



SWINDON FILM SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2025

Committee Members present:

Diane Miles[DM], Sue Pycroft[SP], Rosemary Young[RY], Patrick Aynie[PA], Robert Elrick[RE] and Martin Savage[MS].

Members present: 10

RE welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened referring to the Annual Report 2024-2025 Season:

Apologies: Lyndy Griffin[LG], and Roger Griffin[RG].

Finance:

RY referred to the audited annual accounts that shortly will be posted on the SFS website.

A loss of £1.68 on the year. Income was from ticket sales and membership.

There were higher costs and lower membership and attendance.

- Insurance premiums increased.
- Film licences increased.
- Printing costs increased.
- Arts hire cost unchanged.

Therefore, concluded the need for Full Membership fee (2025-2026) to be increased by £10 to £80.

Total number of members lower at 149 (average 173 previous 2 years) and PAYG 33 (94 previous year). 7 guests per film average. 27 new members, lowest in 5 years.

Average attendance 82 (88 for 2023-2024), Highest attendance 109 (Fallen Leaves); lowest attendance 60 at three films. Average attendance 82.

Highest reaction 93% (The Taste of Things); lowest 67 % (Full Time). Average reaction 72%.

Comment from Elaine Sheppard and others: Films now accessible via other means – on-line, streaming etc. Less disposable income.

Need for more members is evident. Marketing and Advertising.

RE thanked SP who joined the Committee in the current year, for her fine marketing input including organising SFS presence at recent OT 'festival'.

RE acknowledged the support and contribution of printed material designer Rachel Martin and to Richard Turpin for his voluntary role as SFS webmaster.

The report was accepted unanimously.

Election of Committee:

The existing committee: (RE (Chair), RY (Treasurer), MS (Secretary), LG (Membership Secretary), SP (Marketing) Front of House: DM, PA & RG, have confirmed their willingness to stand again. Accepted unanimously.

Any Other Business:

- SP will carry out further door-to-door poster drops in OT, having had positive responses from residents to whom she spoke.
- SP and LG now have access to the SFS Facebook page and, whilst it shows 800 'users' it is likely that many no longer use it. Within the next 3-4 weeks it will be up-dated, all Facebook user Members are encouraged to re-join and not just to 'like' but to append comment.
- Sarah Newman suggested – and SP took on-board – involvement in further OT events as a means of widening SFS appeal. Posters/trifolds to be offered to the like of OT Pubs, cafés etc.
- Possibility of Hop Inn offering pre-show eating discount of 10% to be followed up.
- Comment made on the lack of British films this season. Response, none of sufficient interest available.
- The hire fee for Arts Centre discussed, it being a major component of costs, various suggestions including achieving potential for alleviation via SBC given the council's ownership of the Centre and its avowed interest in culture.