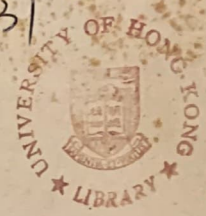


The Hong Kong
Stage Club

#2110131



6 JUN 1980



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THE 32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE HONG KONG STAGE CLUB
8 PM FRIDAY JUNE 30TH 1978
HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE

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792
47

**MINUTES OF THE 31st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE POLICE OFFICERS' MESS,
MAY HOUSE, ON THURSDAY, JUNE 2nd 1977**

Chairman Mr Hanna opened the Meeting at 8.20 p.m. with 33 members present. The minutes of the 1976 AGM were read, approved and signed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The report was proposed for adoption by Mrs Murray, seconded by Mr Durr, and duly approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Mr Broxham commented that the Chairman's complaints about apathetic membership possibly reflected apathetic leadership by the outgoing committee. He instanced the godown problem and the lack of a dialogue with Garrison Players as two examples of such leadership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was proposed for adoption by Mr Barden, seconded by Mr Hoare, and duly approved.

MATTERS ARISING

Mr Garlick wondered whether the provision for Income tax should not read Profit tax. The Secretary agreed to draw this to the attention of the Treasurer, currently out of town.

Mr Webb deplored the switch of a major part of the Club's reserves from HK\$ to US\$ time deposits and recommended against such currency speculation. Mr Mulloy commented that the Treasurer's second name wasn't Buck for nothing.

RESOLUTIONS

Members then debated the motion that: the Meeting should approve the necessary amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the Hong Kong Stage Club to enable nominations for committee posts to be made from the floor at the AGM irrespective of whether or not such nominations had been received in writing ahead of the AGM. For such nominations to be valid they should be proposed and seconded by two members and agreed by the nominee, all of whom should be present at the AGM.

Mrs Murray commented that the Constitution and Rules were extremely ambiguous on this point and needed clarification. The Secretary felt that the motion, if passed, would make the AGM elections more interesting. Mr Garlick brought up the absence of any check on whether or not attendees at the AGM were in fact paid-up members. Mr Coombs indicated such knowledge was within his head and briefcase.

The motion, as proposed by Ben Millington-Buck and seconded by Adam Ogilvie, was duly approved on a show of hands.

THE 1977/8 COMMITTEE

The following were nominated and elected en bloc there being no other nominations.

		PROPOSER	SECONDER
CHAIRMAN	Arthur Starling	Mr Hanna	Mrs Webb
SECRETARY	Annabelle Broxham	Mr Baxendale	Mrs Hoare
TREASURER	Bob Allenby	Mr Millington-Buck	Mrs Webb
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Brian Smith	Mr Ogilvie	Mr Baxendale
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Rosemary Hoare	Mr Ogilvie	Miss Readman
MEMBERS' SECRETARY	Gary Mulloy	Mr Hanna	Mr Ogilvie
BUSINESS MANAGER	Adam Ogilvie	Mrs Hoare	Mr Mulloy
PUBLICITY	Russ Webb	Mr Coombs	Mr Baxendale
MEMBER	Ann Gregan	Mr Coombs	Mr Ogilvie
ARTS CENTRE	Ray Fry	Mr Hanna	Mrs Hoare

Mr Smith outlined the need for increased membership support on the technical side and threatened dire consequences should he ever find himself alone in the godown.

Mr Hanna, seconded by Mr Ogilvie, then proposed the continuation of Mr Eden as Hon. Auditor which proposal was approved by acclaim.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

APATHY

General discussion ensued on the causes of this dread affliction. Mrs Hanna bemoaned the lack of a permanent 'home' for the Club. Mr Aquilina suggested the circulation of a membership list and the institution of a fixed day (for example the third Wednesday of each month) for social activities.

NEWSLETTER

Mr Aquilina also suggested that the newsletter be sent out on time. Mr Coombs explained that the S.C.M.P. were proving increasingly uncooperative over the printing of the newsletter and recommended that the incoming Members' Secretary locate a new printer. Mr Coombs also mentioned that the deadline for newsletter entries was the end of the preceding month.

GODOWN

The Chairman and Secretary outlined the current situation which involved the Club facing eviction from the Fortress Hill premises in mid-July. Mr Smith and Mrs Lacy-Smith emphasised the need for publicity in the search for new Godown premises. Other suggestions from the floor for the consideration of the new committee were : a letter to our Patron, an approach to non-commercial organisations (such as clubs, churches and schools), the Jockey Club, the enlistment of a major Hong as Patron, the MTR, public appeals through such media as the radio, the papers, the Julie Mullins Show and Dollarsaver magazine, and, last but not least, further assistance from Government.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their efforts over the previous year. Mrs Murray echoed this theme and included the Chairman.

The meeting then adjourned in the direction of the bar at 10.00 p.m.

