

Cockett Amateur Operatic Society

President: MENNA TRUSSLER

Chairperson: BEVERLEY HARRIS

Vice Chairperson: CARYS WRIGHT



Hon. Secretary:
MARY E. ISAAC
56 Cwmgelli Road,
Morrison
SWANSEA
SA6 7PD
Tel. (01792) 774442

A REGISTERED CHARITY
Reg. No. – 1001113

Hon. Treasurer:
RAYMOND ISAAC
56 Cwmgelli Road
Morrison
SWANSEA
SA6 7PD
Tel. (01792) 774442

www.cockettoperatics.com

Maryi.caos@btinternet.com

C.A.O.S Trustee's Report 07/09/2023

1. Apologies for absence

Tim Drean, Cath Fraser, Gareth Griffiths, Tracey Crawshaw, Cath Van Wyk Jodi Jones, Catherine Joyce, Jim & Menna Trussler, Glen Rees, Stewart Jenkins, Natalie Edwards, Anne Marie Morris, Audrey Williams, Carys Wright, Helen and Paul Roach, Carys Mugford, Susan Jones, Barbara Ayers, Laura Alfei, Siobhan Miles, Pam Thirwell, Linda Drew, Nicki Thomas & Chris Hemming

2. Minutes of the last A.G.M. Read by Mary. No matters arising.

Proposed - Rachael Morris

Seconded - Spencer Jones

3. Chairperson's report

May I take this opportunity to welcome you back for what I hope will be another exciting and successful season. This time last year we embarked on our first show for 3 years due to the pandemic, and whilst it felt wonderful to be back, as well as the usual challenges faced by the society, we also found ourselves facing even more difficult circumstances as a result of everyone recovering from the impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis. One of our greatest challenges was the news that the Taliesin would be selling all the tickets and taking ten percent off the price of every ticket, not a situation any of us wanted to see but one that we had no choice or say in. It really did have an impact on us, and it became much more difficult to monitor whether people were buying tickets, even if they told us they were. It is was much easier under the old system, but it is what it is and once again we need to rise to the challenge and do everything we can to continue to encourage and promote our show and get those bums on seats.

With so many of our hardworking and longstanding officers and members of the production team stepping down, which of course I want to talk about in a lot more detail later, it cannot be denied that CAOS is right in the middle of the biggest transition phase we have ever faced, and whilst it is daunting and it does feel like a mountain to climb, I think we have to look at it as a new start, where we build on what has been created and the foundations that have been laid. This society means so much to all of us no matter how long we've been a part of it, and time and time again it's been proved that we can do it if we all work together. And that's not just the committee and those in key positions that is every single member of CAOS. We each need to do everything we can to make sure this society continues to thrive, we can all do something. Even if you don't want to take a position on the committee you can still offer your time and do something to help, we can all attend fundraising events which put much needed funds into the coffers and most importantly of all we can all sell tickets. We will continue to do what has been so successful over the last couple of years and continue to use all the strategies we used to good effect, but if anyone has any ideas and suggestions please come and have a chat with me, or any member of

the committee as we always appreciate your input and any fresh outlook on all of our ongoing challenges.

A vital aspect of staying afloat as a company is the work of the fundraising team and I am massively grateful for every person of the team who continues to work hard to raise the vital funds needed to keep going, and it's no exaggeration to say that this year without the funds accumulated by Peter Howard and subsequent fundraisers, we would be closing the group down. We all know that it isn't enough to just sell the tickets anymore, but that is the first thing we need to do and then supplement it with fundraising, and as the years have gone by the amount needed to supplement keeps on rising. So it is vital that we all support whatever fundraising events are organized throughout the year and I know the team have a full itinerary or events planned which I'm sure Mel will be giving us full details of later.

And so to this Year's show, *Kipps the New Half a Sixpence*, it gave CAOS an opportunity to work on a more traditional type of show, which is something we do well, with the added bonus of revived songs by two current British Songwriters Stiles and Drewe. It was also so lovely to be back on stage as a company working together to produce a show of our usual high standard. Productions as wonderful as *Kipps* was don't just happen, and I would publicly like to thank the Production Team of Kathryn, Jonathan, Julie, and John for all their hard work throughout the process and their contributions to making it such a fantastic show. I would also like to thank Chris as our Stage Manager, as well as Rachel and the rest of the backstage team for their hard work with both the get in and out, plus their work during the week. We also continue to rely on the good will of a hardy gang of playing and non - playing members to help with the get in and out, and they never fail to support us, never letting us down, and often forgoing a well deserved drink in the bar after the last performance. We really appreciate all your efforts and acknowledge that without them we would have no set and no production so thank you.

We are also grateful to our Props Team, led by Tracey. And she was ably assisted by Stewart who deserves a massive thank you for making banjo's for the entire cast, and making such an effort to produce such a large number of them to such a fantastic standard. The input of the Props Team is so important in providing context for the performers and the right visual impact on stage so thank you.

Thanks also need to be extended to everyone who helped with costumes, measuring the cast, coordinating the delivery and distribution of costumes for show week, as well as being on hand for any repairs or replacements as well as dressing the cast side stage, thank you all. We also say thank you to Sharon Roberts for all her help as she steps down from her role as head of Wardrobe.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank Mary and Ray who already do so much in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer, but as if they haven't got enough to do already, also take on the mammoth task of coordinating our Ticket sales. This takes a massive effort to sell tickets by being available to take sales by phone at home, but also liaising with the staff at the Taliesin who sell a small percentage of our tickets too. Enough in itself but when you consider they are also responsible for designing our programme and organising it's printing, the work load becomes mind blowing. We are so grateful to you both for all the hard work you put in to ensure the show goes on.

That just leaves me to thank the entire front of house team and anyone else I may have unintentionally failed to mention.

Your help and support is invaluable to us and without all of you productions would simply not go on.

So now the hard bit, this year's production of Kipps is the end of an era, you cannot but be aware that we are losing some very major players from both our production team and from the Committee. So I just wanted to address each one in turn. I've been in the society since 1999 and I was here for David Thomas' last two shows before he retired, which whilst a big loss we were all reassured by the presence of Kathryn Rice later to become Kathryn Wheel, she had assisted

her Dad for many years and then took over as Director, her hard work and dedication to the society as well as her brilliant direction and great technical skills, have meant the producing of many many shows of an extreme high standard that have brought kudos and many words of praise for our society. We are extremely grateful for everything she has done and appreciate that we would not be where we are without her. Thank you Kath.

