



THE SHAW SOCIETY

Founded 1941

www.shawsociety.org.uk contact@shawsociety.org.uk
HMRC Charities Ref.No. EW22823

MINUTES OF THE 75TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at The Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL on Thursday, 28 April 2016, the meeting commenced at 7-30pm, and was chaired by Helen Bennett, Chairman of The Shaw Society.

A quorum of at least 5 members was need according to the Constitution. 16 members attended: Vice-President Barbara Smoker; Vice-Chairman, Anne Wright; Secretary Evelyn Ellis, Treasurer Mark Egerton, Committee Members: Ron Abrahams, Alan Knight, Sue Morgan, and Terry Mullins; Members: Brian Freeland; Dikki Gleeson; Sula Gleeson, Carrolle Jamieson; Liz Raney; Phillip Riley; Chris Wallace. .

Apologies from members unable to attend: Maureen Clark-Darby, Dorothy Holmes; Toni Kanal, Lorenzo Mason; Gillian Roy, Peter Sims; Sam Walters .

Resolution 1: Approval of the previous minutes.

The minutes of 74th Annual General Meeting held on 23rd April 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Brian Freeland

Seconded: Dikki Gleeson

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Matters arising from the Minutes

All covered in the agenda

Resolution 2:

Election of President and Vice-Presidents: President: Sir Michael Holroyd; Vice-Presidents: Nicholas Barter; Dame Judi Dench; Richard Dietrich; Richard Digby-Day; Michael Friend; Toni Kanal; Edward Kemp; Hayward Morse; Barbara Smoker; Sylvia Syms; Sam Walters; and the current Mayor of Camden.

No further nominations for Vice-President were received

Proposed: Sula Gleeson

Seconded: Phillip Riley

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Resolution 3:

Election of Trustees: Ron Abrahams, Helen Bennett, Mark Egerton, Evelyn Ellis, Alan Knight, Sue Morgan, Terry Mullins, Peter Sims and Anne Wright

Proposed: Liz Raney

Seconded: Dikki Gleeson

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Resolution 4.

Election of officers: The following officers are proposed for election: Chairman Dr Helen Bennett; Vice Chairman Dr Anne Wright; Secretary Evelyn Ellis; Treasurer Mark Egerton

Proposed: Alan Knight

Seconded: Sula Gleeson

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Helen Bennett reported on the activities of the Shaw Society during the past year. This report is attached.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2015

Evelyn Ellis (EE) announced that she was retiring from the role of Treasurer once she had presented the accounts for 2015. A set of accounts was circulated, and EE pointed out that compared to the previous year, funds have greatly improved. The Society now has just over £5,000 in the bank compared to £3,000 last year. As only 2 issues of *The Shavian* were paid for out of this year's accounts, we will have to make provision for four issues to be produced next year, so there will be little to spare next year. She pointed out that the Society has saved money on the monthly meetings by transferring to the smaller room at Conway Hall and the entry fee was increased at the last AGM. This, together with donations for wine and raffle mean that the monthly meetings are now largely self-funding. There have been generous donations from members this year, including £500 from Michael Sargent's widow Trish. A Special Development Fund has been set up to ensure that this money is set aside to fulfill the charitable aims of the Society.

EE was warmly thanked for her 15 years overseeing the finances of the Society, and it was announced that Mark Egerton would take over as Treasurer as well as continuing to edit *The Shavian*. EE will become Secretary/ Membership Secretary.

Resolution 5: Approval of Annual Accounts

Proposed: Carrolle Jamieson

Seconded: Terry Mullins

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner of the Society for the 2016 accounts

The newly appointed Treasurer, Mark Egerton, will announce the appointment of an Independent Examiner later in the year.

Monthly Meetings in 2015

January: An evening to celebrate the results of the Shaw Society / T F Evans Award 2014 and readings of the winning entries

February: *Farewell to the Theatre*, a script-in-hand performance of Harley Granville-Barker's last play.

