

**The 2021 Nomads Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**7.30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Attendance**

Jamie Maguire, John Hadley, Sarah Smith, David Philpott, April Murfet, Chris Brighty, Cat Blacker, Sophie Maguire, Nicholas Frankau, Elliott Papworth, Pam Daish, Steven Fenn, Gwen Timmins, Pat Paterson, David Dowle, Anita Marshall, Kris Camden, Mel Camden, Kathryn Schosland, Sarah Clark, Cameron Maguire, Gillian Gray, Charlotte Kuell, Alan Gleed, Kay Fasulo, Giselle Monkhouse, Rowena Smith – 27 attendants.

*Post Meeting Note – Our Articles of Association state “No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum is either 25 members entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting or one tenth of the total membership at the time whichever is the greater”.*

**1. Apologies**

- Wallace Wareham, Marion Hadley, Joanna Turvey, Angela Bishop, Teresa Baron, Andy Thorpe, Karen Thorpe, Esther McIntyre, Jan Wilson, Kelly Faulkner-King, Kevin LaPorte, Kerry LaPorte, Rosemary Jolley, Helen Beach, Steven Beach, Pamela Hutt, Fiona Maguire, Rachel Allen, Charlie Maguire.

**2. 2020 Minutes**

- Accepted as an accurate record unanimously.

Proposed: Cat Blacker

Seconded: David Dowle

**3. Matters Arising**

- None.

**4. Chairman's Report**

This year has seen a continuation of the challenges we were facing last year due to Covid-19 Pandemic, and as such, there has been little opportunity for us to put on productions or weekly groups over the last year. We appear to now be turning a corner, with Government restrictions coming to an end, and fingers crossed we are beginning to see a turnaround – perhaps not quite a return to the normal that we knew, but a new normal that we will need to work with for the foreseeable future. Our season was a write off, but happily we saw some workshop activities over the summer which were a joy for all involved. It was incredible to have so many young people back in the building doing what they love, and the feedback we received highlighted that. Young Nomads and Kings Kids were also able to provide some sessions with restricted numbers during the earlier part of the year in line with Government guidelines, which is thanks to the hard work and preparation of some of the Young Nomads and Kings Kids organisers.

Sadly, our previous Chairman, Eric Maguire passed away at the end of 2020 due to Motor Neurone Disease. As a family the Maguires wanted to pass on thanks to members of the society for all of the well wishes and support over what was a very difficult period. We are looking at ways to commemorate his time with Nomads and to celebrate his life, but we will let the membership know of any plans.

Looking forward, we have some planned productions in the pipeline, with the first being the eagerly anticipated production of Ladies in Lavender which was so sadly cancelled after the Preview night at the beginning of the first lockdown, so we are very happy that the cast and crew now have an opportunity to perform this wonderful play.

Following on from that we have a new musical spectacular in November, which is a great opportunity for us to combine all of your groups to put on some wonderful, upbeat entertainment to celebrate being able to continue with theatre once again. This is open to all, and auditions are scheduled for the 25th of September. Further details have been emailed out to members, so please have a look in your in-boxes, or let us know if you would like more information.

Offstage, we have had a number of members working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the theatre serviceable and clean during the lockdown period. I would like to record my thanks to those members for their hard work, without which we wouldn't be in the position we are in now where we are able to welcome back activities and performances. Other directors reports as follows;

Company Secretary - We have seen a fall in our membership numbers which is to be expected in view of the pandemic. As the theatre has only recently been able to open after more than a year being closed membership subs are still coming in so exact membership numbers can't be confirmed currently. We are working on a marketing campaign to gain more members across all factions of the society i.e. Nomads, Kings Kids, and Young Nomads but are pleased to report that Young Nomads is almost full already. We hope that Kings Kids will soon catch up and also Nomads by 2022.

Membership subs are key to our financial survival as they go towards to the running of the building which is our home and club house so to speak.

Marketing – The Marketing Director is still a vacant position. Thanks to everyone who has been helping out with the running of the marketing and social media accounts in the meantime.

Young Nomads/Kings Kids - Kings Kids and Young Nomads sessions started up earlier this year. Due to covid restrictions, the number of people allowed on the premises was much reduced, so the team organised some more sessions, with reduced times to ensure they could cater for as many members as they could. Thanks to all who took part in these sessions to ensure these were a success.