THE HONG KONG STAGE CLUB

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1977/78

Like my predecessor last year, I have again to report some successes and some failures. We have managed to present four productions, one in collaboration with the Garrison Players, but our choice of productions has been limited by the very few people who are prepared to offer themselves as producers. On the social side, despite the efforts of our hard working social secretary, we have been less successful.

Financially, we are in a strong position as you will note from the report of our Hon. Treasurer. At long last we seem to have solved our godown problems — for the time being anyway — and for this we are greatly indebted to Ray Fry and Brian Smith who both deserve a special vote of thanks from the membership for their hard work in searching for godown space. Further reference is made to the new godown later in my report.

COMMITTEE

Garry Mulloy, who was elected Members' Secretary at the last Annual General Meeting, was unable to take up his duties for personal reasons. We were able to twist Terry Coombs' arm to carry on, so we co-opted Terry to the Committee, and I would particularly like to thank him for taking on the job once again.

All the other members have worked hard, have supported me, ably and efficiently, and have made my year in office a pleasure. Committee work is not easy; it takes time and gains little in the way of reward and I would like to place on record my thanks to this year's committee members for their splendid efforts.

PRODUCTIONS

These have been as follows:-

The Importance of Being Earnest produced by Joan Durr.

Bequest to the Nation produced by Bernadette Murray.

This was staged as part of the Arts Centre Shouson Theatre in collaboration with the Garrison Players and certainly got the Shouson Theatre off to a fine start.

Robin De Hood produced by Molly Foyn.

Blithe Spirit produced by Geoffrey Eden.

I do not propose to describe these productions in detail. Suffice it to say that all were well received and can only be described as major successes, both from the artistic and financial points of view, and I would like here to place on record the thanks of the Committee to everyone who was associated with these productions in any way.

The Club's object is basically to produce plays and it is a pity that we cannot find the people to do more. At present, with the availability of the Arts Centre Shouson Theatre, there is no real difficulty in obtaining bookings — the main problem is to find producers willing to accept responsibilities for a production, and we have already had to cancel a booking this year for the very reason that we could not find a suitable producer.

For the future, Patrick Broxham is producing "The Taming of the Shrew" for us in November. This has been cast and, I understand, an initial get-together has been held. The Committee took note of my predecessor's remarks regarding joint productions, and we have agreed to join with Garrison Players to mount this year's pantomime. Preliminary discussions have taken place, but it will be up to the new committee to carry this through.

TECHNICAL

The past year has seen a slight resurgence in technical interest within the club. However, turnout for set construction sessions are still very bad, but at least set crews for theatre work have been readily available.

The big item of technical news is the acquisition of the tenure on a new 5000 sq. ft. godown — through the kind sponsorship of Swire Properties and Parker Valley Estates Ltd. We have now occupied this facility and work is proceeding steadily on improvements. The Technical Director trusts that the small nucleus of dedicated technical staff will continue to be augmented in the coming year.

CLUB NIGHT/SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The year 1977/78 saw us initiate Club Nights once again, this time on the first Wednesday in every month. It has been an interesting programme with, we hope, a little for everyone. Our first meeting in September was a visit to the then new Arts Centre with Michael Oathwaite. This was very well attended and although after that the numbers tended to drop, we normally expect to see at least twenty-five people at each Club Night.

Since September we have had a varied programme including live presentations and some tape recordings of previous productions. Malcolm Talbot gave us a most entertaining illustrated talk on photography and Bob Allenby and Cindy Pennell organised a "Ghoulies and Ghosties" Halloween with appropriate readings and games.

Since April, Club Nights have moved to a new venue in the Studio Theatre of the Arts Centre. This, we hope, will be of great benefit to the Club as we can at last stage small experimental productions with the proper lighting. If you have been along to Club Nights recently you will have found the drinks remarkably inexpensive. This is because Stage Club has arranged with the Arts Centre to subsidise the prices.

The Committee would like to thank all those who have helped to make Club Nights a success.

On the social side the response has been rather disappointing. We had to abandon our annual Autumn Theatre Supper for lack of support, and our after-show parties have once again become confined to those involved in productions.

We are on the lookout for additional Club Nights to which we will invite professional people passing through. Sadly, we were too late for Chris Harris but on the other hand had a large turn out to see John Cairney's most enjoyable presentation.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership this season has exceeded 260 – 60 more than for the 1976/77 season but still short of the record 315 registered in 1975/76. Of this number 67 were new members, 29 of whom were recruited as a direct result of our Christmas pantomime and/or "Blithe Spirit". For various reasons 14 members resigned during the year.

