



RUTLAND MUSICAL THEATRE

Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Manton Village Hall -Thursday 11th September 2025

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

Present

AGENDA	ISSUES DISCUSSED	ACTIONS
Apologies	Sophie Hall, Lizzie Jordan, Felicity Thistlethwaite, Christine Martin, Dan Wade, Joanne beaver, Annie Corrigan, John Padwick, Nick Barfield, Hales Beasley, John McMillan, Marcelo Serafim, Nerissa Mclean.	
Present	<p>Members</p> <p>Tom Johnson, Laura Ray, Louis Brandt, Lizzie Young, John Hackett, Chris Hackett, Jenny South, Heather Walker, Charlotte Darling, Mariana Dickson, Sally Mitchell-Hunt, George Walker, Annie Corrigan, Richard Coville, Wendy Yeadon, Vikki Fallow-Norton, Lewis Shaw, Katie Ross, Lorraine Cash, Samantha Cash, Jill Spence, Craig McClelland, Jill Powell, Felicity Thistlethwaite, Joanna Major, Annie de Kremer, Katy McNaughtan-Brown, Hilary Goldsmith, Alicia Dodds, Megan Roberts, Ruth McClelland, Sherry Bullough, Scott Topping, Jude Major, Harriett Bryan, Christian Obokoh, Poppy Obokoh, Debbie Wadd-Jarvis, Hilary Goldsmith, Alex 'Great' Harwood, Claire Pople, Lewis Shaw, Kian Becks, Chalis Brennan, Emma Gant, Zoe Crouch, Erin Glen, Abby Atkinson, Chris Young, Belinda Graham, Guy Sharman, Imogen Burn, Nikki Thorpe, Ally Ambrose, Sara Ashley.</p> <p>Guests</p> <p>Colin and Rose Backley - NODA</p>	
Welcome	The meeting commenced at 7.30 with the Chair's welcome	
Matters Arising from AGM 2024	No matters arising	
Acceptance minutes of 2024 AGM	Proposed: Richard Coville Seconded: Megan Roberts	
NODA presentation	Colin Backler of NODA (East Midlands District 6 Leicestershire and Rutland) attended to present awards to the teams behind	

	<p>RMT’s two 2024 shows ‘The Addams family’ (Directed by Tom Johnson) and ‘Into the Woods’ (Directed by Lizzy Young).</p> <p>The Addams Family won the award for best musical.</p> <p>John Hackett (Founder member and society president) accepted the award on behalf of RMT.</p> <p><i>“Very well done. Fancy me getting hold of this. I didn’t put so much work into the Addams Family but perhaps everything that went before helped. Thank you to NODA, we appreciate it very much and will regard it very highly’.</i></p> <p>‘Into the Woods’ won the reps special award “For courage and ambition to put on a big show like Into the Woods in a village hall setting and make it a success.”</p> <p>Lizzy Young accepted the award on behalf of RMT thanking the cast and crew and all those involved in the production.</p> <p>Citation details.</p> <p><i>“This special recognition is awarded to RMT for the company’s staging of an immersive production of Stephen Sondheim’s ‘Into the Woods’ in the setting of a village hall in a small Rutland village. The aim of bringing ‘musical theatre’ to a small rural setting involved overcoming considerable logistical difficulties and obstacles. The fact that such a ‘big’ musical still came across as a major production, even in the confined and facility-limited venue , was a revelation. It provided evidence of how a dedicated company, imaginative direction and skilled performance can achieve the seemingly impossible, on this occasion bringing great entertainment and high-standard theatre to a capacity and very appreciative audience.”</i></p>	
<p>Chairman’s Report</p> <p>Tom Johnson</p>	<p>You will all be pleased to hear that this year, given the slight change of format to our Agenda, I will be keeping this report brief. My thanks again to Colin for coming to present our NODA awards to us here at our AGM. We are thrilled to have received the recognition and appreciate you taking the time out to visit us here in Manton.</p> <p>The last year has quite possibly been RMT’s most ambitious yet. Already set to be a milestone one as we celebrate our 45th anniversary, we went and did a two-week run of a show with a £78,000 and still made a four-figure profit. This is a truly remarkable achievement and one we should be so proud of. Huge thanks must of course go to Laura for being brave (or stupid) enough to present the idea to the committee in the first place and to her production team and all those who helped make the show a success. Emma, Jenny, Katy, Katie, Leesh, Malcolm, Johnny, the huge army of Northampton Uni</p>	

students – the list is endless, and it would be impossible for me to keep this report brief if I was to mention everyone. What a team effort and huge congratulations. In the words of Lord F himself (get ready for some audience participation) – “People of Duroc, we have a winner!”. Thank you also to the committee for having faith and being willing to take bold decisions.

Eyes now turn to Vikki and sister act. No stranger to putting on a production I feel sure we can expect great things and that the standard we and our audiences expect will be well maintained. Having witnessed the talent at our new members auditions on Tuesday, joining our already fabulous membership, I really did reflect on how rich in talent our membership is. My warmest welcome to all our new members, I hope you find RMT as wonderful and infectious as the rest of us. Please do make them all warmly welcome. Our best wishes to you, Vikki, and your production team for an exciting few months ahead!