Fundraising – Fundraising has had a huge impact in our ability to keep the theatre up and running over the last 18 months. April has been tireless in seeking out grants, and we were able to get grants to help with upkeep costs, as well as a sizeable grant to help pay for the repairs to our roof and walls following water damage. April wishes to thank everyone for their support towards fund raising events this year, and she looks forwards to having some social events during the next year.

Building - Throughout the period of this report there have been government imposed restrictions in place due to the Covid crisis but with the help of Chris, Sarah, and John we have been able to keep the building compliant with the regulations. A new fire alarm system has been installed and parts of the emergency lighting system has been upgraded to LED lights. A new fire door has been fitted to the lighting box. The auditorium has been painted. Repairs to damaged flintwork will take place at a later date. A covid screen has been installed in the box office and we are in the process of obtaining covid screens for the bar.

There have been a couple of leaking roof problems, one has been fixed but the cause of the second has been illusive and the attempts to fix it so have not been completely successful. The second leak has caused some internal plaster damage, but this cannot be repaired until we are confident that the leak is cured which is being started next week.

A wall was partly demolished by a car losing control, the insurance claim has been approved and we are working on erecting a replacement.

We continue to work towards improving the building and keeping it in good order.

Health and Safety – A Fire Risk Assessment was carried out in November 2020, and off the back of that report a number of works have been progressing throughout this year to ensure that the theatre is compliant with the recommendations that were found from that assessment.

Technical - Other works have also been completed to tidy up the prop's areas, and a sizeable task was undertaken to clear up and organise the garages where we store our larger props and furnishings.

## 5. Year End Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Last year a deficit of £15,804 was reported. This was mainly due to losses on shows pre-pandemic and write downs and re-valuations of assets. I am now delighted to report a profit of £17,415.20. The Treasurer then presented the Year End Accounts for Nomads 2020/21.

I would like to pass my thanks onto April and Sarah and the Fund Raising team for their hard work as well as to Leia Schultz (Young Nomads) for her sponsored walk. The funds have been raised from tax relief credits which Sarah was heavily involved in getting sorted, GoFundMe Me, PayPal, and a donation from Cala homes which April did a sterling job in setting up and gaining funds from. We also received COVID grants from the local council.

Just as important, I would like to thank all of you and every member who couldn't be here, the income from your subs and also those who donated the cost of their tickets for cancelled shows, parents who donated subs for cancelled Young Nomads and events such as summer school and to those who have generously donated their 100 club winnings back to the Nomads 100 Club. Without the financial support from all of these we would not have survived.

Despite the fact that we have been closed and therefore unable to put any productions on, we have been spending. We have had the auditorium freshly painted in a new colour as well as having the outside of the building painted. Other spending that isn't as obvious is on such things as: outstanding building repairs (some of which, such as the roof) has yet to be completed but is booked to be done in the coming weeks. Replacement kit such as new microphones. Fire safety improvements which included fire training that I believe a number of you have been on as well as full upgrade of the fire alarm and emergency evacuation system. We've had the lighting layout completely re-designed which will help improve the lighting for future productions. We've had the fresh air system completely overhauled which, in the current times, is vitally important. We've bought additional safety items to prepare ourselves for returning audiences in COVID times, we've had to do additional cleaning, again, to make sure we are COVID safe. We also replaced equipment behind the bar, especially new glasses, and plastic glasses so the audience can take their drinks into the auditorium with them.

We have spent what we felt we needed to. We have now, however, agreed that unless essential, we will be curbing our spending for a short while. The catalyst behind this thinking is uncertainty. We simply do not yet know how many people are going to be prepared to come back to the theatre so soon after COVID restrictions have been lifted and especially as we go into the winter months and not knowing how what will happen in regard to COVID and it is taking a hold again. All productions have costs which have to be met regardless of ticket, bar, sweets, and programme sales. I'm sure many, if not all of you, have noticed that in general costs for everything in life appears to have gone up and it's no different for Nomads. The cost of putting on shows is going to be noticeably higher than pre-pandemic and as I say, these costs have to be met regardless of income. Yes, we have money in the bank, which is very re-assuring, however, as treasurer it is my responsibility to keep an eye on this and, in agreement with the board, I am not comfortable continuing to spend as we have been when there is a distinct possibility that we could see losses on forth coming shows simply due to



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understandable nervousness from people who would normally have bought tickets and spent money with us. I feel that this will be a temporary situation but for the time being I would prefer to keep the bank accounts looking healthy and therefore able to cover for losses until such a time that confidence in people returning to enclosed spaces returns. There are future plans for fund raising and the tax credits already mentioned will continue to come in each year. We have plans for further improvements and repairs which I anticipate, in time, will be completed.

