ILKLEY PLAYERS AGM 19th June 2024

1. Minutes of 42nd Annual General Meeting of Ilkley Players Club 7pm.
2. Apologies for absence received from: Graham Peacock; Mark Simister; Janet Johnson; Becky Carter; Rachel Vernelle (with Yvette Huddleston given proxy vote); Joanne Martin; Mike Martin; John Wise; Phil Johnson; Sue Johnson; Mel Winstanley; Gilly Rogers; Jen Souter; David Keighley; Richard Neale; Andrew Walbank.
3. Present were the following members: Richard Hebbert; Bruce Piper; Samantha Hill; Steve Mason; Alison Middleton; Chris Cundell; Jay Cundell Walker; Paul Chattwood; Brenda Jones; Chloe Walker; Barbara Davy; Roger Davy; Rosie Bond; Karen Bamforth; Cath Laughey; Andrew Leggott; June Richardson; Tony Richardson; Julie Domaille; Wander Bruijel; Ann Mutton; Tim Mutton; Nourie Elsmore; Mike Elsmore; Liz Powell; Chrissie Poulter; Justine Sowden; Damien O’Keeffe; Yvette Huddleston; Val Vaughan; David Park; Julia Wilson; Eliza Wilson; Chris Winstanley; Patricia Breen; Ian Taylor; Geraldine Woodhouse.
4. Samatha Hill started by paying tribute to those major members of IP who had passed away during the previous year: Muriel Lloyd-Henderson; Kate Dobson; John Horton; Jean Wilson; Margaret Hellewell; john Halstead.
5. Jonty Hawkes presented the annual report on the Players Club. He noted that profits were up, and the Club had made a major contribution to the turnover of Ilkley Players Ltd. Bruce Piper reported that this was the best ever. Jonty thanked members of the Committee who were leaving this time: Lee Midgley; Dennis Keith and Mel Seago.
6. The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved, proposed Rosie Bond, seconded Liz Powell.
7. The Committee going forward would therefore be Jonty Hawkes; David Park; Chloe Walker; Sue Piper. The Committee was approved by the meeting (Proposed Wander Bruijel, seconded Tim Mutton). This is too small a number for a big job, and volunteers are sought to join the Committee.
8. There was no ‘Any other business’, so the meeting was closed .

B Minutes of 23rd Annual General Meeting of Ilkley Players Ltd 720pm.

1. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the above minutes of Ilkley Players Club apply equally to Ilkley Players Ltd as if they were repeated here in full.
2. Samantha Hill introduced the AGM and spoke about:-

Production photographs and the good work by Carol Butler.

IP’s role as a community theatre, the home of outside visits from the Literature Festival, U3A, visiting professional performances, and our own shows ranging from ‘cuddly comedies’ to ‘Edgy pieces’ leading to engaging post show Q&A’s.

Fundraising and grants leading to refurbish the lifts and instal environmentally friendlier LED lighting in public areas.

Barney Lerner, now stepping down as a Community Trustee after great work on our environmental policies and progress.

Other improvements in the building, in part thanks to the Spooner Trust, and facilitated by Sir James Hill

Theatre Manager Justine Sowden and her team, and their hard and important work; social media strategy now run by Vani Midgely; the work of Tech, Backstage and Costume volunteers; and Ian Taylor taking over the Chair of the Theatre Committee seamlessly.

