

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT JULY 2023

If a week is considered a long time in politics then a year must seem like an absolute age . However in the amateur theatrical world this last year seems to have flown by. It may be because, for the first time in a few years, we have actually had a full year's programme of events in what was our 75th Anniversary year .

As it was an Anniversary year we resolved to stage a "big" production in the Autumn that could involve a good number of our members. We started looking at various plays and eventually came down on **Oliver Twist**. With a large cast of strong characters, a powerful storyline and our ability to include many of our wonderful juniors it ticked all the right boxes and I was privileged to direct it. It had good audiences and was very well received, and rounded off our Anniversary performances in fine style.

As part of our Anniversary celebration we held a dinner at the Half Moon in early November. We had an excellent meal and were well looked after by our hosts. Among the large attendance were many former members and it was good to see them and be able to catch up. Special thanks for organising the event must go to Jo Stephenson for the main organising, Ava Stuart, who also produced some incredible prizes for the raffle and Amanda Bell who created a wonderful archive display which was a particular highlight. The evening was rounded off with dancing for those with any energy left! It was a fitting end to our Anniversary year.

January saw the long- awaited appearance of our pantomime Robin Hood following the disappointing cancellation of the show the previous year. Sarah Whitaker, making her debut as director, created a very colourful production, with great characters, catchy songs, plenty of funny business all of which made for a very accomplished show which was thoroughly enjoyed by our large audiences. Well done, Sarah!

During one of our play readings, it was clear that we should provide an opportunity for our younger adult members to take major roles in a play. To this end we decided on the Victorian farce **Charley's Aunt** in which there were six parts for young adults. Together with the "oldies" and under Brenda Adams' experienced direction, we saw an accomplished production – the only disappointment being the small audiences. As it was felt that the advertising did not help the cause it has been decided to bring this element of the production back into the committee.

Our final production this year was the juniors play **What a Knight**. This was the brainchild of Matthew Bell who researched it, presented it to the committee, and then directed it most successfully, with the help of Penny as assistant director. All of the juniors acquitted themselves admirably which was a special delight as some of them had not appeared on stage before . They also had great fun as they painted the set themselves under the watchful eye of Iris Holt.. Audiences were good, and together with the American Supper after the evening performance the whole event was a great success.

Speaking of the juniors, they continue to meet once a month to participate in various theatre-related activities led by members of the group but overseen by both Sarah and, latterly, Karla who is now our Head of Juniors. Hopefully these sessions, and the one act play, will give the juniors the confidence to take part in the next pantomime, where we like to feature the juniors prominently.

The Hut continues to stand – despite the Bodgers efforts to demolish it! The main improvement this last year has been the replacement of the heater in the wardrobe. As this had to be sited further away from the door it was necessary to block up the gap in the wall behind the old heater and we are grateful to Peter Nicholls for laying the blocking and then rendering it. After considerable to-ing and fro-ing we eventually managed to get a telephone line and the internet installed in the Hut. The phone will help if we ever have an emergency situation and the internet helps us at meetings and enables us to access play scripts for the readings we hold. . The merry bunch of Bodgers continue to meet for tea each Monday morning with occasional breaks for building and painting sets. If anyone feels like joining us, please come along – but bring some biscuits with you!

As ever, improvements to the Hut are funded via the Hut Club and we are grateful to Sarah and Lesley, who run the regular draws, which keep the Hut Repair Fund in a healthy financial state.

In recognition of the King's Coronation, the Town Council held a fete on May 7th at the Avenue Playing Field along the same lines as the one held last year for the late Queen's Jubilee. Again, we booked a gazebo but were prevented from displaying our archive material this time due to the weather. However, we did take a throne, crown and royal regalia along to allow suitable photo shoots and we were able to publicise our forthcoming productions. Our thanks to those who provided support during the day.

