



**CHILTERN
FILM
SOCIETY**
at The Elgiva, Chesham

CFS AGM report, May 2016

Annual General Meeting, 19th May 2016

The AGM took place at the Elgiva immediately before the showing of "*Girlhood*". It was attended by approximately 25 members and 7 committee; apologies were received from Ethne and Tad Effendowicz, Sigrid Poole, Michael Rowan and Claire Llewellyn.

A summary of the meeting is given below:

• Chairman's Introduction

Jon Wallis welcomed members to our 47th AGM. We have had a second record year achieving 192 members for the first time (as far as we can tell from the CFS records!), up on last year's 150. It was interesting to note that the larger the society grows, the smaller the attendance at the AGM seems to be! He thanked the committee for their hard work during the season and went on to mention the following points about this year's programme.

- The committee has continued to put extra effort into our publicity and raising awareness of CFS this season:
 - Promotion in person in the streets of Chesham and Amersham and at the box office queue at the Elgiva during last summer;
 - Continued growth of our email mailing list and the frequency of our email newsletters so recipients can keep up to date with our programme and progress;
 - Distribution of more programme leaflets and new format flyers than previously to get out there and be more visible;
 - increased presence on Facebook, Twitter activity and continued media presence – note Film4's interest in our screening of "*The Lobster*";
 - Continuing visibility of CFS within the Elgiva itself including our banner poster.
- The committee is convinced that the additional effort has helped significantly in reducing member churn and attracting new members – we hope that we have retained members' interest and noted that the committee plan to continue with this level of presence and member engagement next year.
- CFS has continued the pre-film talk as well as arranging several after-film members' discussion sessions – in the Autumn, in February, and tonight. Members were invited to gather in the bar area later for that.

• Review of the Season

- Tony Renwick presented a review of the 2015/16 season. It had been an interesting season with some very well received films and some less so. The approval ratings had been similar to last year at just under 72%.
- The most highly rated films had been "*The German Doctor*" and "*Whiplash*" – the lowest scoring being "*The Lobster*".
- The average attendance at films was 60% of the 192 members, and the voting slips received were approximately 60% of the attendance. Tony requested members to fill in voting slips as often as possible, as it was helpful to the committee to hear members' opinions of the films shown.
- We had tried to offer a balance of Foreign and English language films – sometimes the subtitled films were easier to follow than those with strong accents in English!
- One film "*Slow West*" had been voted for and chosen by members. The committee apologised for changing the order of two films as this had been caused by copyright problems with the

distributor in one case; and "*Piku*" had to be replaced by "*Taxi Tehran*" due to difficulties in obtaining "*Piku*".

- Did the lower approval rating for the two classic films mean that we should consider not including Classics in future seasons? This point would be discussed in the open forum.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - Andy Burrows presented the final accounts for 2014/2015 (attached) which were unanimously approved by those present.
 - Andy also presented the provisional accounts for 2015/2016 (attached). He explained that increased membership had led to membership subscriptions rising this year by approximately £2,000. However costs of administrative items such as stationery had doubled. There was also a one-off item which added to this year's expenses – this was the hire of the 16th film which was an extra provided free for members in this season, with the cost borne by the society.
 - Chesham Town Council had expressed appreciation for the extra income the Society had generated this season.
 - A question from the floor raised the possibility of investing the income from members' fees which come in early in the year, since the payment to the Elgiva/Council is made late in the season. Andy explained that this had been done in previous years when interest rates were better, but that now it had become impractical and virtually no interest could be earned.
 - Next season we plan to have numbered membership cards which will be a more efficient system, particularly as it would save time signing in.
 - We are planning to upgrade the website and improve charging procedures and so we hope that all enrolment methods would provide membership at the same price in future.
 - It was noted that CFS holds sufficient reserves to cover possible future difficulties such as a sudden drop in membership. This also enables us to keep ourselves up to date.
 - It was also noted that our new approach of encouraging early renewal would mean some distortion to the profile of income between our accounting periods which we will need to explain when presenting future accounts.
- **Election of Officers and Committee**
 - Nine members of the current committee are willing to continue:

▪ Jon Wallis	Chair
▪ Andy Burrows	Treasurer
▪ Sigrid Poole	Membership
▪ Amanda Craig	Design and Media
▪ Mary Burgess	
▪ Patricia Cherrill	
▪ Tony Renwick	
▪ Michael Rowan	
▪ Paul Vates	
 - Helen Marini and Julie Reeve had decided to resign from the committee to focus on other interests, and Ethne Effendowicz had retired from the committee after 36 years (so far!) as a member, with 14 years on the committee. Jon thanked them, and particularly Ethne, for their contribution and support of the committee.
 - The constitution of the society allows for 10 committee members, which is not felt to be sufficient to cope with the extra media and publicity work undertaken by the society. Last year we co-opted two extra members. This year, with three committee members leaving, an appeal via the website and newsletter had brought us five new volunteers with a variety of skills (Geoff Andrews, Jon Foster, Ruth Juett, Claire Llewellyn and Chris Marsh). No further volunteers came forward at the meeting.
 - Jon then asked the meeting for approval of his proposal that the meeting accepts the existing committee and the new volunteers to form the basis of the new committee, with the committee itself to work out its operational arrangements, made up of 10 members and 4 co-opted members. This was agreed unanimously.
- **Members Forum** - the following topics were discussed:
 - The introductions to the films were very good. The selection of films had been outstanding this year – good films and films which would otherwise not be seen locally.
 - "*The Lobster*", while proving the least popular film with the membership was in the opinion of the speaker the best film – not all films had to be comfortable viewing and the committee should continue to programme a wide variety of films.

