

Forest Row Film Society Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 17th June 2011 at the Brambletye Hotel

Committee members present: Robert Evans, Marie-Claire Thomson, Diana Comer, Yolene Crawford, Brad Scott, Patrick Crawford, Sundari Heller, Steffi Pusch, Cathie Hubert

Members present: Terry Davies, Cesca Diebschlag, Martin Groat, Barbara Groat, Judith Gleeson, Rachael Pereira, Valerie Moss

Others present: Arthur Crawford, Mike Grenville (Transition Forest Row), Julie Withers (children's films)

1 Preamble

Being at the end of the 2010-11 season, this AGM conveniently reviewed both the 2009-10 season and that of 2010-11.

2 Accounts

Accounts to end May 2010 were presented. (See <http://forestrowfilmsociety.org/media/accounts2009-10.pdf>)

Film income was £5304, and film expenditure was £2995. Other expenditure was £2237, including some equipment, and the programmes.

We ended the 2009-10 season with a balance of £4231, an increase of £761 over the previous season.

Formal accounts for the 2010-11 season were not yet available, though a P&L for the comedy film festival was circulated, and was subsequently posted [on the website](#).

3 Festival

The Comedy Film Festival was a highlight of the 2010-11 season, raised the profile of the society, attracted new volunteers, and new audience. However, it made a small loss. The ticket income was lower than projected, partly because the weekend was fantastically hot, which deterred many people from the daytime screenings. A couple of the films were arguably too mainstream and well-known, which also reduced their appeal.

The workshops lost money, though the grant funding went some considerable way to meeting that, and it was intended from the outset that we would not pass on the full costs to participants to make them more affordable. However, the promotion of them almost certainly started too late, though all had sufficient participants.

The T shirts were a nice idea, though we didn't sell enough. We probably didn't push them adequately either.

4 Forward planning

4.1 Christmas film

Mike Grenville noted that TFR would be screening *The Wizard of Oz* over the Christmas break.

4.2 Children's films

Julie Withers outlined the proposal for including a small programme of children's films next season. These would be FRFS events, but effectively managed by a separate group of volunteers. The FRFS committee will have final approval. Julie Withers and Emily Turner have been gathering email addresses of interested people, and the plan is to screen classics and some less well-known films on Sunday afternoons, with a view to getting at least 60 people per screening. A family ticket would also be offered for £15.

4.3 Passion of Joan of Arc

Patrick Crawford will investigate options for obtaining screening licence for this film as part of a silent film programme for next season.

4.4 Insurance and Constitution

Arthur Crawford noted that there is currently a difference between the cover for committee members and that for third party liability.

Several issues with the FRFS constitution were discussed, and it was noted that some items needed to be amended urgently. The most important was that defining our relationship with partner organisations.

ACTION: AC, JG, MG to review current cover and constitution and report to the committee

4.5 Legal status

Judith Gleeson noted that it would be preferable for FRFS to be a Company Limited by Guarantee.

5 Committee

The committee were re-elected, and Judith Gleeson and Rachael Pereira were also elected to the committee.