We are also losing our assistant director and Choreographer Julie Hemming who again has been with the society for many many years, moving from performing to the production team and contributing to many productions. I think all I need to do is repeat the quote “Julie will do that” and she has been doing whatever has been needed to support Kath and make sure the show goes on. Thank you Julie.

This was also the last year for our stage manager Chris Hemming, without a stage manager the show cannot go on and we are all so grateful for everything you have done for us, even at times when it was difficult due to ill health Chris would still be there show week ever reliant and leading the troops. Thank you Chris.

I am also very sad to be announcing that our President Menna Trussler is stepping down, as one of the societies founding members her contribution to this group cannot be summed up in this speech really, she has led us from the front, but also been a vital part of the production team in her role as libretti coach, and I can speak from personal experience, as the help and advice I have received from her for several roles but particularly for my role as Mother Superior, was invaluable and I couldn't have done it without her. She gave me confidence and so many options into how to play the character. Thank you Menna for everything you have done for CAOS.

And finally, but by no means least, our secretary and Treasurer, Mary and Ray Isaac. Not only have they taken on wholeheartedly the remit of their roles but so many other things too, as has been previously mentioned, the tickets, front of house, organising costumes you name it they've done it. I honestly don't know

what we're going to do without them. As chairperson I have been so well supported by both but particularly Mary who basically makes my role very easy. I am so grateful to you both, and you will be very much missed... and can I end this by saying.... Please don't go!!!

Thank you so much for everything you've done and now it's definitely time to put your feet up!

And so we look towards our show in March 2024 - The Little Mermaid, having done beauty and the beast as a society we know how wonderful a Disney show can be and we know how popular too but that doesn't mean we take our foot off the gas we need to keep promoting the show and selling those tickets!!!

If you'd like to get your diaries or phones out I have a list of important dates to give you in regards to the schedule for Little Mermaid.

Our first rehearsal will be Thursday 14th September (that's next Thursday) from 7.30 - 9.30.

Auditions will take place on Sunday 1st of October from 2pm - 5pm. More details to follow in rehearsals.

There will be two block weekends but this time they will take place from Thursday - Sunday. Well one will be Wednesday to Sunday and the other will be Thursday to Sunday.

The First Block Weekend date is

Thursday 13th October to Sunday 15th October 2023.

Then the second block weekend will be

Wednesday 17th January to Sunday 21st January 2024

In order to make the production of the highest quality it is essential that everyone intending to be on stage makes a full commitment to attend rehearsals, as this makes things so much easier for the production team to set the show as well as enhancing the experience of the whole company on stage. The dates the show will play at the Taliesin are Tuesday 5th to Saturday the 9th March 2024.

Even though times ahead are challenging, I am more than confident that we can continue to thrive with the right amount of determination, plus the right decisions about how we move forward and secure our continued place in amateur theatre in the Swansea Area, as this is a group that sticks together and offers so much to its members. And I am looking forward to starting back next week and beginning our new adventure, as well as seeing everyone ready to start and raring to go.

I would also like to offer congratulations to Catrin and Dafydd on the birth of their daughter Buddig, another new future member to put on the list. If there are any other special occasions I've missed please let me know now.

Also I'd like to remind you to go and support our members involved in other productions coming up soon.

Harrys will be performing scrooge from the 9th—11th November 2023 at the Grand Theatre.

Ashton will be appearing in Spring Awakening in studio Stepney at the Ffwrnes from the 17th and 18th of November 2023.

And Abbey Players are performing the Addams family at the Taliesin from the 21st to the 25th November.

Again if anyone has any other shows to plug please say so now, and please go and support, thank you.

Then all that remains is for me to say once more welcome and back and I look forward to a great year ahead.

Thank you.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ray Isaac presented the Treasurer's report with the following figures:

Show Income - Ticket revenue was £23,192, with income from Raffle £790 and Programmes £610. Income from advertisers was £750 (All help welcomed to attract advertisers and sponsors). Sponsorship was £750. Reserve VAT refund was £120 and VP & ticket income was £162.

Non-Show Income - Subscriptions were £2,750. Gift Aid claim was £970 (The Treasurer needs to have necessary information from those paying subscriptions to facilitate this.) Back stage raffle was £112. Costumes £725. Fund Raising Donation £5000. Other £25.

Show Expenditure - Main costings: Taliesin - £7,928.08 (includes hire & batteries) Taliesin ticket commission was £2,319.20, Orchestra - £4,455, Royalties/Music hire - £4896, Scenery - £6,668 (includes Props), Production Team- £4850, Programme and Posters - £844, Church halls rehearsal hire - £1,720, Insurance £508.24, Costume & wig hire - £3,740.20

Non-Show Expenditure – NODA membership £190, and other costs totalled £317.50

Fund Raising Account – Funds transferred to Main Account £5000. Many Thanks to Fund Raising Team for all their efforts over the year.

Bank Account Balance - £9,455.09

Overall, Loss - £3,015.94

Prepayment Deposits carried forward - £1,100 (Rights & Scenery deposits for 2024.)

Reserves carried forward - £10,555.09

This year's show was a great success on the stage, ticket sales were disappointing to start but improved slightly as the show became closer. Many thanks to all members for participating in publicising and selling tickets.

The association with the Taliesin on ticket sales and publicity again proved successful, but costly.

We made a loss this year despite transfer of monies from Fund Raising Account. So, I ask you all on behalf of the Society to continue to publicise, promote, and sell tickets for our next show through all sorts of media from the beginning of our season.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their contribution on and off stage over the past 12 months.

**Ray Isaac
Hon Treasurer
C.A.O.S.**

5. Auditor's Report

We must face the same problem as the two previous shows – falling or static income levels and increasing costs. The Statement of Accounts clearly shows this.

As far as last year's show is concerned, if we add up the costs of the Taliesin, scenery, royalties, costumes and orchestra, they exceed the total show income by over £8000. Looking at the overall picture, the total expenditure of the show exceeded the total income by £3015 after taking into consideration that £5000 was transferred from the fund raising account. Such losses are unsustainable.