The plans for the Festival Hall continue to drag slowly on and we maintain contact with developments through Simon and Philip and we are grateful for their support in doing this. Thankfully the Town Council seem to have recognised that elements of the fabric of the Hall needed urgent attention and I am pleased to see that the seats in both the Auditorium and the Rose Room have been re-covered. There has also been some cosmetic redecoration in the Hall itself. If nothing else, it shows that the Council have listened to the complaints of the User groups about the state of the Hall. Having a Mayor who engages with us and listens to our concerns is, I am sure, of benefit.

We continue to actively support PPAF along with most of the other performing and musical groups in Petersfield. This year there continues to be much focus on the proposed Festival Hall developments. We have ensured that those responsible for the development have been made aware of our requirements and any concerns we have with the plans. Richard Wilshin, as PPAF Chairman, and Simon Auty as PPAF member, are our main representatives in this, so we are in good hands

At the request of a previous General Meeting we agreed to open up the meetings where we discuss and agree future shows to the whole membership. However the attendance at these meetings has been somewhat mixed. We will continue to make future meetings open to all members but it is up to you to support them. If not, then, in order to create a programme of future productions, we will have to revert to choosing plays through the committee.

Sadly, during the year, we learnt of the loss of one of our members, Jackie Phillips. Jackie had been involved in the Petersfield Theatrical scene for a great many years in varying capacities – Secretary, Committee Member, Chairman, President. She was also an exceptional DSM and most of our current DSMs have cause to be grateful to her for passing on her expertise. We shall miss her.

Despite our membership being at a good level we still struggle for support at times. Whether it is getting a quorum of attendees at General Meetings, getting people to commit to supporting Front of House in our productions or assisting with publicity including leaflet handouts, it is much harder

work than it need be – or should be. Members cannot rely on just “the few” to do all the work. Every member should be prepared to do their share.

I would like to thank the committee for their outstanding work during the year. Their energy, hard work and enthusiasm have ensured that, following the disruptions over the past couple of years, the Group got back to Business As Usual as quickly as possible and so enabled us to continue to present our productions to a consistently high standard. Some of the work the committee does is evident to you but much of it is not – particularly in working and preparing for the future while ensuring that day-to-day requirements are met. As Chairman, I have greatly benefitted from their individual and collective wisdom.²

Although all the committee deserve praise I would just like to mention Laurie, who, after 5 years of meticulously managing our finances and our charitable status, as well as a previous spell as Chairman, feels it is time to retire and we shall miss him.

In conclusion, I should like to thank all of you for making Winton Players what it is today – a welcoming, friendly, supportive and inclusive group. It is no coincidence that some of you have stated that they regard Winton Players as their second family – including someone just this week! I know for certain that this is absolutely not the case in other groups. Because of this it is much more fulfilling to be in the position of leading the group and I am very grateful for that. Also I think it shows in the way we conduct our business – both on stage and in dealing with our audiences.

Long may it continue!

Thank You

Roger Wettone , Chairman Winton Players

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES
ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

Independent examiner's statement

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Winton Players CIO for the financial year ended 31 May 2023

I have completed my examination of the 2022/23 Winton Players accounts and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a large, elongated oval shape.

Name: NICOLA HILLYER
Association of Accounting Technicians

WINTON PLAYERS

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 May 2023

	2022-23	2021-22
GENERAL ACCOUNT INCOME		
Productions	£ 35,867.57 Note 1	£ 13,810.49
Donations	£ 101.05	£ 2,000.00
Subscriptions 2022-23	£ 2,889.00 Note 2	£ 2,919.32
Sale and Hire of Costumes	£ 87.00	£ 118.00
Future Productions		£ 117.00
Social Events	£ 2,765.00 Note 3	
Miscellaneous	£ 70.00	
Total	£ 41,779.62	£ 18,964.81
HUT REPAIR FUND INCOME		
Hut Club Transfer in	£ 800.00	£ 1,000.00
ABOA Raffle	£ 283.00	
RH Raffle	£ 453.00	
Total	£ 1,536.00	£ 1,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	£ 43,315.62	£ 19,964.81
GENERAL ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE		
Productions	£ 31,643.17 Note 4	£ 12,195.01
Future Productions	£ 2,555.92 Note 5	£ 2,839.36
The Hut Running Expenses	£ 2,512.72 Note 6	£ 1,904.30
Hut Improvements/repairs/stock	£ 1,744.77 Note 7	£ 2,657.83
Wardrobe	£ 23.98	
Insurance	£ 1,387.13	£ 1,362.13
NODA Subscription	£ 215.00	£ 72.00
Charitable Donations	£ 1,010.00 Note 8	£ 343.55
Social events	£ 2,715.60 Note 9	£ 285.00
Internal Transfer	£ 736.00 Note 10	
Administration	£ 667.92 Note 11	£ 561.88
Miscellaneous	£ 25.00	£ 390.42
Total	£ 45,237.21	£22,611.48
HUT REPAIR FUND EXPENDITURE		
Hut Improvements/repairs	£ 1,260.00 Note 12	£ -
Total	£ 1,260.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 46,497.21	£ 22,611.48
Excess of Expenditure over income	£ (3,181.59)	£ (2,646.67)



