

ECC AGM

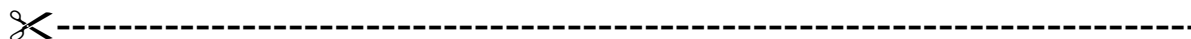


Notice of Annual General Meeting of The English Comedy Club ASBL

Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 8 pm

The Warehouse Studio Theatre - 69a Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

1. Adoption of the minutes of the 2016 AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports from Committee
5. Matters arising from reports
6. Election of new committee
 - Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
 - other members of the committee (up to 7 more people)
7. Any Other Business



Nomination form to be returned by post to The ECC Hon. Secretary:
Kerry Lydon, 34 rue de la Brasserie, 1050 Brussels
or by email to secretary@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

I wish to nominate (please print name in capitals)	The nominee <i>must be a member of the club whose consent has been given for this nomination</i>
Chairman Hon. Secretary Hon. Treasurer Committee member	Please tick or circle <i>the position for which the nominee is being put forward</i>
Proposed by (please print name in capitals)	Seconded by (please print name in capitals)
Signature	Signature

All nominations should be submitted by noon on Friday 13 October 2017
(each nomination should be submitted on a separate form)



ECC (English Comedy Club)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 October 2016 – 8.00 pm

The Warehouse, Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

Apologies: Sara Hammerton, Anna Holmen, Andy Ing, Chris Jones, Tim Middleton, Conrad Toft, Bryony Ullyett,

Present: Barbara Blackwell, Martin Blackwell, Kerry Lydon, Janet Middleton, Fiona McGinnis, Fiona Muir, Steve O'Byrne, Mary Pritchard, Lyn Wainwright

1. Adoption of the minutes of the minutes of the 2015 AGM

There was a mistake in the spelling of Fiona McGinnis's name, which was corrected. The minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting, having been previously circulated and available on the night, were agreed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Barbara Blackwell Seconded: Mary Pritchard

2. Chair's Report: Lyn Wainwright

Attached.

3. Treasurer's Report: Martin Blackwell

Attached.

Mary Pritchard proposed a vote of thanks to Martin Blackwell who stood down as Treasurer after 3 years.

4. Report from Committee

a. FEATS – Lyn Wainwright

b. In addition to the overview of FEATS 2016, Lyn reported that the ECC had officially been invited to participate in FEATS 2017 in Frankfurt. Conrad Toft would direct the ECC entry and Lyn would liaise with the Treasurer to ensure that the deposit was paid.

c. CAST – Kerry Lydon

It was reported that at the last CAST Meeting, Tim Middleton had taken over as Treasurer of CAST. Also, each of the participating groups had paid an amount of money to CAST to be transferred to the Co-prop for payment of the works for the new courtyard which were to start in the near future, as a building company had been selected. In addition, as one group is President of CAST, another is Secretary, it was agreed that the third group take over the running of the key card system. Janet Middleton had been doing this on behalf of the ECC and reported that the system was working well. At the next CAST AGM, this task would be transferred to the ITG and the ECC would become CAST President.

d. Costumes - Fiona McGinnis

It was noted that with the help of Sheila Hewitt, Fiona had continued to sort out and organise the costumes in the warehouse and that this was running quite smoothly.

e. ACTS – Lyn Wainwright

Lyn reported that she had feedback from the other groups that the revolving calendar was working reasonably well and should continue.

f. Play Readings – Janet Middleton

As reported in the Chair's report, Play Readings were still enjoyed by the members and reasonably well attended.

5. Committee

The outgoing members of the committee are Conrad Toft, Chris Jones, Joanna Patrick, Martin Blackwell. The Chairman thanked them for all their time and work on the committee.

The nomination form had been circulated in ECCO. There being no other nominations, the following were elected unanimously:

Name	Position
Lyn Wainwright	Chair
Kerry Lydon	Secretary
Fiona McGinnis	Treasurer
Sara Hammerton	Committee
Anna Holmen	Committee
Andy Ing	Committee
Janet Middleton	Committee
Fiona Muir	Committee
Steve O'Byrne	Committee
Bryony Ulllyett	Committee

6. Any Other Business

Janet suggested that in order to have a bigger attendance next year at the AGM, we should consider doing it in conjunction with a quiz night.

Janet also mentioned that it should be reiterated to all Brussels Groups that they should advertise the next 4 upcoming shows in their programmes and newsletters, as the ECC does. Kerry would mention this at the CAST meeting on 24th October 2016.

There being no other business, The Chair closed the meeting.

Continued ...

ECC AGM 2015-16: Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to the ECC AGM which brings us to the end of a very successful year.

Our first production in January 2016 was a new original Pantomime telling the story of Dick Whittington. It was once again created by an in-house team of writers who continue to supply an endless stream of very bad jokes and improbable characters which keeps the laughter flowing. As we have now come to expect the Show was a great success and it will not come as a surprise to any of you to know that 'Cinderella' is already cast and well into production for January 2017. Last year I reported that because of the rotating ACTS Calendar it was unlikely that the ECC would be able to offer a Pantomime every year as we would not always have a suitable time slot. Clearly I had underestimated the determination of the Panto team as they quickly pointed out that none of the other members of ACTS would be mad enough to put on a Show in the first two weeks of January and consequently there was no clash and no opposition. I hesitate to predict what will happen in 2018.