The Society is faced with the perennial problem that ticket sales will not cover the cost of producing a show, they never have but costs have increased in recent years at a greater rate than the propensity to increase the price of tickets to cover these increases. There is a finite amount you can increase prices, particularly in the present economic climate and the fact that the Taliesin is charging £2 commission on each ticket hasn't helped.

Last year there was a shortfall of 777 tickets for the week, this needs to be addressed. Perhaps a small group could be set up to look specifically at our marketing strategies, the actual show chosen, and scrutinise the costs of putting it on.

CONCLUSION

The fund-raising committee are to be congratulated on their hard work and the amount of money they have raised; it is an unenviable job but they have done exceptionally well and are keeping the Society afloat. I wish I could wave a magic wand and come up with a solution but as the saying goes 'Times are Hard'. We are still feeling the effects of Covid, whether we like it or not, it has changed peoples' habits and attitudes. We are also in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis where there may well be little spare money in peoples' pockets to go to a show. We must be mindful of this.

I would like to conclude by saying I will be standing down as Auditor this year. It has been both a pleasure and an honour to serve as your Auditor for the past twenty-one years and the privilege of serving with three wonderful treasures in Eric, Paul, and Ray.

**Terry Davies
(HON AUDITOR)**

6. Fundraising Report – Mel Evans

Mel Evans outlined the various activities undertaken for the current year which raised a total of £1980.25 with an expenditure of £52.50. (hall hire) leaving an overall balance of £1927.75.

£5000.00 was transferred to the main account.

Current balance £2642.16

Mel outlined forthcoming events for 2023/2024 season. Further details will be given at rehearsals and on social media.

7. 2024 show – Little Mermaid

8. Pass motion by general body to change 3years to 1 year for election of Officers and Committee.

The proposal was put to the general body and was passed unanimously

9. Announce appointment of Carys Wright to Artistic Director, and Cath Fraser to Assistant to Director and Libretto Coach. Mary read out the following letter from Laura Alfei regarding her appointment to Choreographer.

Dear committee and members of CAOS,

As some of you might know, my mum (Susan Jones) has recently been diagnosed with Lymphoma and has been in hospital this week after catching an infection from her first chemotherapy treatment. Whilst she is home now, the treatment will be ongoing for quite some time and will need support from family members and friends. In addition, on Saturday night, we learnt that my mum's partner (Gareth Beynon) had passed away suddenly and was found at home by his son. As I'm sure you can understand, we are all devastated by this news and are now grieving. After my dad's passing, we had built ourselves up again only to now be demolished once more.

Due to me now having to look after my son, mum, nan and also continuing to work, it is with deep regret that I am going

to have to pull out of being choreographer for this years production of the Little Mermaid. For those who know me, they know that the last thing I would ever want to do is let people down, but as I am sure you will all understand, I have to put my family and myself first and therefore something had to give.

I am sure that the production will be as fabulous as always under the new direction of Carys Wright, and I wish you all the very best. I aim to come to see the odd rehearsal to keep in touch, and can't wait to see the show on stage in March.

Thank you so much for this opportunity and I hope that I will be with you all again soon in one way or another.

Laura Alfei.

10. Election of Officers

President

Menna, is stepping down this year. Mary read out the following:

Menna Trussler – President.

Menna has reluctantly decided that she can no longer stand as our President and is stepping down from the role. She has thoroughly enjoyed her years as our President and always been very proud of our wonderful Society.

We as a society owe a huge debt of thanks to Menna for her unstinting dedication and loyalty to CAOS of which she has been a member from it's conception. Menna has fulfilled many roles within the Society, from being on stage to Libretti Coach and many more, as she has said herself CAOS has been a huge part of her life for 60 years and she will miss it enormously.

Menna still hopes she will be able to come and enjoy CAOS productions at the Taliesin for many years to come.

I'm sure we all join together to wish Menna all the very best for her retirement from President and Libretti Coach and send much love from all Members and friends of the Society .

A proposal was put forward by Spencer Jones that Mary Isaac be elected as the new President of C.A.O.S. the proposal was carried unanimously

President – Mary Isaac (elected for 3 years)

Proposed: Spencer Jones Seconded: Daniel Moses

Chairperson – Beverley Harris

Proposed: Celia Drew-Jones Seconded: Judith Phillips

Vice Chairperson

Suzy Hambidge, Celia Drew-Jones, Melanie Evans have indicated an interest in this role.

A vote was taken and Melanie Evans was duly elected

Proposed: Tracy Thomas Seconded: Joanne Davies

Secretary – Annemarie Morris

Mary stepping down this year. Annemarie Morris was happy to be put forward for this position and was duly elected

Proposed: Mary Isaac Seconded: Judith Phillips

Treasurer – Claire Atherton

Ray Isaac stepping down this year. Claire Atherton happy to consider the role if no members come forward. Claire was duly elected to the role of Treasurer.

Proposed: Celia Drew-Jones Seconded: Amy Kift

Minute Secretary – Cath Fraser

Cath would not like a fee for her role as assistant/libretti and would like to remain a member and stand again as minute secretary.

Proposed: Denise Vaughan Seconded: Judith Phillips

Ticket Secretary

Mary & Ray stepping down this year from this role. No one came forward for this role at the AGM.

Proposed:

Seconded:

Stage Manager

We require a new stage manager as Chris has stepped down from the role. No one came forward for this role at the AGM,

Proposed:

Seconded:

Assistant Stage Manager – Rachel Cutts

Rachel Cutts would like to re-stand as our ASM.

Proposed: Amy Kift

Seconded: Ashton Williams

Props – Tracey Crawshaw, Stewart Jenkins, Jessica Baugh.

Tracey Crawshaw is happy to continue with props. She will require help with this and we will need extra members to help with this. Stewart also helps currently.

Proposed: Ray Isaac

Seconded: Hilary Williams

Wardrobe – Spencer Jones, Deb Clee, Bev Williams.

Sharon has stepped down from this position, she was thanked for all her hard work as head of wardrobe. Spencer Jones happy to continue as part of the team. Deb Clee happy to help as much as possible. She is also onstage this year. Bev Williams also joins the team.

