



MINUTES OF THE GTG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 2nd September 2024

Wilfred Noyce Centre, Godalming

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: GTG Chair, Denise Hodgkiss welcomed those present, thanking them for attending. Apologies were received from Erin Taylor, Ben Dray, Anna Dray, Paul Furlong, Molly Hughes, Sue Sillett, David Dray, Graham Seddon, Jenny Seddon

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023 were approved and unanimously accepted by a show of hands.

There were no matters arising.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – Graham Seddon gave his treasurer's report and updated those present with the current situation. A full financial report is attached but briefly, over the current year, in which there had been three productions, income had been £90,000. With current net assets of £63,000 the policy is to continue having a good financial buffer so that GTG can put on good quality shows and be able to survive unexpected events like Covid. Year-round planning is much easier with the added benefit of the regular income from members and supporters and, because of the restrictions caused by its charity status, the plan for the 2024 -25 season has the same aim of getting to a breakeven point rather than making a profit.

The accounts had been verified by the independent examiner to whom they were submitted by the trustees, and they were accepted unanimously by those present at the AGM.

Click to download accounts: <https://www.gtguk.com/agm>

4. CO-CHAIRS' REPORT

Denise thanked everyone for coming to the AGM and for the invaluable support of group and audience members and of friends and patrons in the 6 years she had been Chair of GTG. It had been an honour but a huge responsibility being Chair of such a successful group and she thanked Peter for acting as co-chair in the past year and helping to safeguard the ethos and reputation of an award-winning community Theatre. She said how well it had worked and that she was delighted that the group was in such good hands. She said he was an energetic advocate of change who would take the group confidently through changing times; that our core membership would always give us longevity and that she hoped the committee and membership would give Peter the same support she has had. Peter thanked Denise and explained that his focus was going to be procedural change rather than changing the quality and traditions which make GTG so successful.

Other news was that **the 23-24 season** had been highly successful, with a NODA award winning Autumn play **Ladies' Day**, directed by Mary Logan, and packed-out audiences for our panto **Aladdin**, directed by Dan Bundy. This was our last production at the Ben Travers theatre at Charterhouse before it closes for refurbishment. Finally, there had been the excitement of bringing our stunning production of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** right into the middle of town in April to Godalming Baptist Church and of welcoming so many talented new members to the GTG cast.

In July, nine months of planning resulted in a joyous celebration of 60 years of GTG, **GTG 60 – Sparkling Sixty Soiree**, with members past and present joining 5 founder members of the group plus 4 generations of Desmond Holt's family for a nostalgic trip back in time.

See full item in Group Report. Click to download: <https://www.gtguk.com/agm>

A key focus for the last 2 seasons was to bring new people into the production side of GTG – Matthew Lloyd Davies and Dan Bundy as new directors, Lizzie Hales and Emily Owen on the creative side and Aeden King and Graham Johnson on the technical team, bringing a real sense of energy and positivity to the shows. It is committee policy to have new talent in all areas of GTG, and anyone with skills to offer is invited to fill in the online form on the GTG website.

GTG looks forward to an equally exciting **2024-25**, with a fabulous cast for the comedy **Bunch of Amateurs** directed by David Dray in the Autumn, and for **Cinderella** the pantomime as the Christmas treat. Jenny Seddon has produced a great script and Denise is already looking forward to getting started. The box office is already open for the play and the pantomime, and the audition dates are coming up soon for the Easter musical, **The Baker's Wife**, directed by Maria Langford. This will again be in the Baptist Church in Godalming and has been specially chosen to fit a smaller space and because it is a good choice for GTG. It is a story about a village community with recognisable, relatable characters, a good age range and opportunity for ensemble. The production team is Phoebe Barrow, Leila Bundy, Sarah Jones and Maria, who was shown on video being interviewed by Keith Thomas.

Publicity/marketing/social media – Mad Gibb and Chris East

Mad welcomed the addition of Chris East to the marketing team and said that it had been the key to expanding GTG's successful marketing campaigns.

GYTG – Mad Gibb

Our youth group continues to go from strength to strength.

This year we have seen GYTG members in **Ladies' Day**, **Aladdin**, and **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**. As one batch of youngsters matures and heads off to further education, so the younger ones move up leaving room for new ones to join. Group numbers are kept to a manageable level so that each youngster get the best experience from their time with GYTG.

See full item in Group Report. Click to download: <https://www.gtguk.com/agm>

Members/Friends/Patrons and Advertisers/FOH/Box Office. See Joy Barnham's report in 'Group Report'. Click to download: <https://www.gtguk.com/agm>

5. CONSTITUTION UPDATE FOR APPROVAL

Peter explained that since joining Denise as co-chair in September, he had taken on the responsibility of looking at GTG's policies and procedures to ensure that it complies with the expectations of a registered charity. He has reviewed and updated the constitution to ensure clarity of the role of charity trustees and to ensure that committee members have a good mix of experience and skills. The updated version also extends the time a committee member can serve on the committee. Peter asked everyone to read the updated version and vote at the AGM – as a result the new version of the GTG Constitution was approved with a show of hands from those present.

Click to download Constitution: <https://www.gtguk.com/agm>

6. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Members were asked for nominations prior to the AGM but told that, if no nominations were received, committee members and trustees would be re-elected at the meeting with a show of hands from the members present.

6.1 Trustees: The current charity trustees are: Keith Thomas, Graham Seddon, Denise Hodgkiss, David Dray and Madeleine Gibb.

Proposal: to replace Denise Hodgkiss with Peter Flew and change Keith Thomas to the office of Secretary. This was approved with a show of hands from the members present.

6.2 Committee

a) Officers

Peter Flew is standing for election as Chair for the year 2024-25

Graham Seddon is standing for re-election as Treasurer for the year 2024-25

Keith Thomas is standing for election as Secretary for the year 2024-25

All were elected with a show of hands

b) Committee members

David Dray is standing to be re-elected to the committee for the year 2024-25

Madeleine Gibb is standing down as Secretary but standing to be re-elected to the committee for the year 2024-25 as a member

Brenda Baggott is standing to be re-elected to the committee for the year 24-25

Keith Thomas is standing to be re-elected to the committee for the year 2024-25

Brian Fraser is standing for election as a new member of the committee

All were elected by a show of hands from the Members present. Peter thanked all members present for their support.

7. AOB

7.1 Launch of the new GTG Logo – this was revealed in a PowerPoint presentation. The new logo is colourful and in an attractive new typeset. It will be used on all GTG correspondence and Merchandise, including the new T-shirts which will be given to full members of the group

7.2 Thank you – Peter thanked Lorna and Jenny who were standing down from committee and have been valuable supporters of the committee's aims and activities.

He finished by again thanking Denise for her inspiring tenure as chair and for entrusting him with the baton as she hands over responsibility for its future.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 21.45