- It was agreed that it was worthwhile including at least one Classic film each season. The benefit of watching these on a large cinema screen rather than on TV should be emphasized.
- One film selected by members was a good idea – too many would affect the impact of the programme at the beginning of the season and lessen the appeal of joining.
- The chairman mentioned that a member had complained that an accidental spillage had damaged their clothing and one or two members had made comments during the season via the voting slips about minor irritations with other members of the audience (not necessarily society members). It was noted that such matters were best dealt with on the spot on a personal basis. Despite realising that none of the Elgiva, Chesham Town Council or CFS could accept any liability for any damage that may be caused by any spillages, the meeting agreed that it did not wish the Elgiva to change its policy on allowing drinks etc to be brought into the auditorium.
- **Meeting closure**
 - Jon Wallis thanked members for their attendance at the AGM and support to the Society. The committee looked forward to the opportunity to discuss any topics with members in the bar after “*Girlhood*”.
 - Members were reminded that re-enrolment at this year’s rate was possible until the end of June and could be done at the members’ desk in the foyer after the meeting. The committee would be deciding at its next meeting whether it would be necessary to raise membership subscriptions for next season.
 - Jon drew attention to the start date for next season being 7th September and noted that the dates for the season (as listed below) will be posted on the website. The new programme will be publicised there and in the email newsletter as soon as it is confirmed.

The AGM closed at 7.35pm.

Jon Wallis, Chairman.

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Next Season’s Dates

- **Opening night is 7 September 2015.**

List of all 2016-17 season dates:

- 7, 21 September
- 5, 19 October
- 16, 23 November
- 4, 25 January 2017
- 8, 22 February
- 15, 29 March
- 5, 19 April
- 10 May - AGM and final film

Attachments: Final accounts for 2014-15 season, Provisional accounts for 2015-16 season

Chiltern Film Club
Final Accounts: 2014/2015 year, to 31/5/2015

£ INCOME		£ EXPENDITURE	
Membership fees on 2014/15 season:	7,141.00	Printer: programme print run	408.00
2013/14 year net profit b/fwd	318.60	Programme & poster design	235.00
		IT Supplier: Hosting CFS website	31.20
		Stamps, photocopying, stationery	107.60
		Design & produce: Roller Banners	48.00
		Room Hire, committee mtgs:-	82.90
		Half season offer:-posters, flyers:	41.90
		Design/print: ½ year posters	86.04
Bank Interest	1.68	Bank charges	0.00
		Chesham Town Council: Attendance & film fees on 139 full members and 11 half-season members:-	4,987.29
		VAT at 20%	997.45
		Chesham TC Sub-Total:-	<u>£5,984.74</u>
Gross Income	<u>£7,461.28</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>£7,025.38</u>
		Gross Profit	435.90
		Net Profit	115.62
<u>Net Operating Income</u>	<u>£7,141.00</u>		<u>£7,141.00</u>

A W Burrows
Hon. Treasurer

Chiltern Film Club

Provisional Accounts: 2015/2016 year, to 31/5/2016

£ INCOME		£ EXPENDITURE	
Membership fees on 2015/16 season:	9,119.00	Printer: programme print run	408.00
		Poster design & print run	32.00
2014/15 year net profit b/fwd	115.62	Service supplier: brochure design	275.60
		IT Supplier: Hosting CFS website	31.20
		Stamps, photocopying, stationery	228.47
		Design/print: half-year leaflets	43.00
		Design/print : Magazine advert	66.50
		Room Hire, committee mtgs:-	141.40
		Half season offer:-posters, flyers:	41.90
		Design/print: posters	86.04
		16 th film hire:- (out of season)	150.00
Bank Interest	0.00	Bank charges	0.00
		Chesham Town Council: Attendance & film fees on 175 full members and 17 half-season members:-	6,375.58
		VAT at 20%	1,275.12
		Chesham TC Sub-Total:-	<u>£7,650.70</u>
Gross Income	<u>£9,234.62</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>£9,154.81</u>
		Gross Profit	79.81
		Net Profit	(-35.81)
Net Operating Income	<u>£9,119.00</u>		<u>£9,119.00</u>

A W Burrows
Hon. Treasurer