Proposed: Joanne Davies

Seconded: Chloe-Leigh Thomas

Auditor - Owen Jenkins

Terry Davies stepping down from this role this year, we will need a new auditor.

Owen Jenkins is happy to be considered for this role.

Proposed: Judith Phillips

Seconded: Denise Vaughan

Prompt

Judith is stepping down from this post.

This post is now being rescinded.

Proposed: Mary Isaac

Seconded: Bev Harris

Librarians -Amy Kift ,Lottie Merchant

Judith stepping down from this post. Amy Kift and Lottie Merchant happy to share the role.

Proposed: Mary Isaac

Seconded: Ray Isaac

Programmes/posters – Beverley Harris, Ashton Williams

Mary & Ray stepping down this year. Beverley Harris is happy to take on the Programme and Ashton the Posters.

Proposed: Mel Evans

Seconded: Rachael Clee

Publicity- Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Dan Moses, Ashton Williams, Tracey Crawshaw.

Proposed: Joanne Davies

Seconded: Judith Phillips

Fundraising team

Melanie currently chairs the fundraising team. The rest of the team are: Susan Jones, Spencer Jones, Joanne Davies, Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Lottie Merchant, David Arran, Amy Kift, Chloe Leigh Thomas. New members to the team always welcome.

Proposed: Jodi Fraser

Seconded: Dan Moses

F.O.H Manager Celie Drew-Jones

Celia Drew-Jones put herself forward for this role and was duly elected.

Proposed: Suzy Hambidge

Seconded: Gaynor Williams

F.O.H. Team

Members of the Society.

Proposed: Suzy Hambidge

Seconded: Gaynor Williams

11. Casting Committee. Jonathan, Carys, Cath, Choreographer, plus 2 independents. Bev as Chairperson has casting vote if there is a tie.

12. Committee members. Tracey Crawshaw, Spencer Jones, Dan Moses, Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Lesley Jenkins, Amy Kift and Ashton Williams.

Andrew Elsey was voted off the Committee as he had failed to attend meetings and had not attended the AGM and had not sent apologies. Tracy Crawshaw, and Spencer Jones to continue for another two years.

6 new members were voted onto Committee. Dan Moses, Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Lesley Jenkins, Amy Kift, Ashton Williams.

Proposed: Emyr Alrawazik

Seconded: Terry Davies

13. Ticket prices £20 full price £18 Concessions

Details of concessions will be announced at a later date.

14. Membership Fees.

Committee proposed that members fees should be; Playing members £60, Non-Playing Members £30, Production fee £35.

There was an amendment to the 1st proposal of Playing Members £60, Non Playing Members £30 Students £40, Production fees £40. Proposed by Jodi Fraser, Seconded by Ray Isaac.

**The vote for the amendment was For: 20 Against: 3 Abstain: 5
The amendment was passed.**

Members fees to be paid by the 14th December. Full fees to be paid by auditionees before the audition date of 1st October. Production fees to be paid at a later date.

**15. DVD of Little Mermaid – £25 per copy please show interest with a show of hands, as I will need to book Hoosh if we go ahead.
It was asked if a digital copy could be made. Mary is to find out.**

16. LIFE MEMBERS

it is with great pleasure we announce the following new Life Members as they step down from their roles in the Society.

Kath Wheel, Julie Hemming, Chris Hemming, Terry Davies and Ray and Mary Isaac.

We would like to give our grateful thanks to you all for all your hard work for the Society over many years.

We would also like to give special mention to Alwyn and Gaynor Williams as they step down from their various roles in C.A.O.S. they are already Life Members, so we would like to take this opportunity to give them our grateful and heartfelt thanks for all their hard work, dedication and loyalty to the society for over 55 years. we know you will still support C.A.O.S. and we look forward to seeing you at rehearsals and the week of the show.

17. Honorary Member.

It is a pleasure also to announce a new Honorary Member

Paul Barnett, and thank him for all his years as our Stage Manager.

18. David Thomas MBE Award

This year's recipient is a previous winner of the award. She came into our production of Kipps a bit later in the process and hit the ground running, catching up on everything missed and throwing herself into the production with gusto. Her presence within the ensemble added much needed experience, and she was able to lead by example. She also contributed greatly to the publicity for the show, taking photos, saturating social media with videos, photographs and items featuring the cast, as well as leading the way with organising leaflet drops, so she was hands on in many aspects vital to putting on a show.

She is now taking over the role of Director and we are losing her as Vice Chairman, a role which she has again put her full efforts into, and I want to publicly thank her for all her hard work and commitment to that role.

No doubt you now realise who I am talking about, so I am delighted to announce that the recipient of this year's David Thomas Award is Carys Wright.

Carys isn't in attendance tonight as she's not feeling well, and the cup is going to be engraved with her name, so when it returns, I will be presenting it to Carys at a future rehearsal, and you will be able to congratulate her in person then.

Carys Wright

**19. Correspondence.
None**

**20. Any other Business.
None**

The meeting was closed.

COCKETT AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR KIPPS 2023

Estimated Income 2023	£	Expenditure 2023	£
Ticket Income	23,192.00	Taliesin Hire & Batteries	7,928.08
VP & Ticket Income	162.00	Taliesin Ticket Commision(10%)	2,319.20
Show Raffle	790.00	Orchestra	4,455.00
Advertising	750.00	Royalties + VAT	3,636.00
Programme Sales	610.00	Music hire & Logo pack	1,260.00
Sponsors	750.00	Scenery & Props	6,668.40
Reserve VAT refund	120.00	Director	2,100.00
Fund Raising hall hire repayment	52.50	Musical Director	1,500.00
		Accompanist	600.00
		Choreographer	250.00
		Costumes & Wigs	3,740.20
		Programmes & posters	844.00
		Church halls hire	1,750.00
		Insurance	508.24
		Advertising	288.00
		Stage Manager	250.00
		Asst Stage Manager expences	150.00
		Postage	105.82
		Extra Microphone	114.00

Show Income 26,426.50

Show Expenditure 38,466.94

Subscriptions	2,750.00
Inland Revenue - Gift Aid	970.00
Back Stage Raffle/Collection	112.00
Costumes (£25) x29	725.00
Fund Raising	5,000.00
Other	25.00