This is of course off the back of the recent concert which was a truly wonderful celebration of RMT’s history. Thank you again to Vikki and everyone who took part. Audiences were yet again keen to tell me what a fabulous evening of entertainment was provided. A special thank you also to our president and founding member, John Hackett, for his invaluable contributions.

As ever, I wish to note my personal and heartfelt thanks to the committee who work incredibly hard to keep the society as we know it running and play a huge part in RMT’s overall success. I have always firmly believed that the committee sets the tone for the society and this I think is clear. They are proactive, supportive and nurturing and genuinely care about RMT and its members. The result is the creative safe space we all know and love.

I am sorry however to report that Louis is stepping down as Treasurer and I would like to personally thank him for his commitment and support during his time on the committee. The role of the Treasurer is quite possibly the most important yet most thankless of all the roles in a society. Thank you, Louis, for all your years of service for which we are all extremely grateful.

Our thanks and best wishes of course to Lizzy who moves into post this evening.

We are thrilled to be welcoming Heather onto the committee. Thank you for agreeing to give more of your time to the society. I heard it was the meetings at the pub that sold it! As a committee, we are really keen to further improve the social aspect of the society, outside of rehearsals. Particularly important for those who want to join us as non-acting members. Those that were able to be there I’m sure will agree what a fabulous time was had at the anniversary event last weekend. At which, we gave the lovely Jill Powell and special recognition award for her years of service to RMT.

	<p>Congratulations Jill. We are therefore aiming to have at least one social a month. Details will be circulated, but so far we have –</p> <p>A curry night at 10 Dining Street in Oakham on Friday 26th September, 2 courses at £24 per head, organised by Laura.</p> <p>Musical Bingo at The Buttercross in Oakham on Saturday 25th October at £10 per head, organised by Sherry.</p> <p>A Bonfire Night Celebration in November being organised by Katie.</p> <p>And an RMT 80's themed Christmas party Night at The Fox in North Luffenham on Saturday 13th December at £40 per head, with professional entertainment, 3 course meal and disco, rounding off our 45th anniversary year celebrations, organised by myself. Given we were founded in 1980, we thought it was apt to go right back to the beginning!</p> <p>So do keep an eye out on emails and our members page on Facebook for all of the details after tonight's meeting.</p> <p>We also have some exciting news regarding future productions – more on that shortly. So there really is a greater incentive than ever to pay your membership fees.</p> <p>I think we can all agree how lucky we are to have such a wonderful, thriving society with you, our members, at his heart. Thank you to each and everyone of you.</p> <p>Here's to another fabulous, fun filled year with our RMT family! Thank you.</p>	
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Louis Brandt</p>	<p>Our September production of 'Into the woods' was a success with both audiences and the critics making a profit of £2866.88.</p> <p>Shrek was by far our most ambitious production to date running for an unprecedented 2 weeks. It too was a huge success making a profit of £1418.78. This would have been higher but for refunds which have not yet materialised. These will be reflected on the accounts for 2025/2026.</p> <p>The surplus of income over expenditure for the period was £7512.57 and increase of almost £2000.</p> <p>The net assets of the society are £62969.14 made up of balances on the Community (current) and premium savings accounts. The balance overall is up by over £10k over the last 12 months. In June 2018 when LB took over as treasurer the balance was £30,922.46 - half of what it is today.</p> <p>Being in such a strong financial position is liberating as we do not have to concentrate on making a profit on every production.</p> <p>A piece of advice from Louis to the current committee that we should not lose sight of the fact that we are a charity and our main goal is to bring musical theatre to the public.</p> <p>This increase is due to the extraordinary efforts of the</p>	

	<p>committee members who have shared this journey with me for the last 7 years and I am therefore confident that I am leaving the society in a very healthy financial position in in very good hands with the current committee.</p>	
<p>Appointment of Examiner for 2025-26</p>	<p>Mr Ross has agreed to act as examiner for the next financial period.</p> <p>Proposed: Megan Roberts Seconded: Chris Young</p>	
<p>Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary</p>	<p>Tom Johnson – Chair Proposed: Chris Hackett Seconded: Megan Roberts</p> <p>Laura Ray – Vice-chair Proposed: Claire Popple Seconded: Sally Mitchell-Hunt</p> <p>Lizzy Young – Treasurer Proposed: Jill Powell Seconded: Sherry Bullough</p> <p>Vikki Fallow-Norton-secretary Proposed: Richard Coville Seconded: Megan Roberts</p>	
<p>Announcement of committee for 2025-26</p>	<p>The committee for 2025-26 was proposed and approved as follows:</p> <p>Tom Johnson (Chair) Laura Ray (Vice Chair) Lizzy Young (Treasurer) Vikki-Fallow-Norton (Secretary) Katie Ross Sherry Bullough Joanna Major Heather Walker</p> <p>Proposed: Sally Mitchell-Hunt Seconded: Alex ‘Great’ Harwood</p> <p>The committee will appoint a Welfare Officer.</p> <p>The first committee meeting will convene on 29th September 2025</p>	
<p>Appointment of president 2025-26</p>	<p>John Hackett confirmed his willingness to continue as the society’s president. Proposed: Hilary Goldsmith Seconded: Richard Coville</p> <p>John’s appointment was unanimously endorsed by those present.</p>	

