

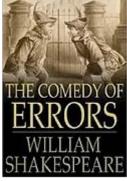




26th October — 6th November

October — November 2021





13th -23rd April 2022

Our Upcoming Productions

22nd —26th February 2022

Hi Kelvinians! Well, at long last we finally have a really fully packed issue of *The Jester*! I hope you'll find it very interesting with lots of exciting things to report! Inside, you'll find details of:

The AGM which took place last Sunday (26th September) at the Studio and online, and of course following that we now have a shiny new Kelvin Committee in place! This reflects the new structure of Kelvin which was also brought in. The way the club operates and the lines of responsibilities within this new structure are shown inside (p.13), and you can also see them on our website. Our thanks to all the new officers.

We have news of our first full production since lockdown, and rehearsed readings, as well as our new members, news from our new artistic director, our new Chair, and the delayed Kelvin awards for last year.

Phil our membership secretary has confirmed to me that because of Covid there are again no subs to pay for your membership of Kelvin for this coming year, except for new members joining.

Also, you will no doubt be aware that the new bar and Kelvin Studio's Front of House foyer area is almost completed; I'm looking forward to having my first drink in the brand new foyer!

I can strongly recommend checking the Kelvin Facebook members' page regularly to see what else is going on and for announcements (facebook login required):

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2364145819/?ref=share

Do check out our website: www.kelvinplayers.co.uk and follow us on Twitter, Facebook etc.

If you have anything at all to send me for inclusion in the next issue of *The Jester*, you can do so at any time by emailing it to me at: *jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk* **Geoff Collard (editor)**

The Jester is bi-monthly. The deadline for the next *Jester* is always a couple of days before the last day of the month before publication. And it's always given in the current edition, so you can always check the deadline in the most recent issue. So, please note in your diary! (December/January is the next issue.)

The deadline for the next Jester will be Monday November 29th 2021



From the Keyboard of the New Chair's Desk!



Hello everyone, If there's one issue on which we can all agree, it's that the last 20 months have been tough going for everyone.

That's why the coming back to the Studio last Sunday for the 2021 AGM was so enjoyable. To see so many friendly faces that we haven't seen for so long was heartening, and it felt a little like a new beginning, with a new committee structure being voted in and new committee members announced, as well as a new season of shows.

I was excited to be voted in as the new Chair of the club. I've been a member of Kelvin Players for almost 20 years now, and I've seen much change in that time. But I have lots of ideas about how I'd like to see us develop over the next few years. Over the next few months, I'll start to lay out my 'vision' for the club.

Welcome to the other new members of the committee: Robin Turner (Business Director), Nicola Schoonderwoerd (Artistic Director), and Sharon Dudbridge (Secretary), who will join myself and Peter Phillpot (Treasurer).

I'd like to say thanks once again to Sue and the other members of the committee who have stood down (Fran, Tim and Anna F-C.), and reiterate once again what a tough job they've had to do over the last two years. They've had to continue doing the tough job of keeping the club alive and ensuring we can meet any government requirements in relation to Covid-19 – but without being able to get involved in any of the fun stuff that we usually do. We should be extremely grateful to the last that we had a club to come back to last Sunday.

I'm pleased to say not everyone from the committee has stood down. Josh has agreed to take on a new job as our membership development officer. And Dean, Neil and Anna B will all continue in roles that will be similar to the ones they had before, but without the committee meeting responsibilities.

One of Fran's last tasks as Artistic Director, was to announce the line-up for the 2022 season. It's exciting to see such a packed schedule for next year, with five full productions plus Adam's Radiant Vermin, which will be carried over to next year following its abrupt halt earlier this season. You can see the full line-up in this edition.

Before all that – several exciting events are still to happen this year!

First up, the **rehearsed readings are back**, **with a double-bill of delights in the first weekend of October**. Please come along and support these shows as they're such a great way for new directors and actors to gain experience, and they value every bit of feedback they receive and every face there is in the audience.

We can also look forward to the long-delayed *Hamlet*, which opens in less than four weeks. The box office is now open, so please get on now and secure your seat. We've all been desperate to get back to the theatre, so please don't hold back from coming to see this show, which is sure to pack a punch.

The final event to look forward to this year is a social event and launch night that will take place on Saturday 18th December. This will be a chance to hear from next season's directors as they pitch their shows. *The Jester* will have more information about this in due course.