NODA merr	190.00
Hospitality	12.00
Hon. Secretary Expenses	0.00
Internet fee	0.00
Lottery licence	20.00
Cup engraving	9.00
Photographs	65.00
Crew Refreshments	0.00
Gifts & Flowers	246.50
Stationary	15.00

Non-Show Income 9,582.00

Non-Show Expenditure 557.50

Total Income 36,008.50

Total Expenditure 39,024.44

Total Loss -3,015.94

BALANCE SHEET

Bank Account 9,455.09

Show profit -12,040.44
Non-Show profit 9,024.50
Total Loss -3,015.94

Prepayment - 2024 Scenery dep 600.00

Prepayment - 2024 Rights dep 500.00

Net Assets 10,555.09

Treasurer

W.R. Isaac

Reserves brought forward 13,571.03

R. ISAAC

Profit/(loss) -3,015.94

Auditor

T. Davies
T. DAVIES

Date 28/03/23
31/07/23
24/08/23

Reserves carried forward 10,555.09

Cockett Amateur Operatic Society

President: MENNA TRUSSLER

Chairperson: BEVERLEY HARRIS

Vice Chairperson: CARYS WRIGHT



Hon. Secretary:
MARY E. ISAAC
56 Cwmgelli Road,
Morrison
SWANSEA
SA6 7PD
Tel. (01792) 774442

A REGISTERED CHARITY
Reg. No. – 1001113

Hon. Treasurer:
RAYMOND ISAAC
56 Cwmgelli Road
Morrison
SWANSEA
SA6 7PD
Tel. (01792) 774442

www.cockettoperatics.com

Maryi.caos@btinternet.com

C.A.O.S Trustee's Report 07/09/2023

1. Apologies for absence

Tim Drean, Cath Fraser, Gareth Griffiths, Tracey Crawshaw, Cath Van Wyk Jodi Jones, Catherine Joyce, Jim & Menna Trussler, Glen Rees, Stewart Jenkins, Natalie Edwards, Anne Marie Morris, Audrey Williams, Carys Wright, Helen and Paul Roach, Carys Mugford, Susan Jones, Barbara Ayers, Laura Alfei, Siobhan Miles, Pam Thirwell, Linda Drew, Nicki Thomas & Chris Hemming

2. Minutes of the last A.G.M. Read by Mary. No matters arising.

Proposed - Rachael Morris

Seconded - Spencer Jones

3. Chairperson's report

May I take this opportunity to welcome you back for what I hope will be another exciting and successful season. This time last year we embarked on our first show for 3 years due to the pandemic, and whilst it felt wonderful to be back, as well as the usual challenges faced by the society, we also found ourselves facing even more difficult circumstances as a result of everyone recovering from the impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis. One of our greatest challenges was the news that the Taliesin would be selling all the tickets and taking ten percent off the price of every ticket, not a situation any of us wanted to see but one that we had no choice or say in. It really did have an impact on us, and it became much more difficult to monitor whether people were buying tickets, even if they told us they were. It is was much easier under the old system, but it is what it is and once again we need to rise to the challenge and do everything we can to continue to encourage and promote our show and get those bums on seats.

With so many of our hardworking and longstanding officers and members of the production team stepping down, which of course I want to talk about in a lot more detail later, it cannot be denied that CAOS is right in the middle of the biggest transition phase we have ever faced, and whilst it is daunting and it does feel like a mountain to climb, I think we have to look at it as a new start, where we build on what has been created and the foundations that have been laid. This society means so much to all of us no matter how long we've been a part of it, and time and time again it's been proved that we can do it if we all work together. And that's not just the committee and those in key positions that is every single member of CAOS. We each need to do everything we can to make sure this society continues to thrive, we can all do something. Even if you don't want to take a position on the committee you can still offer your time and do something to help, we can all attend fundraising events which put much needed funds into the coffers and most importantly of all we can all sell tickets. We will continue to do what has been so successful over the last couple of years and continue to use all the strategies we used to good effect, but if anyone has any ideas and suggestions please come and have a chat with me, or any member of

the committee as we always appreciate your input and any fresh outlook on all of our ongoing challenges.

A vital aspect of staying afloat as a company is the work of the fundraising team and I am massively grateful for every person of the team who continues to work hard to raise the vital funds needed to keep going, and it's no exaggeration to say that this year without the funds accumulated by Peter Howard and subsequent fundraisers, we would be closing the group down. We all know that it isn't enough to just sell the tickets anymore, but that is the first thing we need to do and then supplement it with fundraising, and as the years have gone by the amount needed to supplement keeps on rising. So it is vital that we all support whatever fundraising events are organized throughout the year and I know the team have a full itinerary or events planned which I'm sure Mel will be giving us full details of later.

And so to this Year's show, *Kipps the New Half a Sixpence*, it gave CAOS an opportunity to work on a more traditional type of show, which is something we do well, with the added bonus of revived songs by two current British Songwriters Stiles and Drewe. It was also so lovely to be back on stage as a company working together to produce a show of our usual high standard. Productions as wonderful as *Kipps* was don't just happen, and I would publicly like to thank the Production Team of Kathryn, Jonathan, Julie, and John for all their hard work throughout the process and their contributions to making it such a fantastic show. I would also like to thank Chris as our Stage Manager, as well as Rachel and the rest of the backstage team for their hard work with both the get in and out, plus their work during the week. We also continue to rely on the good will of a hardy gang of playing and non - playing members to help with the get in and out, and they never fail to support us, never letting us down, and often forgoing a well deserved drink in the bar after the last performance. We really appreciate all your efforts and acknowledge that without them we would have no set and no production so thank you.

We are also grateful to our Props Team, led by Tracey. And she was ably assisted by Stewart who deserves a massive thank you for making banjo's for the entire cast, and making such an effort to produce such a large number of them to such a fantastic standard. The input of the Props Team is so important in providing context for the performers and the right visual impact on stage so thank you.

Thanks also need to be extended to everyone who helped with costumes, measuring the cast, coordinating the delivery and distribution of costumes for show week, as well as being on hand for any repairs or replacements as well as dressing the cast side stage, thank you all. We also say thank you to Sharon Roberts for all her help as she steps down from her role as head of Wardrobe.

