

Minutes of the Keswick Film Club AGM on 16 September 2018 at 4.00pm at the Alhambra

1. **Present** (23): Vaughan Ames (chair), David Andrews, Roger Blunt, Michael Bohling, Sally Bohling, Hylton Boothroyd, Joan Boothroyd, Fiona Cox, Jim Cox, Marie-Pierre Gaudez, Valerie Hallard, Leela Marsh, Tony Marsh, Ann Martin, Mike Newns, Pam Newns, Stephen Pye, Carol Rennie, Pat Royall, Robert Royall, Dawn Titley, Paul Titley, Beth Wright

2. **Apologies** (11): Jane Andrews, Dorothy Hind, Catherine Loubser, Michael Loubser, David Miller, Alan Naylor, Mike Newns, Elspeth Payne, Ian Payne, Sarah Skelton, Steve Skelton

3. **Minutes** of the 2017 AGM were agreed.

4. **Trustees' annual report** was received comprising:

4a. **Chair's report:** Vaughan Ames reported:

Starting with the good news: our call to 'bring a friend' seems to have had some effect last year as our average audience figure went up from just less than 100 to just over 101; so one extra person each week – well done! Please try to keep that going this year. During the year the membership also went up from 209 to 219– again good news.

That said, the committee year was dominated by our diminishing reserves which, as the treasurer's report today will show, has fallen by almost £9,000 in six years. We spent much time trying to find ways to save money – succeeding by changing our website provider, getting cheaper printing for the brochure and sending fewer people to film previews. More importantly, I think, we have also been trying to bring in more money. This has been less successful; we invested in a marketing consultant who did come up with many ideas, some of which we are trying to do. For instance, we are trying to involve other local groups, to do more on social media and local websites. Obviously lack of funds is an on-going problem for the club as the reserves will eventually run out unless we resolve it, which would endanger the very existence of the Festival, if not the club.

The other main issue this year was data protection. You will all have got bored by the emails arriving, ironically asking for permission to send you emails and store your data. We did lose a number of people from email lists who never replied, but overall the effort was successful and paved the way to us moving our weekly emails to the Mailchimp system – giving us much more attractive emails now and hopefully attracting still more people to come to the films.

Lastly, we spent much time discussing – even arguing – over ways to celebrate the club's twentieth year, which has now begun. The winning argument was that the club relies on showing brand new films not seen before, so any attempt to show old films seemed self-defeating. What we have is a new logo – finally joining the club and festival together – and, hopefully, we will be giving you, the members, a greater say in our programme in future; watch this space.

I hope this doesn't all sound too negative; yes we need more income, but the club and festival continue to flourish beyond that. Our 'KFC on the Road' has been so successful that it has almost done itself out of existence(!) Mungrisdale are now running their own shows, with much of their own equipment whilst Wigton are now simply borrowing the screen from time to time, doing the rest for themselves; it feels good to me - like we have helped set up two local film clubs!

I would like to finish with a real thank you to the committee; over the years it has been an essential part of the club, obviously, but I do feel the present committee is the best it has been for some time, both in commitment and ideas and certainly in effort. I'll not mention any names - my thanks go to all of them. With their hard work, the work of other volunteers, and your continued support week after week, let's hope our twentieth year is both successful and fun...and the first year of the next twenty years of this great club!

4b. Film festival: Ian Payne reported that the 2018 festival both started and finished with full houses at the Alhambra, with Edie and Three Billboards respectively. In between those films the Festival's usual mix of drama, documentaries, events and talks drew in both regular film festival goers and those new to Keswick. Bruce Parry's introduction to his film, Tawai and the audience for Our Last Tango at Rheged were cases in point. A particular highlight was Anwen Hurt's introduction to That Good Night, Sir John Hurt's last lead role.

The result was that audience numbers were up on the previous year which meant that the Festival required a smaller contribution from Film Club reserves. Expenditure (£19,804) exceeded income (£18,304) by some £1,500.

This year, for the first time, the Festival saw a significant involvement from Keswick School, with boarders acting as volunteer stewards at some screenings and the school selecting the family film, A Monster Calls which screened on the Saturday morning.

Thanks, as ever, are due to the Film Club volunteers who made the event work so seamlessly over the weekend. Feedback from festival-goers repeatedly mentions the friendly welcome they receive.

4c. Treasurer's report: Paul Titley reported that our combined income was £32,690 and spending £34,306, a loss of £1,617 of which £1,500 was the loss on the film festival. We have reserves of £12,882, a reduction of 9k over the last six years.

Robert Royall suggested that the festival ought to break even and questioned how far it is worth having guests. Paul Titley replied that the committee had discussed this on several occasions and that for some attendees guests are an integral part of the festival. It may be possible to reduce costs by members accommodating more guests rather than using hotels.

The annual report was accepted.

5. Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The committee's recommendation of altering our status from registered charity and company limited by guarantee to a charitable incorporated organisation and adopting the proposed constitution was agreed.

6. Appointment of Trustees – currently Vaughan Ames, Ann Martin, David Miller, Ian Payne, Tom Rennie. Tom Rennie and Ann Martin retire this year but were both willing to continue. As no other nominations had been received the existing Trustees were re-elected.

7. Election of committee and officers The following were elected:

Officers

Chair	Vaughan Ames
Vice Chair	David Miller
Secretary	David Andrews
Treasurer	Paul Titley

Membership secretary
Festival coordinator
Webmaster

Elsbeth Payne
Ian Payne
Stephen Brown

Committee members

Roger Gook
Ann Martin
Mike Newns
Tom Rennie

Angela Jackson
Alan Naylor
Stephen Pye

8. Any other business

The Chair and committee were thanked for their work.

The meeting closed at 4.38pm

da 17.09.2018