Lastly, I would like to put on record my thanks to Sarah for her hard work for the last few years with the bookkeeping for Nomads. Sarah has made the decision to step away from doing the books and I'm delighted to inform you that the baton has now been passed onto fellow members Kris and Mel Camden who will be looking after the books in the professional capacity of their company Bunbury Bookkeeping.

Cameron Maguire asked how much one we currently had; David confirmed approx. £20K in total across all accounts. He reminded everyone that all the shows for 2022 would need paying soon however subs would be coming in from January (Young Nomads) and April (Nomads).

No show reports at this AGM due to lack of shows to report on due to lockdown (COVID).

The Year End Accounts were proposed by Alan Gleed, seconded by Kris Camden and therefore approved by the Membership. These will now be filed with Companies House, HMRC, and the Charities Commission.

## 6. Elections to the Board

Under our Articles of Association any co-opted board member must retire at the AGM, there are no co-opted members on the Board. There are currently 8 members on the board. A 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Board must step down each year, therefore Sarah Smith and Kevin LaPorte must step down however both are willing to re-stand. There is 1 vacancy, so we have a Board of 9 members.

There were no nominations received, therefore all above trustees were formally voted back onto the Board for their 3-year term by default. If anyone wishes to join and become the 9<sup>th</sup> member, the Board will co-opt them on.

## 7. Additional Agenda Items/Items Put Forward by Members

- 100 Club – David thanked Marion Hadley for running the 100 Club. The 100 Club Donation to Nomads for this year is £800. We also received £190 from the generosity of 100 club members donating their winnings back to Nomads. Thank you again to everyone who takes part in the 100 club.
- Proposal to consider an increase to Young Nomads & Kings Kids term fees to £60 per term providing the Bursary Application Process remains in place - Sarah explained we have not increased Kings Kids subs since it started in 2014 and Young Nomads for over 2 years yet costs had increased to cover chaperones, DBS checks and Safeguarding which all youth leaders/teachers must have. David Dowle asked if the Bursary can be maintained and both Treasurer and Sarah feel it can, grants are still available for the foreseeable future for youth activities. The membership voted for the increase; our President abstained, there were no votes against, so the motion was carried.

## 8. The Nomads Awards

Due to COVID we cannot carry out the usual annual awards except for the Outstanding Contribution Cup which is voted by the Board to a member of the society that they feel has gone above and beyond in their duties. The Board are delighted to announce this year's winner is Cat Blacker who has done an awful lot of work assisting Sarah and various members of the Board in ensuring lots of long outstanding tasks have been carried out as well as assisting with Open Mic Nights (online) and being our Membership Secretary. Thank you Cat for all your hard work and congratulations, the Chairman then presented her award.

## 9. Any Other Business

- Current Vacancies – We have vacancies for chaperones, Sound & Lighting Operators and FOH/Bar staff. As ever we need more people to come forward to fulfil these roles, so the same people are not left doing all the work. We especially need more chaperones as many of the existing Chaperones' licences have now expired. We continue to ask members to ensure they help the required 4 times per year on shows or other duties please.
- Raffles – Our President wanted to ask the membership if we should continue with the raffle at our shows for every night of the week. It makes little money and more and more we are having to fund decent raffle prizes. Gwen proposed we stop doing the raffle for every night but keep it for the OAP Preview Performances. This was seconded by Cat Blacker therefore approved.
- Members asked if we could look into other ways of making extra funds such as free tickets for a lucky programme winner. The Board agreed to look into this. This was proposed by Alan Gleed and seconded by Chris Brighty.
- Steven Fenn asked members to send any information for the Nomads 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book ASAP as it is hoped it can be finalised in January. The Board thanked Steven Fenn and David Dowle for all their hard work on this project.
- Our President Gwen Timmins thanked all those responsible for keeping the theatre going and enabling the building to be opened again after the pandemic.





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The Chairman  
coming to the  
officially closed at 8.41pm.

thanked every for  
AGM. The meeting