It would also be remiss of me not to thank Mary and Ray who already do so much in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer, but as if they haven't got enough to do already, also take on the mammoth task of coordinating our Ticket sales. This takes a massive effort to sell tickets by being available to take sales by phone at home, but also liaising with the staff at the Taliesin who sell a small percentage of our tickets too. Enough in itself but when you consider they are also responsible for designing our programme and organising it's printing, the work load becomes mind blowing. We are so grateful to you both for all the hard work you put in to ensure the show goes on.

That just leaves me to thank the entire front of house team and anyone else I may have unintentionally failed to mention.

Your help and support is invaluable to us and without all of you productions would simply not go on.

So now the hard bit, this year's production of Kipps is the end of an era, you cannot but be aware that we are losing some very major players from both our production team and from the Committee. So I just wanted to address each one in turn. I've been in the society since 1999 and I was here for David Thomas' last two shows before he retired, which whilst a big loss we were all reassured by the presence of Kathryn Rice later to become Kathryn Wheel, she had assisted

her Dad for many years and then took over as Director, her hard work and dedication to the society as well as her brilliant direction and great technical skills, have meant the producing of many many shows of an extreme high standard that have brought kudos and many words of praise for our society. We are extremely grateful for everything she has done and appreciate that we would not be where we are without her. Thank you Kath.

We are also losing our assistant director and Choreographer Julie Hemming who again has been with the society for many many years, moving from performing to the production team and contributing to many productions. I think all I need to do is repeat the quote “Julie will do that” and she has been doing whatever has been needed to support Kath and make sure the show goes on. Thank you Julie.

This was also the last year for our stage manager Chris Hemming, without a stage manager the show cannot go on and we are all so grateful for everything you have done for us, even at times when it was difficult due to ill health Chris would still be there show week ever reliant and leading the troops. Thank you Chris.

I am also very sad to be announcing that our President Menna Trussler is stepping down, as one of the societies founding members her contribution to this group cannot be summed up in this speech really, she has led us from the front, but also been a vital part of the production team in her role as libretti coach, and I can speak from personal experience, as the help and advice I have received from her for several roles but particularly for my role as Mother Superior, was invaluable and I couldn't have done it without her. She gave me confidence and so many options into how to play the character. Thank you Menna for everything you have done for CAOS.

And finally, but by no means least, our secretary and Treasurer, Mary and Ray Isaac. Not only have they taken on wholeheartedly the remit of their roles but so many other things too, as has been previously mentioned, the tickets, front of house, organising costumes you name it they've done it. I honestly don't know

what we're going to do without them. As chairperson I have been so well supported by both but particularly Mary who basically makes my role very easy. I am so grateful to you both, and you will be very much missed... and can I end this by saying.... Please don't go!!!

Thank you so much for everything you've done and now it's definitely time to put your feet up!

And so we look towards our show in March 2024 - The Little Mermaid, having done beauty and the beast as a society we know how wonderful a Disney show can be and we know how popular too but that doesn't mean we take our foot off the gas we need to keep promoting the show and selling those tickets!!!

If you'd like to get your diaries or phones out I have a list of important dates to give you in regards to the schedule for Little Mermaid.

Our first rehearsal will be Thursday 14th September (that's next Thursday) from 7.30 - 9.30.

Auditions will take place on Sunday 1st of October from 2pm - 5pm. More details to follow in rehearsals.

There will be two block weekends but this time they will take place from Thursday - Sunday. Well one will be Wednesday to Sunday and the other will be Thursday to Sunday.

The First Block Weekend date is

Thursday 13th October to Sunday 15th October 2023.

Then the second block weekend will be

Wednesday 17th January to Sunday 21st January 2024

In order to make the production of the highest quality it is essential that everyone intending to be on stage makes a full commitment to attend rehearsals, as this makes things so much easier for the production team to set the show as well as enhancing the experience of the whole company on stage. The dates the show will play at the Taliesin are Tuesday 5th to Saturday the 9th March 2024.

Even though times ahead are challenging, I am more than confident that we can continue to thrive with the right amount of determination, plus the right decisions about how we move forward and secure our continued place in amateur theatre in the Swansea Area, as this is a group that sticks together and offers so much to its members. And I am looking forward to starting back next week and beginning our new adventure, as well as seeing everyone ready to start and raring to go.

I would also like to offer congratulations to Catrin and Dafydd on the birth of their daughter Buddig, another new future member to put on the list. If there are any other special occasions I've missed please let me know now.

Also I'd like to remind you to go and support our members involved in other productions coming up soon.

Harrys will be performing scrooge from the 9th—11th November 2023 at the Grand Theatre.

Ashton will be appearing in Spring Awakening in studio Stepney at the Ffwrnes from the 17th and 18th of November 2023.

And Abbey Players are performing the Addams family at the Taliesin from the 21st to the 25th November.

Again if anyone has any other shows to plug please say so now, and please go and support, thank you.

Then all that remains is for me to say once more welcome and back and I look forward to a great year ahead.

Thank you.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ray Isaac presented the Treasurer's report with the following figures:

Show Income - Ticket revenue was £23,192, with income from Raffle £790 and Programmes £610. Income from advertisers was £750 (All help welcomed to attract advertisers and sponsors). Sponsorship was £750. Reserve VAT refund was £120 and VP & ticket income was £162.

Non-Show Income - Subscriptions were £2,750. Gift Aid claim was £970 (The Treasurer needs to have necessary information from those paying subscriptions to facilitate this.) Back stage raffle was £112. Costumes £725. Fund Raising Donation £5000. Other £25.

Show Expenditure - Main costings: Taliesin - £7,928.08 (includes hire & batteries) Taliesin ticket commission was £2,319.20, Orchestra - £4,455, Royalties/Music hire - £4896, Scenery - £6,668 (includes Props), Production Team- £4850, Programme and Posters - £844, Church halls rehearsal hire - £1,720, Insurance £508.24, Costume & wig hire - £3,740.20

Non-Show Expenditure – NODA membership £190, and other costs totalled £317.50

Fund Raising Account – Funds transferred to Main Account £5000. Many Thanks to Fund Raising Team for all their efforts over the year.