Produced and acted by Eileen Page and Hayward Morse.

March: Book Sale

April: Annual General Meeting

May: *The Devil's Disciple*, a script-in-hand production by the Shaw Society Play-Reading Group directed by Alan Knight

June: *You Never Can Tell* BBC DVD starring Cyril Cusak followed by discussion.

September: *Leaving Shaw's Corner* a talk by Lizzie Dunsford, former Assistant House Steward

October: *Conversations at Shaw's Corner with Stanley Weintraub*: a film produced by Prof. Martin Wright and introduced by Dr Anne Wright

November: *Satire and Status: the English and the Irish in John Bull's Other Island* a talk by Dr Michelle Paull of St Mary's University, Twickenham

Evelyn Ellis asked members present to think about the future of monthly meetings which have been a feature since the earliest days of the Society. Mark Egerton was keen to continue the present format. Anne Wright suggested we look at joint meetings with other societies (as with the Nelson Society in March) and trying to share costs. EE said that although the Nelson Society did not contribute directly to the costs, they were very generous in buying wine and raffle tickets. AW suggested the TE Lawrence Society in light of the forthcoming Hampstead Theatre production of *Lawrence After Arabia*, and said she would make contact. Charges at The Conway Hall will continue to increase as our discount is reduced, and suggestions of alternative venues would be welcome.

The Shavian

Editor Mark Egerton (ME) took the opportunity to thank Phillip Riley, who edited *The Shavian* for Years and retired just before the AGM last year. ME has produced three issues, and thanked the editorial team of Sue Morgan and Anne Wright for their valuable advice. He is trying to navigate between academic and general interest, whilst also serving the needs of the enthusiast. He wants the magazine to reflect the activities of the society and celebrate its history. Next issue is due out in June 2016, and an Autumn issue will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Society.

It was suggested that we introduce a cover price of £5. SM said she would need to discount this price in the shop at Shaw's Corner at a discount (£4 or £3.50) with back numbers available at £2. This idea was put to the vote and a majority agreed. SM said she will be happy to trial the idea.

The Shaw Society Play-Reading Group

Alan Knight (AK) listed the plays that had been read during 2015:

February:	<i>The Little Foxes</i> by Lilian Hellman
March	<i>The Philanderer</i> by Bernard Shaw
April	<i>The Cocktail Party</i> by TS Eliot
May	<i>The Devil's Disciple</i> by Bernard Shaw
June	<i>Tobias and the Angel</i> by James Bridie
July	<i>Cloud 9</i> by Carol Churchill
August	<i>You Never Can Tell</i> by Bernard Shaw
October	<i>A Day out</i> by Alan Bennett
November	<i>The Doll's House</i> by Henrik Ibsen
December	<i>This Happy Breed</i> by Noel Coward

AK explained that the group had found a regular meeting place in a community room near the Barbican, but members had found it uncomfortable and preferred meeting in each other's homes. He was sorry that numbers have dropped off since the demise of Malcolm Wroe, and he hoped more members would make the effort to attend.

The TF Evans Award

Sue Morgan (SM) said that this is the 5th year of the award, and we have received 15 entries, 5 from the UK and most of the others from the United States. She found this a little disappointing as she had made a special effort to contact creative writing classes throughout the UK and had had very little response. Once the prizes have been awarded for this year, there will remain approximately £1300 in the fund, and it may be time to think again. Anne Wright (AW) felt there were still opportunities for the Award, and will make suggestions at the next committee meeting.

75th Anniversary of The Shaw Society

AW announced that the anniversary could be celebrated from 26 July continuing into the Autumn. A commemorative issue of The Shavian will be produced and ideas for the celebration include: a barbecue at Ayot linked to the 'Birthday Play', a dinner/entertainment at member's homes and/or a special production of a Shaw play. Details to follow.

The meeting ended at 8-30pm and was followed by a very entertaining quiz compiled by Alan Knight.