



THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 509915

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

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THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Legal and Administrative Information

GOVERNING OFFICERS

	Name	Position
1	Mr J M Fairfoot	President
2	Mr M Porter	Chairman
3	Mrs B Booth (FCCA)	Honorary Treasurer
4	Mr A Thomson	Honorary Production Manager
5	Mrs G M Ellis	Honorary Secretary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

6	Miss K O'Sullivan	
7	Mrs J D Page	
8	Mr P Hopkins	Vice Chairman
9	Mr S Sefton	

Method of appointment

The Society was governed by the above Officers, who are elected annually at the AGM, together with committee members, who are elected for three years, two of whom retire annually.

Correspondence address

Mrs Beverley Booth (FCCA)
3 Stratton Park
Brighouse
HD6 3SN

Bankers

Santander
Park Row
Leeds
Tel:- 0800 030 4321

Governing document

The Leeds Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS) is a constituted organisation governed by the Rules of Membership dated 2020. It is registered with the Charity Commission number 509915. Rules revised 1966, amended October 1967, October 1976 and October 2005.

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Trustee's report for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

OBJECTS AND POLICIES

The objects of the Society are to foster the public knowledge and appreciation of Music and Drama by means of public performances by voluntary but subscription paying members and to donate part of its production surplus to charitable purposes as the Trustees shall from time to time determine.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The activities of the Society during the year involved one main production in March 2024, Legally Blonde the Musical, staged once more in the spectacular Leeds Grand Theatre.

The production proved to be another financial success for the society. Legally Blonde returned a profit of £31,568 attracting an audience of more than six thousand across the seven performances, with 59% of the theatre capacity sold compared to 52% for Kinky Boots in 2023. The Society were delighted to welcome some new members in principal roles and some as company members, which enabled the Society to maintain high standards and enabling the objects of the Society to be achieved.

Aligned with the objects of the Society and the theme of the Legally Blonde production, the Trustees approved the payment of a charitable donation of £3,000 to the Sutton Trust, Leeds.

After an unprecedented period in the Society's financial history, post Covid we saw 2023 production costs for Kinky Boots notably increasing by +22%, in comparison to those incurred previously by our pre-pandemic productions. The Society have been able to manage the 2024 increase in production costs largely in line with inflationary pressures year on year, with an increase of +5.5%. The Leeds Grand theatre rental costs were held flat year on year. We envisage the pressure on production costs to continue to follow an upward trajectory at least in the short term, due to ongoing inflationary and economic pressures.

Ticket prices across the top tier pricing bands A and B were increased, to mitigate the increased production costs. Pricing for the lower tiers Band C to F were held flat year on year. Ticket sales revenue and the performances of Legally Blonde were strong and propelled the ticket sales revenue for the Society to exceed £190,000 for the first time in the Society history. This was a +8% increase compared to Kinky Boots in 2023 and +33% increase compared to the pre-pandemic production of West side Story in 2019. The Society's bank balances remain healthy at £162,443 which the trustees consider adequate to meet the essential working capital to fund the investment in future productions.

We will continue to build on our financial position and we are looking ahead with excitement to our next major production, Les Misérables: Let the People Sing, to be performed at the Leeds Grand Theatre in April 2025. We have incurred £872 planning costs in 2024 associated with this production.

Several committee member changes were made at the AGM in December 2023. Nicola Brook, Sian Crossley and Christine Rowlands resigned from their roles and were replaced by Kirsty O'Sullivan and Steve Sefton. We thank the retiring committee members for their contributions and dedication to the Society.