Bank Account Balance - £9,455.09

Overall, Loss - £3,015.94

Prepayment Deposits carried forward - £1,100 (Rights & Scenery deposits for 2024.)

Reserves carried forward - £10,555.09

This year's show was a great success on the stage, ticket sales were disappointing to start but improved slightly as the show became closer. Many thanks to all members for participating in publicising and selling tickets.

The association with the Taliesin on ticket sales and publicity again proved successful, but costly.

We made a loss this year despite transfer of monies from Fund Raising Account. So, I ask you all on behalf of the Society to continue to publicise, promote, and sell tickets for our next show through all sorts of media from the beginning of our season.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their contribution on and off stage over the past 12 months.

**Ray Isaac
Hon Treasurer
C.A.O.S.**

5. Auditor's Report

We must face the same problem as the two previous shows – falling or static income levels and increasing costs. The Statement of Accounts clearly shows this.

As far as last year's show is concerned, if we add up the costs of the Taliesin, scenery, royalties, costumes and orchestra, they exceed the total show income by over £8000. Looking at the overall picture, the total expenditure of the show exceeded the total income by £3015 after taking into consideration that £5000 was transferred from the fund raising account. Such losses are unsustainable.

The Society is faced with the perennial problem that ticket sales will not cover the cost of producing a show, they never have but costs have increased in recent years at a greater rate than the propensity to increase the price of tickets to cover these increases. There is a finite amount you can increase prices, particularly in the present economic climate and the fact that the Taliesin is charging £2 commission on each ticket hasn't helped.

Last year there was a shortfall of 777 tickets for the week, this needs to be addressed. Perhaps a small group could be set up to look specifically at our marketing strategies, the actual show chosen, and scrutinise the costs of putting it on.

CONCLUSION

The fund-raising committee are to be congratulated on their hard work and the amount of money they have raised; it is an unenviable job but they have done exceptionally well and are keeping the Society afloat. I wish I could wave a magic wand and come up with a solution but as the saying goes 'Times are Hard'. We are still feeling the effects of Covid, whether we like it or not, it has changed peoples' habits and attitudes. We are also in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis where there may well be little spare money in peoples' pockets to go to a show. We must be mindful of this.

I would like to conclude by saying I will be standing down as Auditor this year. It has been both a pleasure and an honour to serve as your Auditor for the past twenty-one years and the privilege of serving with three wonderful treasures in Eric, Paul, and Ray.

**Terry Davies
(HON AUDITOR)**

6. Fundraising Report – Mel Evans

Mel Evans outlined the various activities undertaken for the current year which raised a total of £1980.25 with an expenditure of £52.50. (hall hire) leaving an overall balance of £1927.75.

£5000.00 was transferred to the main account.

Current balance £2642.16

Mel outlined forthcoming events for 2023/2024 season. Further details will be given at rehearsals and on social media.

7. 2024 show – Little Mermaid

8. Pass motion by general body to change 3years to 1 year for election of Officers and Committee.

The proposal was put to the general body and was passed unanimously

9. Announce appointment of Carys Wright to Artistic Director, and Cath Fraser to Assistant to Director and Libretto Coach. Mary read out the following letter from Laura Alfei regarding her appointment to Choreographer.

Dear committee and members of CAOS,

As some of you might know, my mum (Susan Jones) has recently been diagnosed with Lymphoma and has been in hospital this week after catching an infection from her first chemotherapy treatment. Whilst she is home now, the treatment will be ongoing for quite some time and will need support from family members and friends. In addition, on Saturday night, we learnt that my mum's partner (Gareth Beynon) had passed away suddenly and was found at home by his son. As I'm sure you can understand, we are all devastated by this news and are now grieving. After my dad's passing, we had built ourselves up again only to now be demolished once more.

Due to me now having to look after my son, mum, nan and also continuing to work, it is with deep regret that I am going

to have to pull out of being choreographer for this years production of the Little Mermaid. For those who know me, they know that the last thing I would ever want to do is let people down, but as I am sure you will all understand, I have to put my family and myself first and therefore something had to give.

I am sure that the production will be as fabulous as always under the new direction of Carys Wright, and I wish you all the very best. I aim to come to see the odd rehearsal to keep in touch, and can't wait to see the show on stage in March.

Thank you so much for this opportunity and I hope that I will be with you all again soon in one way or another.

Laura Alfei.

10. Election of Officers

President

Menna, is stepping down this year. Mary read out the following:

Menna Trussler – President.

Menna has reluctantly decided that she can no longer stand as our President and is stepping down from the role. She has thoroughly enjoyed her years as our President and always been very proud of our wonderful Society.

We as a society owe a huge debt of thanks to Menna for her unstinting dedication and loyalty to CAOS of which she has been a member from it's conception. Menna has fulfilled many roles within the Society, from being on stage to Libretti Coach and many more, as she has said herself CAOS has been a huge part of her life for 60 years and she will miss it enormously.

Menna still hopes she will be able to come and enjoy CAOS productions at the Taliesin for many years to come.

I'm sure we all join together to wish Menna all the very best for her retirement from President and Libretti Coach and send much love from all Members and friends of the Society .

A proposal was put forward by Spencer Jones that Mary Isaac be elected as the new President of C.A.O.S. the proposal was carried unanimously

President – Mary Isaac (elected for 3 years)

Proposed: Spencer Jones

Seconded: Daniel Moses

Chairperson – Beverley Harris

Proposed: Celia Drew-Jones Seconded: Judith Phillips

Vice Chairperson

Suzy Hambidge, Celia Drew-Jones, Melanie Evans have indicated an interest in this role.

A vote was taken and Melanie Evans was duly elected

Proposed: Tracy Thomas Seconded: Joanne Davies

Secretary – Annemarie Morris

Mary stepping down this year. Annemarie Morris was happy to be put forward for this position and was duly elected

Proposed: Mary Isaac Seconded: Judith Phillips

Treasurer – Claire Atherton

Ray Isaac stepping down this year. Claire Atherton happy to consider the role if no members come forward. Claire was duly elected to the role of Treasurer.