Finally, a request: Please don't wait to be asked! Now that the club is almost fully back up to speed, there will be lots of jobs that need to be done; sets that need building; flyers that need to be designed; props that need to be gathered; drinks that need to be served; programmes that need to be sold; and so on. If you see or hear of something that needs doing, don't wait to be asked – just step forward and offer your services. We all expect those in charge to know what we're good at or what we'd like to do, and often sit back waiting to be asked. But unless we sit up and tell people, they won't know. So, please – don't wait to be asked, just volunteer your services.

Mat Rees Chair (chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

REHEARSED READINGS - THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN!

SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER & SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER

Dearest Kelvinians,

It's time to get yourselves along to a Rehearsed Reading again! We're well back into the swing of things, with two RR evenings already under our belts in the last couple of months or so - and indeed the next one is coming up very soon now on **Saturday 9th October**, finally bringing the usual double-bill format back again. Both halves on 9th October will be an hour at most, quite possibly a bit less - and will consist of the following two delights...

Rosie Closs and Angela Markham jointly make their muchanticipated Kelvin directing debut with **Florian Zeller's** *The* 9th October (double-bill) Rosie Closs & Angela Markham direct *The Truth* by Florian Zeller Sergio Romagnoli directs *Party* a piece of his own writing

27th November (double-bill) Ralf Togneri directs *Where's My Money?* By Mike Manson Eszter Vass directs Two short pieces of her own writing

Truth - remember the author of our main show The Father a few years ago? Well this play is just as good, but it's a funny one this time - full of terrific laughs and a great piece of entertainment. Completing the double-bill we have Sergio Romagnoli directing a piece of his own writing with the working title **Party** - ooh yes I do love it when we have some Kelvin homegrown writing! This will be a comedy too, so there should be a whole lot of laughs this evening from both sides.

The bar is still undergoing its major renovation work, so again sadly there'll be no drinks available on 9th October - other than a few that I might chuck in the Morris Room fridge! and you can throw me a quid if you have one. And also please bring your friends, we will never turn anyone away from a RR! On 27th November, by which time the bar refurbishment will be fully complete and Hamlet all done and dusted - well then it will at long last be the return to 100% normal service as far as the RRs are concerned, with a lovely new bar all ready and stocked to serve drinks as normal and the double-bill format thoroughly back in place. **On 27th November**, we have some more new writing - not only once in fact, but twice! **Eszter Vass will be bringing two short pieces of her own writing to the RR space**, making her writing and directing debut with Kelvin - and in the other half of the double-bill, by contrast a hugely experienced Kelvin veteran **Ralf Togneri** will be directing another new piece of brand new writing by local author Mike Manson.

Righto folks, let's do this - 7:00pm doors open for 7:30pm start, both nights, just as usual. See y'all there!

Rick Procter-Lane (Kelvin RR Organiser) 0794 1878 460 / rick.procter@icloud.com

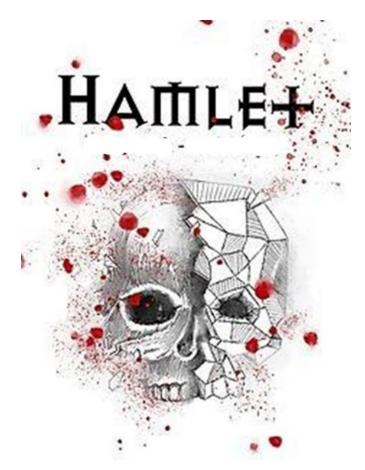
Geoff (Health & Safety Officer) adds: we all know the following are not essential anymore but it is a fact unfortunately that covid infection levels are rising again, so everyone who is up for coming, if possible, **please think about doing the following things**:

1) Please feel free to continue to wear a face mask if you wish, to help everyone present feel safe.

2) Please BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS as there will be no bar service at all on the night (partly for Covid safety, partly because the big bar refurbishment project is not yet completed.

3) Please be respectful of everyone else in attendance, maintaining social distance by default and staying in your seats. I'm sure I really don't need to make this request of you all, we're all nice people at Kelvin - but nonetheless we want to encourage everyone out there that this will be as safe an event as we can make it. We will of course do everything possible to ensure safety too - opening windows and doors for maximum ventilation where possible, making the NHS Track & Trace check-in QR code available, ensuring seats and touchpoints are clean and hand sanitisers are ready for use, managing movement around the building, and generally reminding everyone to be mindful of covid whilst still having a lovely time.

Kelvin's first full production, since the coronavirus lockdown, finally opens this month!!



26th October — 6th November

Directed by Kris Hallett



This month, delayed by nearly two years *Hamlet* hits the Kelvin Studio at last!

