

Minutes of The Birks Cinema Trust 2022 AGM held at the Birks Cinema on Tuesday 13th December 2022, at 7.00pm

Present:

Board Members: Brian Hawkins (Acting Chair), Brett DeWoody (Secretary), Robin Baker, Douglas Swan, Jenny Minhinnick, Patty Walker Booth

Members:

Signed proxy forms were received from: Robin Menzies, Janet Swan, Fiona Swan

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the virtual AGM Apologies for absence were received from William Hoare, James and Jenny Pike, Terence Wisdom

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM, held on 13th December 2021, having been pre-circulated, were approved by John Freeman and seconded by Wendy Shaw.

Questions:

- a. There was no focus group on film selection and times? Admittedly there was no focus group, and the SMT is working on doing this in the future
- b. The seat sponsorship board has been removed. Will it be replaced?

3. Chair Report on Activities of the Trust 2022

- a. See attached document
- b. Staffing problems were an extreme pressure on the business and meant we could only open 5 days a week.
- c. We had 14k cinema admissions. Live and Let Die was the top film, followed by Belfast
- d. Live Performances returned in October and Opera in March
- e. Community Activities expanded throughout the year as we reopened
- f. Doug provided details on the financial statement and balance sheet
- g. 2019/2020 was still in Covid-times so we were only open 30 weeks
- h. Mostly Cafe Bar sales, followed by ticket sales
- i. Doug gave an explanation of Cafe Bar sales vs ticket sales and the margins on each
- j. Support grants - we received £156,039 in funding from local and regional funds
- k. Overall a small loss on the year, but thanks to funding it was very small

4. Resolution to Elect the Proposed Trustees

- a. Damien Waller and Sarah Price have stepped down from the Board

- b. Jenny Minhinnick was approved as a Board member

5. Resolution to approve the draft Financial Statement for the year to 31/3/22

- a. Sue Hoare proposed the finances and it was seconded by Wendy Shaw

6. Resolution to re-elect the Reporting Accountants, Morris & Young

- a. Our previous reporting accountants Johnston Carmichael decided they didn't want to continue doing independent reviews. The board evaluated 4 companies and decided on Morris & Young.
- b. There was unanimous approval of the new reporting accountants of Morris & Young

7. Membership Info

- a. We currently stand at ~130 paying members
- b. We are focused on increasing the number of members and increasing the amount of the subscription

8. Any Other Competent Business

- a. There was thanks for the new Opera shows
- b. There was concern around communication and mixed messaging. The AGM was announced and then delayed. Our goal is to hold the AGM in September of every year, and promoted in regional prints like the Quair.
- c. There seems to be miscommunication between the front-line and the Board. We are actively working on new forms of communication to improve messaging between staff.
- d. Concern was raised around the acoustics of the mezzanine level (evident during the AGM). The Board has looked into various means to improve the acoustics, including the new blinds.
- e. There was concern raised around the lack of presence of the senior management team. They would like to know who management is and have direct lines of communication.

9. Future Plans

- a. See the attached Future Plans presentation
- b. The Board is reviewing figures monthly to ensure we have finances to continue
- c. Staffing remains an issue
- d. A wide range of films and activities each week
- e. We showed our first Sports match (World Cup) which was well attended. Members welcomed this new form of entertainment and hope to see more of it.
- f. There was a video from Giles describing future plans, staff/volunteer training, sporting events, and more.

- g. This is the 10th anniversary of the Birks Cinema and there will be a party on April 21, 2023.

10. Next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting of the Birks Cinema is scheduled for August 22nd, 2023 at 7pm at the Birks Cinema.

Questions

- Will social distancing continue? There is division around this on the senior team, but the removal of social distancing has been approved by the Board.