

TTC Open Meeting to discuss the Strategic Review

held at 10.00 am on Sunday 22nd September 2019 at Hampton Hill Theatre

Notes on general discussion following a presentation by TTC Chairman
Clare Henderson Roe

In attendance: 40 TTC members, including the TTC Board

1. Demographics

In view of the fact that a considerable majority of the membership were over 60, **Cath Messum** asked whether the members survey had identified if this applied more to the audience membership than to the active membership.

In reply, it was stated that although the active membership had more younger people, the questionnaire did not allow a breakdown between the two categories.

2. Business plan **Graham Titcombe** asked what was covered in the new ten year business plan.

This was explained as covering building maintenance, BAT requirements, new equipment, the new lift installation and similar requirements and would be reviewed annually.

3. Social media **Rebecca Dowbiggin** stressed the importance of promoting the club on social media, suggesting that *Theatre* magazine should be available electronically as many people, especially younger members, did not read the printed magazine but relied only on social media for 'bite size' messages.

It was explained that a postal delivery of a printed magazine was necessary to distribute outside hirers' flyers which would otherwise have to be digitised. However, if there was a demand for these communications to be done by social media, **Gerry McCarthy** said that this would be considered.

It was concluded that postal delivery of a printed magazine was still required although social media communications should be used and expanded as much as possible in addition.

Rebecca Dowbiggin and **Kelly-Marie Tuthill** volunteered to join the social media team and had arranged a meeting with **Christine Wayman**. The board thanked Rebecca and Kelly-Marie and welcomed their involvement with the social media team.

4. TTC Documents **Rebecca Dowbiggin** praised the completeness of TTC documentation on the website and asked if they could be made accessible in one place.

It was stated that these documents were already available in the TTC documents library (link and password on the BAT page of *Theatre* magazine). As some documents were now out of date, these were currently being updated.

5. Team building It was suggested that some board members, particularly the Artistic Director, had a heavy workload and that teams could be put in place to spread these responsibilities. This was an idea supported by the board but relied on sufficient volunteers coming forward.

6. Richmond Council for Voluntary Services **Heather Mathew** reminded the meeting that this organisation, which helped many charities and community groups in the borough, were always ready to offer support and fund-raising advice.

7. Drinks in the auditorium **Jenny Hobson** and **Mart Stonelake** were not in favour of drinks being allowed into the auditorium and the board agreed with this, one reason being that spillages could compromise the supports below the wooden flooring.

8. Bar refurbishment A requirement for refurbishing the bar and foyer having been identified in the questionnaire and agreed by the board, **Bridget Norman** asked how long this would take and whether funds were available.

It was explained that **Loz Keal** had been instructed by the board to appraise the situation and present proposals, although at this stage a time scale could not be determined, and that a legacy from the late **Tony Eva** had been reserved specifically for this project and was available.

9. Youth Action Theatre **Rebecca Dowbiggin** asked about the relationship between YAT and TTC and if YAT members were encouraged to join TTC when they reached the YAT age limit.

It was explained that there was an affiliation document setting out the relationship between the groups but that YAT had originally been conceived and run as an entirely separate organisation with performing rights in TTC premises. However, TTC has always encouraged YAT members to take part in TTC productions where appropriate and to transition to the senior group and it is pleasing that this is now happening on a more regular basis. Although YAT participation had improved there was no official protocol on this. It was also noted that it was difficult to enrol anyone in this age group, whether from YAT or not.

10. Play selection **Heather Mathew** stated that the Play Selection Committee should propose as diverse a programme as possible in order to attract as many different people and age groups as possible, both from YAT and outside.

11. Outside banner displays **Kelly-Marie Tuthill** suggested that banners on the outside railings should be deployed for studio shows as well as for main house productions. It was explained that studio shows were not advertised on the railings because they were usually well supported and had fewer seats to sell and that there were council restrictions on the number of banners and the time for which they could be displayed.

12. Email address updates **Laurie Gibson** explained that the new phone bookings system needed respondents to supply their up-to-date email addresses for the system to work efficiently and requested all members who had changed their addresses to inform the membership secretary. It was suggested that this plea be placed on the TTC website and publicised in *Theatre* magazine.

13. Vote of thanks **Heather Stockwell** thanked the board members for their dedicated work for TTC and HHT.