



# Players Patter No 184 - June 2018

## Social Report

This year's annual BBQ Event will be held at the home of Jane, Jim and Issy McMichael on Sunday, 12th August from 12 noon. Their address is Woodpeckers, Church Lane, Haslemere GU27 2BJ ([j.mcmichael2@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mcmichael2@btinternet.com))

Tickets are available from Jane McMichael or via the Players web site, £7.50 for Adults and £3.50 for under 16's to cover all food costs.



A sumptuous array of food will be provided. All you need to bring along is something to drink, a chair or blanket to sit on and a swimming costume.... Weather guaranteed as usual.

## Chairman's message

As I write this on a beautiful Sunday afternoon I am prompted to reflect back on the events in the Players calendar of the past week.

Last Sunday we held successful auditions for our next production: Chess. I am pleased to see some regular, old and new members amongst the principal cast. It is timely that we are putting on Chess this year, the music being written by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus from ABBA, what with the forthcoming releases of Mama Mia! Here We Go Again and two new ABBA songs.

On Tuesday evening we held our Annual General Meeting in Haslemere Hall. Again, it was pleasing to see both longstanding and new members in attendance. The Committee's proposal for a reduced membership fee for new members auditioning for a show was accepted. Thank you for your continued support. As a committee, we represent you, the members. If you believe that we could be doing anything differently, or you would like to help, please come and have a chat; don't keep it to yourself, we do listen. I wish to thank two members who stood down at the AGM: Debs Bowyer and Frances Cross, both for family reasons. I am grateful that Debs has agreed to carry on helping in the wings. Graham Ferris stood down during the year to concentrate on fundraising for the Royal British Legion. Thank you all for your work behind the scenes and for your contribution to the society.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Sunday 12 Aug **Players BBQ** at Jane McMichael's house at 12 noon
- Oct 23-27 **CHESS** at Haslemere Hall
- October 30 Read through of **The Gondoliers** at The Grove

**Players Patter Editor**

**Linda Donaldson**

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Last night we held the DVD evening for our summer production Keep The Home Fires Burning! It was good to be able to watch it all the way through. It was also a good opportunity to catch up socially with other cast members. I will admit that I enjoyed the informal social opportunities, post-rehearsal trips to the pub! Social activity, whether in the form of the annual BBQ, a quiz evening or a spontaneous trip to the pub, is an important part of the society. Whilst writing about Keep The Home Fires Burning! I want to thank everyone who helped make this a successful production, especially Kim, Jonathan,

## Chairman's letter, continued

Vicki, Lucy, Verity, Mary-Lou & Chris Snelling. We sold 397 tickets and helped to raise £416 for the Royal British Legion. There was a real buzz amongst all involved; the get-out was completed in near record time and I have never seen so many people go for a drink afterwards.

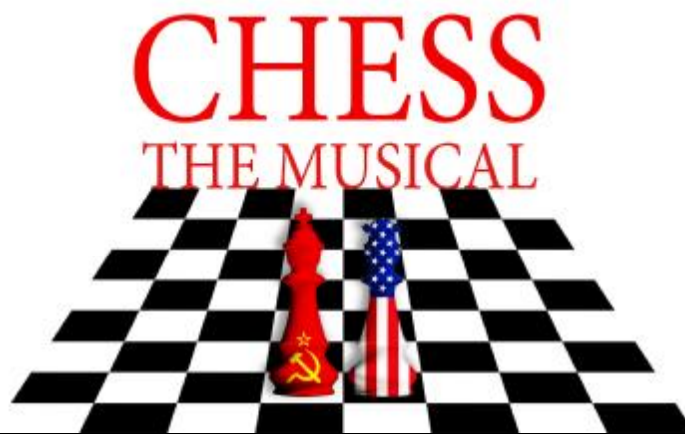
Looking forward, you may have heard that we have recently applied for the rights for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. We will not know whether we have been successful until the latter part of July; we will keep you posted. One of my predecessors pointed out to me recently, the choice of The Full Monty, Chess and The Gondoliers provides a wide range of shows which, hopefully, will cater for both our older and younger members and audiences alike.

The temptation to go back to my sunny garden, and a glass of Pimm's, is now becoming too irresistible. So I will close by wishing you all a wonderful summer, whatever you are doing or wherever you may go. Please include our summer BBQ on Sunday 12 August 2018 in your plans. Jane McMichael has very kindly agreed to host this again.

With all best wishes Chris

**Copies of the latest Players Patter are always available on the web site:**

[www.HaslemerePlayers.com](http://www.HaslemerePlayers.com)



## **CHESS October 23rd to 27th**

Director: Hamish Donaldson

Musical Director: Clive Osgood

Choreographer: Mandy Boughton

Another set of high quality auditions has led to the following principal cast:

Arbiter/Gregor	Jonathan Foster
Frederick (the US champion)	David Impiazzi
Florence (his second)	Alex Boughton
Anatoly (the USSR champ)	Alan Thornhill
Walter (of the CIA)	Andy Boughton
Molokov (of the KGB)	Adrian Stent
Svetlana (Anatoly's wife)	Sophia Le Mare
Young Florence	Halina Le Mare

Rehearsals are under way but there is still room for a few more if you would like to join us. Let Pamela know if so on 605237 or [pameladepledge@talktalk.net](mailto:pameladepledge@talktalk.net)

## Wardrobe News

Thank goodness the show's over!

