



St Ives Arts Club
Committee Meeting 25 March 2024

4.00pm Upstairs Theatre

Minutes

Present: Steve Litherland (SL)(Chair), Suzanne Ellacott (SE), John Kness (JK), Wendy Litherland (WL), Chris O'Reilly (COR), Will Sleath (WS), Louise Vallis (LV)

1. Apologies for Absence

Jo Grant

2. Minutes of Meeting 14 Nov 2023

a. Approval

Unanimously approved and will be posted on members website

b. Matters Arising

- Enterprise Grant – Round 3 opens very soon and SL will submit an application.
- Redecoration – painting started and gallery completed. SL/COR/JK to agree a date to complete.
- Members Handbook – SL is continuing to draft a new version.

3. Officers Reports

a. President

The Arts Club has received a £500 grant from the Rotary Club which SL will accept at the opening event for the St. Ives Archive.

b. Finance Officer

Little change since last report although monies will soon start coming in from exhibitions.

- Bank balance approx. £33,000
- £600 raised from sale of Suzanne Newton's old art materials.
- Club gas and electric fixed deals are being changed.

c. Membership Officer

There are currently 141 members including 6 new members since last report. COR has recently followed up membership fees which are still unpaid since they were due in October. Members who haven't replied to this latest reminder will be removed from the membership list.

d. Bookings Officer

The exhibition Room has been booked out for the whole year. The Members Spring Exhibition starts on Saturday 30th March with 32 members participating.

Regular events in the Theatre continue, as does the World Classics series. Events and ticket sales for the September Festival are going well.

e. Exhibition Officer

COR now has a team of 6 volunteers to call on to help set up exhibitions, primarily members exhibitions but they are also available to help other members.

It was noted that COR will continue to monitor members do not sell anything at their exhibitions with a view to possibly having a future discussion on whether this should be allowed to continue. Although a members club, the Arts Club still needs to raise money for outgoings. Currently this issue is offset to some extent by the £100 charge per week to exhibit.

4. Reports from representatives

a. Social Committee Representative

There are no events yet but the social committee members have agreed to meet and start planning some. Suggested ideas include an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Constant Nymph, and an event for new members which could be incorporated into the display of stored paintings.

b. World Classics Representative

Sales are going well for the next event, 'Music of North India' on Saturday 27th April, with 20 of the 50 required tickets already sold. It was noted that Anagha Bhat is only performing 2 concerts in the UK, the Indian Embassy and the St Ives Arts Club. It is anticipated that the next event will be in June.

5. Repairs, Improvements and Maintenance Works

Without a grant the exterior works are currently on hold until funding is secured. In the meantime a number of minor works are required inside the theatre including replacement of the room lights with more efficient led units, replacement of the low hanging lights and perimeter lights, sorting out the stage lighting, and replacement of the mixer unit which has stopped working. SL will put a budget together for the next meeting.

The first aid boxes referred to at the AGM are in place and being used.

The poor heating and ventilation of the building had also been raised at the AGM. In the past the Club has hired air conditioning units at a reasonable cost for specific

events which have been quite successful. The main problems with the heating are the very old gas boiler, an inadequate pump, and radiators in the wrong place. The meeting agreed that the committee will look at improving the central heating over the summer and start obtaining quotes now. SL will contact Flamerite and the club's existing plumber, and COR will contact British Gas. SL will also look into grants for making the building more energy efficient.

A missing stone on an external corner of the building is allowing water to flood into the ground floor kitchen on occasions. An external repair will require scaffolding and a maritime permit, but initially the committee will look at doing something from the inside to make the hole watertight.

6. September Festival Update

Currently 28 events are booked for the September Festival, which are now online and selling tickets. There is one more event still to add but the Club now has a full programme of events for the September Festival. The Arts Club will receive 30% of ticket sales after costs have been paid.

7. Theatre/Workspace Users

It was noted that the current charges for theatre/workspace users are;

- Club member organisations such as art groups are not charged and just pay for their refreshments. The surplus from the refreshment charge, after costs, is paid to the club as a donation. Current custom and practice is that £2.00 is charged for refreshments.
- Regular single weekly bookings by not-for-profit (NFP) organisations, often comprising some club members such as U3A, pay a reduced hire rate of £15 per week.
- External/commercial organisations are charged £10 per hour. The committee considered that this was low and should be reviewed for next year. COR will investigate and bring some figures to the next meeting.
- Other theatre/music events are now on a better financial footing and, like the September Festival events, pay the club 30% of ticket sales after all costs have been paid.

The meeting considered two organisations which currently fall outside this tariff.

- The Ukelele Club – SL, leader of the Ukelele Club, will ask its members if they all wish to become Arts Club members (at £40pa) so that the Ukelele Club becomes an Arts Club member organisation. As such, it would not be charged, other than refreshment costs and a donation to the Arts Club. If they do not all agree to become Arts Club members, the Ukelele Club will pay the regular single weekly booking charge for NFP organisations of £15 per week. The new formal arrangement will take effect from the start of the

next membership year. Until then, it was agreed that the Ukelele Club will continue to pay the existing ad hoc arrangement.

- The Theatre Group does not meet regularly throughout the year and it was agreed that all proceeds from shows, after costs, will go to the Arts Club.

8. Members Exhibitions – review of commission structure

Following comments at the AGM, it had been agreed that the committee would review the pricing structure for members exhibitions particularly with regard to cards. It was noted that 30% commission was commensurate with many galleries and even lower than some. It was also noted that it was easier administratively to have just one rate across all items. It was reported that cards often sell in volume, with an individual often achieving a sum equivalent to a reasonably well priced painting. Furthermore, as all cards must be original artwork, then it was suggested that individuals ought to price them as such. After discussion, and to discourage exhibitions becoming a ‘card shop’, it was agreed that the commission on cards would remain at 30% on account of the volume that can be sold and that they ought to be priced as mini artworks.

9. Display of stored paintings/information plaques

The social committee will organise a display of stored Club paintings, perhaps combined with a new member event.

With regard to plaques it was agreed to have a standard size plaque for each painting, with black print on a white background, capital letters for the artist and lower case for the remainder of the text. The meeting agreed on a foamex type plaque and for SL to proceed with procuring these.

10. Any Other Business

- a. Gift Aid** – It was noted that for the Club to receive this each member would need to sign a form and someone within the Club would need to undertake all the administration with regard to the HMRC submissions. Nevertheless the meeting agreed that the financial benefits of Gift Aid were worth pursuing. It was agreed that SL would initially approach Brian Richards with a view to him undertaking this as part of his trustee role, which was currently in progress.
- b. Tate visit** – LV reported that the Tate wanted to charge commercial rates for a tour and refreshments for Arts Club members. It was agreed that LV will go back to the Tate and ask if this can be done under its community outreach banner, and at the same time SL will speak to his contacts at the Tate.

The meeting finished at 5.40pm