 22'972.- (total Cash and Savings); give a fair and true view of the financial condition of THE VILLAGE PLAYERS as at May 31st 2016.

However, I must point out that, as shown by the Treasurer, the Society have some invoices to be paid totalling CHF 370 .- which relate to Season 2015–2016 activities and were received after the accounts closing on 31st May 2016.

I recommend that the financial statements as submitted be approved at the AGM on 16th June 2016.

John Middleton
Honorary Auditor
1801 Mt. Pèlerin
14th June 2016.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR

In his absence, the meeting requested that John Middleton be asked to continue as auditor for the Season 2016/2017. *See Footnote 1

6. DEBATE AND VOTING ON MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE AGM

No motions had been submitted for voting at this AGM.

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NEW COMMITTEE

As per the AGM notification, and subsequent e-mail to the membership dated 9th June 2016, the following members of the current Committee are willing to stand again for re-election:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Administrative Director | Susan Morris |
| Production Coordinator | Daniel Gardini |
| Events Coordinator | Mary Couper |
| Secretary | Colin Gamage |
| Treasurer | Derek Betson |
| Membership Secretary | Dorothy Brooks |
| Technical Manager | Ian Griffiths |

Also, as per the AGM notification, a nomination had been received for:

Chairman Chris Hemmens, who has confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

Proposed by Derek Betson and seconded by John McKillop.

In addition, and as announced in the subsequent e-mail to the membership dated 9th June 2016, the Secretary has received the nomination for:

Publicity Manager Alexis Munier, who has confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

Proposed by Daniel Gardini and seconded by Julia Krämer.

No further nominations had been received and there were no further nominations from the floor

It was unanimously agreed that an en bloc vote for the 7 incumbents willing to stand for election, plus Chris Hemmens as Chairman and Alexis Munier as Publicity Manager, be made by a show of hands. Acceptance of the 7 incumbents plus Chris Hemmens as Chairman and Alexis Munier as Publicity Manager was voted unanimously.

That leaves the post of Business Manager still vacant.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Heather Gavin asked about progress of the VPs Youth Section. Derek Betson replied that we have a list of youngsters interested in joining a Youth Section but have no-one really interested in organising/giving courses. Those people who originally volunteered their services have withdrawn their interest. Gwen Czajkowska offered to help in but not to organise the Youth Section. Heather Gavin offered to help teach in drama courses. Daniel Gardini also stated that we would definitely need a venue for a Youth Section. From the floor it was suggested that the Scots Kirk hall or large room downstairs at the CPO could be possible venues.

Daniel Gardini highlighted the need for storage space for costumes, props etc.

Chris Hemmens also pointed out that the free of charge room at Ecole Medica is no longer available for rehearsals. So, in the future, production rehearsals will need to take place in hired rooms (CPO or Scots Kirk).

Heather Gavin informed the meeting of various theatre related events that will soon be taking place in the region. This included the Lausanne Shakespeare Festival 24th – 26th June 2016. As this, and the other events, will have taken place before these minutes get published, the Secretary has not recorded all of them here.

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:40.

Next Annual General Meeting: Thursday 15th June 2017.

*Footnote 1 20.06.2016:

Since the AGM, John Middleton has confirmed in writing to the Secretary that he is willing to continue as the auditor for the Season 2016/2017.