Have you ever felt a sense of relief that the show you've been in, however exciting and exhilarating it may have been, is over? It's an understandable feeling because it's quite an exhausting experience but have you ever wondered what happens to all the costumes and accessories you were given?

Everything used in a show is sorted and either washed or sent for dry cleaning. It is then ironed or repaired and then put away carefully until required again. Hired outfits have to be washed and returned to the correct places. This process can take weeks after the end of the show and is a huge task.

So next time you are breathing a sigh of relief that 'it's all over', spare a thought for your dedicated wardrobe team who toil for months before and after to ensure that our costumes are kept in tip top condition.

The pictures show a fraction of the washing that had to be done after 'Keep the Home Fires Burning'.

Thank you.

Mary-Lou & the team



## TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Last summer Kim Seymour directed her first Showstoppers for us and she did a fantastic job. Our ticket sales were very good at 420. With very few behind the scenes helpers, we had to rely on outside caterers to do the evening food for us. This meant that rather than the meals costing £3.50 a head we were having to pay out £8.50 a head. Our entire profit was therefore wiped out instantaneously so although the final figure for the show, at £49.97 does look slightly sad it in no way reflects how the show was received, the quality of the show, the tickets sold, or indeed any other costs being higher than usual other than the catering.

Our next show in Autumn 2017 was My Fair Lady – again directed by Kim this is a firm favourite and the committee felt confident that it would be a resounding success. Ticket sales were high at 1421 – the matinee sold well. Costume and scenery expenditure was kept to a minimum and the only slightly higher than normal expense was the orchestra which needed one or two more members than we would normally have. The final result was a profit of just under £1967 which is excellent. Very many thanks to Kim for taking on both Showstoppers and My Fair Lady back to back which is a huge commitment.

When Howard came to us to ask if he could direct The Full Monty we, as a committee, were initially quite divided – was it a bit risqué for Haslemere audiences and would we sell enough tickets? Howard was very confident it would be a huge success. The committee voted and it was a 50/50 for and against. The Full Monty is not a show that is remembered for its tunes although there are a few good ones and I do not want to detract for one moment from Howard's excellent directing but I cannot help feel that there was possibly an element of 'voyeurism' that helped boost the box office receipts! That said hats off, or should I say, pants off, to all those who braved full nudity in the centre of this very small community – and huge thanks to Howard for taking the risk and achieving a very, very successful show. It was a mainly female audience and if I had known how popular the front row was going to be I would have suggested we doubled the ticket prices for Row C! Ticket sales were good at 1468, show expenditure was relatively average – the scenery was a little higher than normal and the costume receipts were unlike anything Mary-Lou or I had ever dealt with before – I will just say multiple red thongs in a wide variety of sizes and leave it at that!

As always I must extend huge thanks to Mary-Lou and her wardrobe team who work very hard to keep costume costs down for each show and also to Steph and Alison and their Props team – they really are so conscientious and resourceful and it makes a big difference to our end results. Thank you all very much indeed.

Membership and Patron subs seem to be reasonably consistent at the moment but we have noticed that on occasions there have been some interested parties turn up

to read throughs only to be put off auditioning for principle parts by the up front membership payment that we demand. Therefore following committee discussion we are proposing to charge a £10 audition fee to new prospective members who wish to audition for principle parts on the understanding that if they get a part in the production in any capacity they will pay the balance of £20 for full membership. If they do not get the part and do not wish to be in the chorus then they will not have to pay the balance but their £10 will not be refunded. This offer is only open to new members who have not been members of the Haslemere Players in the past and will take effect after CHESS this year if agreed at this meeting. Jane McMichael has kindly agreed, as Membership Secretary, to oversee the logistics of this new regime.

I would ask any of you who have a Paypal arrangement or standing order in place to pay your membership sub automatically to ensure that this has been updated to reflect the £30 membership fee for acting members and £10 for student and non acting members.

We also propose to reduce the Show donation from £30 to £25 for our two main shows and this will take effect immediately.

I have had some issues reclaiming Gift Aid. Jane McMichael and I will get together over the summer to re-evaluate this. We certainly do not have signed forms for all of the members, patrons and life members of the Players and we must bring this up to date to ensure we fully comply with the requirements of HMRC and make the claiming of Gift Aid a more straightforward process.

In terms of general finances we have had a fairly quiet year in terms of large or unexpected expenditure. Socially the society has been reasonably quiet also. The wardrobe has continued to hire out costumes bringing in about £1200 over the year.

I am slightly disappointed to announce an overall loss this year of just under £500. This is mainly due to the unusually high expenses incurred in Showstoppers. We are also having to factor into the accounts now some new expenses such as the professional accountancy fees for our end of year accounts and also ever-increasing costs generally across the board. I hope to get things back on track for this year.

I would like to extend huge thanks to the people who help me the most with all things financial. Pamela who collects the show fees, Jane McMichael as membership secretary and also to Sally as my bank co-signatory. It is always reassuring to know that everything I spend on behalf of the Players is double checked by her. Finally, massive thanks to Hamish for his help with the end of year accounts and all his work this year on the GDPR policy and also the changing of the Players to a Company Limited by Guarantee. Both of these things required a lot of time and effort so thank you very much.

*Arabella*