Proposed: Celia Drew-Jones Seconded: Amy Kift

Minute Secretary – Cath Fraser

Cath would not like a fee for her role as assistant/libretti and would like to remain a member and stand again as minute secretary.

Proposed: Denise Vaughan Seconded: Judith Phillips

Ticket Secretary

Mary & Ray stepping down this year from this role. No one came forward for this role at the AGM.

Proposed:

Seconded:

Stage Manager

We require a new stage manager as Chris has stepped down from the role. No one came forward for this role at the AGM,

Proposed:

Seconded:

Assistant Stage Manager – Rachel Cutts

Rachel Cutts would like to re-stand as our ASM.

Proposed: Amy Kift

Seconded: Ashton Williams

Props – Tracey Crawshaw, Stewart Jenkins, Jessica Baugh.

Tracey Crawshaw is happy to continue with props. She will require help with this and we will need extra members to help with this. Stewart also helps currently.

Proposed: Ray Isaac

Seconded: Hilary Williams

Wardrobe – Spencer Jones, Deb Clee, Bev Williams.

Sharon has stepped down from this position, she was thanked for all her hard work as head of wardrobe. Spencer Jones happy to continue as part of the team. Deb Clee happy to help as much as possible. She is also onstage this year. Bev Williams also joins the team.

Proposed: Joanne Davies

Seconded: Chloe-Leigh Thomas

Auditor - Owen Jenkins

Terry Davies stepping down from this role this year, we will need a new auditor.

Owen Jenkins is happy to be considered for this role.

Proposed: Judith Phillips

Seconded: Denise Vaughan

Prompt

Judith is stepping down from this post.

This post is now being rescinded.

Proposed: Mary Isaac

Seconded: Bev Harris

Librarians -Amy Kift ,Lottie Merchant

Judith stepping down from this post. Amy Kift and Lottie Merchant happy to share the role.

Proposed: Mary Isaac

Seconded: Ray Isaac

Programmes/posters – Beverley Harris, Ashton Williams

Mary & Ray stepping down this year. Beverley Harris is happy to take on the Programme and Ashton the Posters.

Proposed: Mel Evans

Seconded: Rachael Clee

Publicity- Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Dan Moses, Ashton Williams, Tracey Crawshaw.

Proposed: Joanne Davies

Seconded: Judith Phillips

Fundraising team

Melanie currently chairs the fundraising team. The rest of the team are: Susan Jones, Spencer Jones, Joanne Davies, Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Lottie Merchant, David Arran, Amy Kift, Chloe Leigh Thomas. New members to the team always welcome.

Proposed: Jodi Fraser

Seconded: Dan Moses

F.O.H Manager Celie Drew-Jones

Celia Drew-Jones put herself forward for this role and was duly elected.

Proposed: Suzy Hambidge

Seconded: Gaynor Williams

F.O.H. Team

Members of the Society.

Proposed: Suzy Hambidge

Seconded: Gaynor Williams

11. Casting Committee. Jonathan, Carys, Cath, Choreographer, plus 2 independents. Bev as Chairperson has casting vote if there is a tie.

12. Committee members. Tracey Crawshaw, Spencer Jones, Dan Moses, Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Lesley Jenkins, Amy Kift and Ashton Williams.

Andrew Elsey was voted off the Committee as he had failed to attend meetings and had not attended the AGM and had not sent apologies. Tracy Crawshaw, and Spencer Jones to continue for another two years.

6 new members were voted onto Committee. Dan Moses, Rachael Morris, Suzy Hambidge, Lesley Jenkins, Amy Kift, Ashton Williams.

Proposed: Emyr Alrawazik

Seconded: Terry Davies

13. Ticket prices £20 full price £18 Concessions

Details of concessions will be announced at a later date.

14. Membership Fees.

Committee proposed that members fees should be; Playing members £60, Non-Playing Members £30, Production fee £35.

There was an amendment to the 1st proposal of Playing Members £60, Non Playing Members £30 Students £40, Production fees £40. Proposed by Jodi Fraser, Seconded by Ray Isaac.

**The vote for the amendment was For: 20 Against: 3 Abstain: 5
The amendment was passed.**

Members fees to be paid by the 14th December. Full fees to be paid by auditionees before the audition date of 1st October. Production fees to be paid at a later date.

**15. DVD of Little Mermaid – £25 per copy please show interest with a show of hands, as I will need to book Hoosh if we go ahead.
It was asked if a digital copy could be made. Mary is to find out.**

16. LIFE MEMBERS

it is with great pleasure we announce the following new Life Members as they step down from their roles in the Society.

Kath Wheel, Julie Hemming, Chris Hemming, Terry Davies and Ray and Mary Isaac.

We would like to give our grateful thanks to you all for all your hard work for the Society over many years.

We would also like to give special mention to Alwyn and Gaynor Williams as they step down from their various roles in C.A.O.S. they are already Life Members, so we would like to take this opportunity to give them our grateful and heartfelt thanks for all their hard work, dedication and loyalty to the society for over 55 years. we know you will still support C.A.O.S. and we look forward to seeing you at rehearsals and the week of the show.

17. Honorary Member.

It is a pleasure also to announce a new Honorary Member

Paul Barnett, and thank him for all his years as our Stage Manager.

18. David Thomas MBE Award

This year's recipient is a previous winner of the award. She came into our production of Kipps a bit later in the process and hit the ground running, catching up on everything missed and throwing herself into the production with gusto. Her presence within the ensemble added much needed experience, and she was able to lead by example. She also contributed greatly to the publicity for the show, taking photos, saturating social media with videos, photographs and items featuring the cast, as well as leading the way with organising leaflet drops, so she was hands on in many aspects vital to putting on a show.

She is now taking over the role of Director and we are losing her as Vice Chairman, a role which she has again put her full efforts into, and I want to publicly thank her for all her hard work and commitment to that role.

No doubt you now realise who I am talking about, so I am delighted to announce that the recipient of this year's David Thomas Award is Carys Wright.

Carys isn't in attendance tonight as she's not feeling well, and the cup is going to be engraved with her name, so when it returns, I will be presenting it to Carys at a future rehearsal, and you will be able to congratulate her in person then.

Carys Wright

**19. Correspondence.
None**

**20. Any other Business.
None**

The meeting was closed.