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Trustee's report for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 (continued)

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the accounts on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial accounts comply with the applicable laws and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024
(including summary income and expenditure account)

	2024	2023
	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations	675	730
Interest Received	1,530	599
Members Subscriptions & Show Fees	5,074	4,481
Other Revenue	1,124	1,787
Programme Sales	3,387	3,255
Ticket Sales	192,326	177,449
Total incoming resources	204,116	188,301
 Resources expended		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	521	619
Charitable Donations	3,000	500
Consulting Fees	1,395	2,895
Costumes	2,315	5,650
Depreciation	749	374
Insurance & Subscriptions	1,126	733
IT Software & Consumables	73	253
Marketing, Publicity & Programmes	15,902	16,056
Musical Director	6,530	6,112
Orchestra	9,055	6,824
Producer's Fee	6,050	5,500
Room Hire	2,769	2,248
Royalties	38,480	34,527
Scenery, Props, Sound & Lighting	26,150	25,425
Stage Manager's Fee	3,450	1,750
Stationery		
Sundry Expenses	4,468	2,589
Theatre Rent	52,270	52,082
Total resources expended	174,303	(164,137)
Net incoming resources	29,813	24,164
Fund balances brought forward	138,702	114,538
Fund balances carried forward	168,515	138,702

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Balance sheet as at 31st August 2024

	2024	2023
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,499	748
Total fixed assets	<u>1,499</u>	<u>748</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	-	-
Prepayments	5,123	2,948
Cash at bank – 271	161,364	133,553
Cash at bank – 480	1,079	2,008
Total current assets	<u>167,566</u>	<u>138,509</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	550	555
Net current assets	<u>167,016</u>	<u>137,954</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	168,515	138,702
Funds		
Unrestricted funds before	138,702	114,538
Add surplus	29,813	24,164
Less deficit		-
Total funds	<u>168,515</u>	<u>138,702</u>

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Notes to the accounts for the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), the Companies Act 2006 and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources. Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources.

Taxation

As a charity, the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows: Project and office equipment – 15%; Computing equipment – 25%

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

Production Income & Expenditure Account

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations	-	325
Show Fees & Sponsorship	2,778	3,601
Programme Sales	3,387	3,255
Ticket Sales	192,326	177,449
	198,491	184,630
Expenditure		
Costumes	2,315	5,650
Insurance	-	55
Marketing, Publicity & Program Printing	15,902	16,056
Musical Director	6,530	6,112
Orchestra	9,055	6,824
Producer's Fee	6,050	5,500
Room Hire	2,464	2,097
Royalties	38,480	34,527
Scenery, Props, Lighting & Sound	26,150	25,425
Stage Manager's Fee	3,450	1,750
Sundry Expenses	4,257	2,134
Theatre Rent	52,270	52,082
	166,923	(158,212)
Surplus/(Deficit)	31,568	26,418

THE LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

General Expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations	675	404
Interest Received	1,530	599
Other Revenue	76	121
Members Subscriptions	3,345	2,547
	5,626	3,671
Expenditure		
Audit & Accountancy Fees	521	619
Charitable Donations	3,000	500
Consultancy		2,895
Depreciation	749	374
Insurance & Subscriptions	1,126	678
Room Hire	120	151
Stationery & IT	73	253
Sundry Expenses/Reimburse Officials	919	455
	(6,508)	(5,925)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(882)	(2,254)

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature(s)

G. M. GOWS

Full name(s) : GILLIAN ELLIS

Position : Honorary Secretary

Date : 12th January 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF LEEDS AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

We report on the accounts of Leeds Amateur Operatic Society for the year ended 31 August 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under sections 144 and 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- * examine the accounts (under section 145(3) of the 2011 Act);
- * to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) of the 2011 Act; and
- * to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

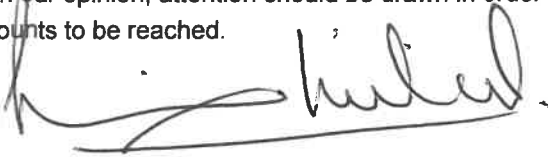
Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - * to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 and 131 of the 2011 Act; and
 - * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



C W Dix Limited
Accountants & Business Advisors
4 Silkwood Court
Wakefield
WF5 9TP

12 January 2025