The big event for 2016 was always going to be FEATS (Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies) as it was our turn to host the festival in Brussels. However, we still had a March slot to fill and with no ECC FEATS 2016 entry to worry about we decided that we would make it into an opportunity for actors and crew to try their hand at something new. Crew members were encouraged to act, actors who had given up acting because of the difficulty of remembering the lines were encouraged to find creative ways to overcome this and actors who had never attempted anything technical were encouraged to do so. It was, however, decided that the role of Director should be performed by someone with suitable experience. Janet Middleton boldly leapt into the unknown and offered to direct 'The Real Inspector Hound' and Hugh Dow offered to warm the evening up with a production of 'Dinner for One' and thus 'Dinner Before Death' was born.

In the event it proved more difficult than anticipated to fulfil all our objectives but we certainly recruited a lot of new faces and several of our more familiar faces were seen in unfamiliar roles. Credit must go to both Janet and Hugh for pulling off such a challenging event and making it so enjoyable for all those involved. Hats off to Janet in particular for having to cope with the temporary absence of one of her cast for the Tech, Dress and the first half of the run. Carlos Casorran learnt the lines and played the part at the very last minute and somehow managed to make it look very easy for which we are all extremely grateful. This was not his first time on stage of course but standing in was a first in a different kind of way and very much in the spirit of the evening.

Malinda Coleman is also to be congratulated for running a very successful Make-up Workshop in early February which meant that we had willing and able recruits for 'Dinner Before Death'

Then came FEATS. Eileen Sutton and her team worked tirelessly during the months leading up to May but the pressure only really arrived during the long hours of the Festival itself. Everyone involved should be congratulated on an excellent result. Over the years the ECC has earned a reputation for hosting a good Festival and so expectations were high but judging by the very positive feedback received our reputation is intact.

Play readings have continued throughout the year and as always our thanks go to Barbara Blackwell and Mary Pritchard for hosting so many of the events. This year we have held a couple of Quiz evenings in the Warehouse during which Adam Brown, Kerry Lydon and Michelle Vanderstraaten tested our knowledge or lack of it. These Social evenings are very popular and so our thanks go to the organisers.

There has been much discussion this season about the need for a Youth Theatre. It was proposed that the Warehouse and Studio Theatre could be made available under the ECC umbrella and that a suitable leader should be found who would be paid for their expertise but that the project would be self-funding. In order to 'test the waters' it was proposed that a Youth Theatre Workshop should be organised at the beginning of July 2016 under the leadership of Gordon Wilson. Unfortunately, due to an already busy season and the failure to get things organised sufficiently early this proved to be a step too far since it did not generate the necessary interest. However, we plan to revive the idea in 2017 and hope to have something in place next summer.

Our autumn production 2016, directed by Anna Holmen, will be 'The Government Inspector' which will be performed 9th – 19th November 2016. Not strictly part of this season but almost. Those of us not directly involved are looking forward to it enormously. We have recently been invited to participate in FEATS 2017 in Frankfurt and our entry will be 'A Woman of No Importance' directed by Conrad Toft. Other future productions include 'The impotence of Being Frank' to be directed by Adam Brown and 'Amadeus' to be directed by Steve Challens

Finally let me thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work throughout the year and in particular I should like to express our gratitude to Martin Blackwell who is standing down as Treasurer after his allotted three year stint.

ECC AGM 2015-16: Accounts

ECC ACCOUNTS at 31 JULY 2015 & 2016

BALANCE SHEETS AT JULY	2015	2016
31		
€	€	
General Fund		
Balance at beginning of the year	55,405.89	56,489.22
Surplus/Deficit for the year	1,083.33	(3,057.41)
Balance at end of the year	56,489.22	53,431.81
Warehouse Fund	49,500.00	49,500.00
TOTAL FUNDS at July 31	105,989.22	102,931.81
Share of CAST assets	49,500.00	49,500.00
CURRENT ASSETS		
ING current account	1,531.98	1,208.37
ING FEATS 2016 current account	0.00	6,411.44
ING deposit account	48,739.83	45,681.18
PayPal account	619.63	87.65
Warehouse operating expenses prepaid	1,333.33	1,333.33
Stock merchandise for future pantos	0.00	802.57
June 2016 social event income to receive	50.00	174.18
Mrs Klein rights prepaid	560.00	0.00
FEATS 2016 theatre prepayment	5,700.00	0.00
FEATS 2016 expenses prepaid	73.00	0.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Government Inspector advance sales	0.00	(60.00)
Dick Whittington & FEATS 2016 SABAM fee due	0.00	(386.91)
2013 & 2014 Tax & filing costs	(720.00)	(820.00)
Donations	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)
Mrs Klein net advance sales	(189.47)	0.00
Dick Whittington net advance sales	(209.08)	0.00
NET CURRENT ASSETS	56,489.22	53,431.81
TOTAL ASSETS AT JULY 31	105,989.22	102,931.81

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis except for show income & expenses, which are accrued to ensure a show's results are shown in the financial year in which it took place, & accruals for Warehouse operating expenses, tax & filing costs & donations.