<p>Artistic Plans for 2025/2028 and beyond</p>	<p>Laura Presented and outline of our forthcoming productions.</p> <p>April 2026 – ‘Sister Act’ (Director Vikki Fallow-Norton)</p> <p>August 2026 – ‘Company’ (Director Lizzy Young)</p> <p>April 2026 – ‘Betty Blue Eyes’ (Director Tom Johnson)</p> <p>August 2027 – ‘The Railway Children – The Musical’ – (Director – Vikki Fallow-Norton)</p> <p>This production will be performed on the platform of Nene Valley Railway, and we hope will involve an actual steam train!</p> <p>March 2028 – ‘Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat’ – (Director Laura Ray)</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Lizzy Young – wished to acknowledge and thank Jenny South and Marianna Dickson as choreographer and MD for Into the Woods</p>	

The meeting closed at 20:10.

The AGM was followed by a meet and greet for the 2026 production of ‘Sister Act ‘.

Rutland Musical Theatre
Accounts for the Year to 30th June 2025

Profit & Loss Account

Income Received	
Shows	91127.74
Donations and Subscriptions	3250.00
Gift Aid	1235.00
Fundraising Events	2933.35
Miscellaneous	72.00
Interest Received	668.35
Total Income	99286.44
Costs Incurred	
Cost of Shows	86067.01
Fundraising Costs	157.76
Other Operating Costs	192.05
Bank Charges	183.67
Insurance	134.96
45th Anniversary Dinner	180.00
NODA Subscription	260.00
Miscellaneous	157.76
Total Operating Costs	87333.21
Surplus for the Period	11953.23

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2025

Assets	
Bank	62419.14
Prepayments	1050.00
Net Assets	63469.14
Represented by:	
Reserves B/f	51515.91
Surplus for the Period	11953.23
Reserves C/t	63469.14

RMT – A/cs Year to 30th June 2025 – Notes

1. Operating and Accounting Principles

The principal activity of RMT is the production of amateur musicals.

This means that in accounting terms:

- The Sales Revenue arising should be that directly associated with the sale of tickets for shows or other fundraising events.
- The Cost of individual Shows or Fundraising Events should represent the net cost of production, therefore, if the members of RMT hold events the net cost surplus arising should be reported under Operating Costs, with only any surplus reflected in Income.
- Refunds of expenses should be treated as deductions from cost, not shown as Income.
- Credit Cards:
 - Credits for card activity should be recorded as Misc Income
 - Refunds arising from the use of Credit Cards should be shown separately and credited against overall operating expenses.
- Interest received should be shown separately within Overall Income, thereby separating it from Trading Income
- Advance payments made or received, are respectively Assets - Prepayments or Liabilities – Accruals. They do not form part of the Reserves.
- Invoices from suppliers not yet received, are Liabilities – Accruals and included with those Invoices due but not yet paid at the Year End, as Creditors.

2. Planning and Budgeting

It would be good practise to:

- a) Shows - Prepare a cost budget for each show, detailing the expected costs to such a level that the overall costs detailed (and ideally confirmed by quotes) are no less than c.85% of the total cost. The balance 15 to 10% should be considered as a Contingency. The draw-down of the Contingency – over-spends - should require approval by two or more Committee members.
- b) Shows – the cost budget should be used to establish required ticket numbers and pricing, and be approved by the Full Committee.
- c) Non-show Related Costs – the budget should be based upon the prior year costs, reviewed by the Committee based upon expected changes in activity for the Budget Year.

d) Report income and expenditure against both the budget and prior year, where relevant. This as an aid to interrogate variances.

3. Bank Reconciliations

These should be produced at each month end, based upon a standard layout, starting with the Bank Account Balance and reconciling to the Bank Balance as per the RMT Books of Account at that date. This should be reviewed by the Chair or designated Deputy, monthly and initialled and signed as approved.

4. Use of Credit Card

Its use by holders should be defined and agreed by the responsible Membership Committee. The expectation should be that, other than on a de minimis basis, ALL suppliers of goods or services related to shows or fund raising events, are paid through the Bank Account.

5. Balance Sheet

The Working Capital of RMT should be represented by the accumulated reserves only.

6. Fixed Assets – if it is decided to capitalise any show related equipment, staging or costumes, this should be written down to a carrying value of Nil unless it can be reasonably expected that it will be used in the succeeding Financial Year. In this event the item should be depreciated by 50% in the year of purchase.

7. Current Assets and Liabilities – should be recorded separately and reconciled with the Working Capital on at least a Quarterly basis.

8. Review of Accounts - The accounts should be reviewed and approved by the Committee on a quarterly basis.