1. The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved; proposed by Andrew Leggott, seconded Roger Davy.
2. Reports in writing were circulated in advance, and spoken to as follows:-
3. Financial, presented by Bruce Piper, who reported a much better year – a £9K profit this year as against a £30K loss the previous year. Reasons:
* The plays did well, eg the autumn run including The Incident Room/Vicar of Dibley.
* It was a Minack year
* Theatre tax credit of £30K received. Of this sum, £18K in total had been spent on the lift (50% contrib), LED lighting (50% contrib) and roof repairs.
* Events had contributed £20K, similar to previous year. Half of this was the Literature Festival. Their payment is reducing but this is counterbalanced by higher take from our own events and consequentially increased bar takings.
1. Artistic, presented by Damien O’Keeffe and Yvette Huddleston, who thanked everyone for their hard work and success. Ian Taylor and the casting committee were picked out for special thanks. Another plus was that new volunteers had were helping on publicity. The nest season would be linked in several ways to Bradford 2025. Steve Mason then added a few words on the past year in the Fringe programme, and what was coming next.
2. Theatre Manager’s report, presented by Justine Sowden, who highlighted the strong programme of plays and events, and that IP was a special space to perform in. Now that the July play is in the Wildman, extra events have been bookable in the Wharfeside during the same period, which will be interesting. Justine thanked all committees for their work, and picked out Janet Park, Rosie Bond and Roger Davy for particular thanks.
3. Theatre Committee (TC), presented by Ian Taylor, who said that the TC empowers everything else spoken about tonight. He thanked Chrissie Poulter for the smooth handover. Chrissie herself added that we need more volunteers, especially chaperones. She said that opening nights need to be made into more of an event.
4. Technical, presented by Chris Cundell, who thanked Paul Chattwood for his crucial assistance, and added that new operators have now come on stream. Wander Bruijel asked how people could move up and take more responsibility eg design, and learn these skills. Chris said “Talk to me”.
5. Publicity/Marketing. The written report by Becky Carter was presented by Samantha Hill. The good news was repeated of new volunteers having joined. There were no questions.
6. Green Room, presented by Andrew Leggott, who said that the return of the senior greenroom performing in the Wharfeside meant that he and Lisa Debney could produce a show for the Junior Greenroom in the Wildman. Chaperones are needed. Andrew confirmed that he would retire as greenroom tutor in July 2025, plenty of notice to find a replacement.
7. Wardrobe/LTG; both reports presented by Rosie Bond. There is a new volunteer helping with costume hire, but more needed for costuming plays. Rosie had been to 2 LTG conferences, Ealing and Bolton (and shortly to be Sutton Coldfield). Not least, the LTG enables networking, for example this is where we learned about Theatre Tax Credit and some potential fundraising targets.
8. Social. Julia Wilson apologised for the lack of a written report; it had been a difficult year, but she undertook to get a social programme going this coming year.
9. All the reports were approved; proposed by David Park, seconded by Tim Mutton.
10. Elections. There were no vacancies for elected Trustees. The Board were looking for 2 new community trustees to appoint. There were 4 vacancies on the Theatre Committee.
* House Director; Michael Richardson had been duly nominated and seconded more than 7 days previously; there had been no other candidates so Michael was duly elected.
* For the other 3 vacancies no prior nominations had been received, so nominations were invited from the floor. One candidate was nominated for each post as follows: -
* TC chair – Ian Taylor, proposed by Chrissie Poulter, seconded by Chris Cundell.
* TC secretary – Geraldine Woodhouse, nominated by Ian Taylor, seconded by Jonty Hawkes.
* Technical Director – Chris Cundell nominated by Chris Winstanley, seconded by Wander Bruijel.
* There being no other nominations, Ian, Geraldine and Chris were duly elected.
1. Special Resolution. Dick Hebbert explained that we report annually to the Charities Commission, and 2 years ago they had said that our constitution was in need of update. He explained the difference between the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Rules. No changes to the Memo were currently proposed. The Rules would be updated soon but this did not need a Special Resolution. So it was just the Articles, which he had modernised, removed duplications and old legalistic language. The Trustees had agreed to the changes and resolved that this Special Resolution be put before the AGM. The resolution, and the proposed amended Articles, had been circulated to members more than 21 days before the AGM. After short discussion, the resolution was put to the meeting: “That the Articles of Association of Ilkley Players Ltd be amended in line with the draft Articles circulated with this Resolution and the Agenda for this Annual General Meeting”. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the Resolution with no votes against and no abstentions.
2. David Collier was reappointed as Special Examiner by unanimous agreement.
3. The Accounts. These had been circulated and Bruce Piper had already addressed the meeting on them. They were approved by the meeting, proposed by Rosie Bon, seconded by Mike Elsmore.
4. Open Forum. Dick Hebbert invited any questions or suggestions from the audience for discussion. However no questions or suggested were raised.
5. The meeting thanks Samantha Hill, Bruce Piper, Dick Hebbert and Steve Mason for the smooth running of quite a ‘heavy’ meeting.
6. In her closing remarks, Samantha Hill mentioned the Gala Evening (2 days later) built around our next play Glorious, and urged everyone to buy tickets for the play, and to take and circulate the new bi-annual programme. Above all she urged the meeting to “tell everyone about us!”.
7. The meeting closed at 2040.