

Forest Row Film Society Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 22 November 2013 at the Brambletye Hotel

Committee members present: Robert Evans, Yolene Crawford, Brad Scott, Patrick Crawford, Steffi Pusch, Cesca Diebschlag, Alastair Pinkney

Apologies: Judith Gleeson, Rachael Pereira

Members present: Stephen Dillane, Alex Groat, Barbara Groat, Martin Groat

Others present: Caroline van der Bijl, Jo Carder, Audrey Pike, Richard Pike

1 Review of the year

The 2012-13 season was our biggest ever, with a very strong programme, good-sized audiences and strong audience reaction scores. The relationship with Transition Forest Row continues to be valuable, providing a good strand of films targeted at a (somewhat) different audience.

There were slightly smaller audiences and less high scores for the older films (pre 1970s) in the programme, but we had also responded to audience demand for more comedies and lighter films. However, surprisingly, *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort* scored the lowest ever.

The children's film programme was doubled to eight screenings, though they were poorly attended compared with the previous year and, as a strand, lost money.

TFR's late addition to the programme, *The Mahabharata*, was a great triumph, with 100 people attending (some from quite far afield) to see a 5 hour epic with dinner.

The programming range together contributed to our winning the Best Film Programming award at the British Federation of Film Societies Film Society of the Year awards in September 2013.

We also won a commendation in the Best Marketing and Publicity category. The web site was rebuilt, and we now have 470 people signed up to our email list, about 270 following on Facebook, and 650 following on Twitter.

Over the last few years we have spent much time and energy attempting to improve the sound quality, and have been helped considerably by Robin Courtenay and Simon Buddle of SMC, who have given much of their time and expertise, and given us some very good deals on equipment. Though them we acquired a new amplifier and processor unit (one kindly donated by Mike Beatty of Pulse). The sound has much improved, though we still need to work further on the clarity of some films.

We have also established our working relationship with Wealden District Council's licensing department to ensure that there is an efficient process of notification when we screen uncertificated films.

2 Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the AGM of 8 November 2012 were approved. Proposed by Patrick Crawford. Seconded by Cesca Diebschlag

3 Matters arising

The committee decided to retain the current legal status, but will review this periodically.

The review of the constitution is still outstanding.

4 Treasurer's report

The accounts for 2012-13 were circulated. It was a good year for the society, though some films did make a loss. A sizeable chunk of the expenditure was on new sound equipment.

5 Membership report

The society continues to have about 60 members other than the committee.

6 The future

A discussion took place which considered the following questions:

1. What has worked well / what do people like?
2. What has worked less well / what do people not like?
3. What might we want to do in the future?
4. How can we resource the Society in the future?

7 Appointment of committee

The committee were appointed for the coming year. Proposed by Martin Groat. Seconded by Jo Carder:

- Robert Evans (chair)
- Marie-Claire Thomson (treasurer)
- Brad Scott (secretary)
- Diana Comer
- Yolene Crawford
- Patrick Crawford
- Steffi Pusch
- Judith Gleeson
- Rachael Pereira
- Cesca Diebschlag
- Alastair Pinkney