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Note 1 Income from Productions

Oliver Twist 2022	£8,103.31
One Acts 2022	£306.65
Robin Hood 2023	£20,641.59
Charley's Aunt 2023	£6,619.02
Past Productions	£197.00
Total	£35,867.57

Note 2 Income from Membership

22-23 Subscriptions	£2,497.50
23-24 Subscriptions	£391.50
Total	£2,889.00

Note 3 Income from Anniversary Dinner

Attendees	£2,280.00
Raffle Proceeds	£485.00
Total	£2,765.00

Note 4 Expenditure on Productions

Oliver Twist 2022	£7,726.07
Half Moon Festival	£4.00
One Acts 2022 (deposit chq from 2021)	-£56.00
Robin Hood 2023	£16,614.18
Charley's Aunt	£6,530.84
Past Productions	£82.28
Stocks	£438.53
75 Anniversary	£303.27
Total	£31,643.17

Note 5 Expenditure on Future Productions

Beauty and The Beast 2024	£839.50
One Acts 2023	£289.05
The Woman in White	£1,218.64
Stocks	£42.83
Acquisitions	£165.90
Total	£2,555.92

Note 6 Hut Running Expenses

Electricity	£385.97
Gas	£1,069.09
Business Rates Second Half 2022	£282.00
WiFi and Phone	£86.03
Safety Checks	£74.40
Portable Appliance testing	£74.88
Business Rates 23/24	£298.00
Waste Water Disposal	£242.27
Total	£2,512.64

Note 7 Hut Stocks/Maintenance

Stocks	£1,508.24
Maintenance	£150.99
Fittings	£72.96
Acquisitions	£12.58
Total	£1,744.77

Note 8 Charitable Donations

Home -Start Butser	£250.00
Rowans Hospice	£250.00
Ukrainian Christian Partners	£250.00
PACT Food Bank	£250.00
Portsmouth Hospital Appeal	£10.00
Total	£1,010.00

Note 9 Social Events

Anniversary Dinner	
The Half Moon	£2,625.00
Flower Gifts	£30.00
Raffle Tickets	£4.99
Decorations	£55.61
Total	£2,715.60

Note 10 Internal Transfer

To Hut Repair Fund	
ABOA Raffle Proceeds	£283.00
RH Raffle Proceeds	£453.00
Total	£736.00

Note 11 Administration

Archive	£164.84
Communications	£300.34
Expenses	£87.74
Gifts	£115.00
Total	£667.92

Hut Improvements/Repairs note 12

Wardrobe Heater replacement	£1,260.00
Total	£1,260.00

OPENING CASH BALANCES AT BANK

Main Account	£ 28,711.70	£ 32,032.37
Hut Repair Fund	£ 7,808.51	£ 6,808.51
Uncleared cheques	£ (326.00)	£ -
	£ 36,194.21	£ 38,840.88

CLOSING CASH BALANCES AT BANK

Main Account	£ 24,928.11	£ 28,711.70
Hut Repair Fund	£ 8,084.51	£ 7,808.51
Uncleared cheques	£ -	£ (326.00)
	£ 33,012.62	£ 36,194.21

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