GENERAL

Again in conclusion, I would exhort those many non-active members, we have, to involve themselves much more in our activities. When we think of the membership list and compare it with the numbers who came for auditions, social functions, Club Nights etc; it really does indicate an appalling apathy on the part of a great percentage of the membership. The more members we can get involved, be it in acting, technical or purely social activities, the more successful and stronger will the Club become, and the more enjoyment we shall all get.

Arthur Starling
Chairman
1977/78

TREASURER'S REPORT

(For year ending April 30th 1978)

This has been a successful year financially, showing a net profit of \$46,000. The major contribution to profits came, as always, from the Christmas production (\$25,000) although an almost equally significant contribution was made by The Importance of Being Earnest (\$17,000). In addition a profit of some \$12,000 is expected from Blithe Spirit which will boost the club's nett worth to \$135,000.

Profits for the last 3 years (adjusted to exclude a one-time only donation of \$10,000 to the Arts Centre last year) have therefore been as follows :

1975/6	1976/7	1977/8
\$6,000	\$20,000	\$46,000

This indicates a healthy trend but the objectives of the club are not to make money and perhaps the time has come to use a proportion of the club's accumulated resources in some way which will further the club's interests. It must be noted, however, that it is now necessary to maintain approximately \$50,000 in cash in order to finance productions and general outgoings.

The club's funds remain invested partly in HK Dollars and partly in US Dollars. The HK\$/US\$ exchange rate has remained virtually stable during the year but a higher interest rate has been obtained in US\$.

Outgoings are expected to rise slightly next year as a result of rates payable on the new godown. These amount to \$5,037 per annum, a small price to pay for such excellent premises.

In closing, I would like to thank Paul Cullington for valuable assistance and for standing in as Auditor while Geoffrey Eden is on leave.

Bob Allenby
Hon. Treasurer

HONG KONG STAGE CLUB
BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH APRIL, 1978

CURRENT ASSETS

Production payments in advance	\$ 9,264
Sundry debtors	3,514
Cash on US\$ time deposit	55,876
Cash on HK\$ savings account	50,099
Cash on current account	10,755
	<u>\$129,508</u> =====

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry creditors	\$ 175
Taxation	4,412
	<u>\$ 4,587</u> =====

NET CURRENT ASSETS

\$124,921
=====

Representing :

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance at 1st May, 1977	\$100,499
Profit for the year	24,422
Balance at 30th April, 1978	<u>\$124,921</u> =====

R. C. Allenby
Hon. Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Hong Kong Stage Club and certify that above Balance Sheet and annexed income and expenditure account are in accordance therewith.

Paul Cullington
Chartered Accountant
Certified Public Accountant

HONG KONG STAGE CLUB
 PRODUCTIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1978

HONG KONG STAGE CLUB
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL 1978

REVENUE	IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST	BEQUEST TO THE NATION (JOINT PRODUCTION)	ROBIN DE HOOD	BLITHE SPIRIT
Box office	36,680	31,373	63,694	29,474
Programme Sales	1,542	1,101	1,588	1,002
Advertising	300	2,050	1,500	1,200
Costume Sales	418	—	162	—
	<u>38,940</u>	<u>34,524</u>	<u>66,954</u>	<u>31,676</u>

INCOME	
Net profit transferred from production accounts	
Subscriptions	\$46,285
Interest earned	3,951
Hire of costumes	1,678
Advertising in Newsletter	275
Miscellaneous	1,500
	<u>205</u>
	<u>\$53,894</u>

EXPENDITURE				
Scripts & Royalties	—	1,277	56	339
Rehearsal room	800	800	—	150
Theatre hire	5,750	5,000	10,200	5,450
Sets & transport	3,822	7,509	11,145	4,703
Costumes	3,809	5,214	5,063	2,274
Props & furniture	414	405	2,995	544
Sound/Music/Lights	205	—	3,395	194
Special effects	—	—	1,000	—
Makeup & wigs	—	—	520	780
Publicity	2,963	4,041	2,515	2,374
Printing	3,319	2,408	3,590	2,870
Photographs	—	—	541	—
Insurance	—	—	—	50
Sundries	419	1,597	225	24
	<u>21,501</u>	<u>28,251</u>	<u>41,245</u>	<u>19,752</u>
PROFIT	17,439	3,137 (50%)	25,709	11,924 (unaudited)

EXPENDITURE	
Stationery, Postage and Printing	6,230
Club Nights and other functions	3,266
Insurance	714
Subscription to HK Arts Centre	2,200
Hire of premises	540
Timber (General stock)	1,134
Electricity	584
New godown fitting out expenses	3,340
New wardrobe fitting out expenses	712
Equipment purchased written off	2,530
Expenditure relating to previous productions	3,170
Miscellaneous	640
	<u>\$25,060</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure before tax	\$28,834
Less Provision for Taxation	4,412
Excess of Income over Expenditure after tax	<u>\$24,422</u>

TRANSFERRED TO INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT : \$46,285