

WFC Annual General Meeting – 2nd of July, 2024

The AGM was held after the screening of *The Innocent* and lasted roughly 30 minutes.

It was chaired by Clare Collins (WFC Chair), with two other trustees in attendance (Elizabeth Woodroffe and David Timoney, WFC Treasurer).

The meeting was quorate having a total of 22 attendees.

The following briefing documents were circulated online to all members on 26 June: 1) Agenda, 2) Chair's report, 3) Proxy voting form.

Minutes

1. **Apologies:** Geraldine Plummer (Secretary), Jade Evans, Elena Repole and Andrew Shipton.

2. **Chair's Report 2023-24:** Clare introduced the meeting and outlined the agenda.

Dave reviewed the membership figures noting a healthy increase from 150 to 172 and a greater number of full-year versus part-year members.

Clare reviewed the season of films noting the number of members' choices, guest speakers and partnership screenings. She also emphasised the increase in attendee satisfaction, from 78 to 83%, and noted that some of the most popular films were also the best attended. The best attendances were generally in autumn and winter, as normal, with attendance dropping off after Easter.

Clare also noted our success at this year's Film Society of the Year Awards, having won for Best Film Programme, with the strong involvement of members in programming being a key factor. We were also recognised in three other categories, including a Commendation for Elena Repole in the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual award.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Dave reviewed our financial performance for the period September 2023 to August 2024.

We are expecting a small surplus at year-end, but essentially we have broken even across the season. Membership income is still partly subsidising screening costs, however we see this as prudent given the lesser predictability of the latter.

A question was asked as to whether we should maintain reserves at the current level (ca £9k). The view of the committee was that this was a sensible contingency in case of any issues arising re venue hire (our major cost). Should we consider varying our reserves policy at any point in the future, this would be brought to the membership for approval.

4. **2024-25 season ticket and membership price recommendations:** Dave reviewed the proposal circulated as an appendix to the Chair's Report: a £1 increase on all ticket types in anticipation of an increase in venue hire costs in 2025.

Decision: The proposal was put to the vote and passed unanimously by those in attendance. There were 9 proxy votes: 7 for and 2 against the proposal. The proposal thus passes.

5. **Election of charity Trustees and Officers:** Clare reviewed the proposal to re-elect the existing 6 trustees (Clare Collins, Geraldine Plummer, David Timoney, Elena Repole, Liz Woodroffe and Jade Evans) and elect the 1 new co-opted trustee (Andrew Shipton).

Decision: The proposal was passed unanimously by those in attendance. The proxy votes were 9 for and 0 against. The proposal thus passes.

Clare reviewed the proposal to re-appoint the current officers: Clare Collins as Chair, Geraldine Plummer as Secretary and Governance Officer, and David Timoney as Treasurer.

Decision: The proposal was passed unanimously by those in attendance. The proxy votes were 9 for and 0 against. The proposal thus passes.

6. **AOB:**

- a. **Banning eating and drinking during WFC films** (raised by email by Rob Taylor - not in attendance). All those attendance were against. The general feeling was that a ban would be offputting for some audience members, that it might be problematic to enforce given the Curzon's commercial interest in bar sales, and that the club shouldn't be too prescriptive. However members suggested: reminding in intros that people should put mobiles away, and put iwatches on theatre settings, to avoid light distraction ; and during intros/speaker events, checking that people can hear speakers.
- b. **Ethical banking** – A question was raised as to whether we should consider changing the club from Barclays to an 'ethical' bank. It was agreed that this suggestion should be remitted to the WFC Committee for review of the practicalities, before being reported on to the membership.
- c. **Christmas film** – It was noted by members that we didn't have a screening scheduled for December. Clare explained that this was because the Curzon is either unavailable to hire owing to an event, or has decided to charge a premium price for hire, for the first two Tuesdays in December. As a result, our intended Christmas film, The Holdovers, will be on the 26th of November.
- d. **Thanks** - Members expressed thanks to the Committee for the work put in, and expressed appreciation for the friendly and calm welcome given at club screenings, and the opportunity to hear guest speakers.