Sunday, September 5th, after some 18 months away, saw a very special stagger through of *Hamlet* which those of us in the room will cherish for a long time. Who knew a production that had been on the backburner through a world pandemic could quite so quickly burst back into life?! With it, our wonderful cast and crew, who have stayed on a ship for the rockiest period in many of our lives, were back up and running and ready to release Shakespeare's master-piece to the world. With a little under a month until we open, engines are being revved up, rehearsals ramped up, new members welcomed and lines being learned afresh. Please do come along and support the official club re-opening for a production that is shaping up to be very special indeed, so go to **Tickets** on the public Kelvin Players website to book your tickets online now!!

Or email: boxoffice@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Email: <u>kristopher.hallett@gmail.com</u>

We look forward to seeing you soon. Kris and Teri.

Tel: 07897 497 341 terimoni@googlemail.com



From Nicky, Our New Artistic Director Introduction, Vision Statement & News

Hello! And thank you for voting me as Kelvin's next Artistic Director! I am excited to have the opportunity to serve you as a club and cannot wait to get started in shaping our future as a creative community of passionate theatre makers!

So.....if in case any of you don't know me.... HELLO!

My name is Nicky Schoonderwoerd and I have been a loyal member to Kelvin since 2005, when I was roped in to cover for a vacant role (Guard 3 no less) in 'The 3 Musketeers'.

What a pivotal moment that was for me! Since then, I have been involved in all aspects of the club and made lifelong friends on the way.

I am a massive theatre geek, spending most of my career as a Head of Secondary Drama. However, since transitioning onto new career pastures, I am super keen to keep the drama lifeblood flowing - and Kelvin is the perfect place!

MY VISION

It has been a very strange and testing 18 months. Covid-19 has forced us apart and starved us of our creative fulfilment. What was once an important outlet for our social lives and mental health has been put on hold. The postponement of the 2020 season and the continued disruption to 2021 has been heart breaking for us all.



Photo Image from Brief Encounter by Owen Benson (Sadly, my last stage encounter in a long while!)

The post-lockdown world that we are tentatively emerging from gives us a unique opportunity to reshape the club's offering to the membership to provide an enriching, creative experience for us all.

My vision is to enable Kelvin to become a hub of CREATIVE COMMUNITIES where we can CONNECT and COLLABORATE. A place where we can hone our craft, and then share our passions, so others can hone theirs.

Our programme of five plays per year is the heartbeat of Kelvin's offering. I promise you that I, and the APC will curate an artistic programme that is a platform for under-represented voices, serves the wonder-ful diversity of our members' skills and attracts the skills of others.

I strive to widen our creative horizons, tapping into new and exciting theatrical styles and developments, whilst also paying homage to the classics and contemporaries that we are familiar with.

Also.... I want to look beyond that. What can we, as a membership, do to creatively connect in those periods of time between shows, for those members not involved in the big shows? We have the wonderful Rehearsed Readings nights.... what if we could do more?

I will be collaborating closely with the membership development officer and the social secretary to envision opportunities for members to connect and collaborate, whether that is in the form of practical workshops, a playwright's book club, production skills mentorship schemes, emerging director programmes or even theatre-going socials. The list could go on!

My biggest ask is that you connect with me – what wonderful ideas do you have that are brewing? How can we create more opportunities for creative collaboration in the club?

To serve you, I first must listen and understand what the membership wants.

You can reach out to me via the email address: <u>artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk</u> – no suggestion too small or crazy!

THE 2022 SEASON

Many thanks to Fran Lewis and her merry APC band for putting together a creative programme for next year. In light of the last 18 months, you have done sterling work to make this happen.

For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM, here is the 2022 season!

22nd-26th February - *The Goat (or Who is Sylvia)* by Edward Albee, directed by Adam Church
13th-16th & 20-23rd April – *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare, directed by Jacqs Graham
28th June – 2nd July – *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (Adapted by Polly Teale) directed by Simon Shorrock at the **Tobacco Factory Theatre**25th – 29th October – *James III: The True Mirror* by Rona Munro, directed by Mary McCallum
6th -10th December – *Earthquakes in London* by Mike Bartlett, directed by Mat Rees

Radiant Vermin by Philip Ridley, directed by Adam Church will also be performed as a Black Box on 19th - 21st May, postponed from July 2021

UPCOMING NEWS

Date Changes Since the AGM:

Xmas Social/Expo will be on the evening of Saturday 18th December (and NOT 11th).

Jane Eyre will be performed at the Tobacco Factory 28th June – 2nd July.

The theatre offered us those dates and it was agreed that it was a better time for the show as it is within school term dates.

APC Vacancies

I currently have 3 vacancies for the Artistic Programme Committee, due to members standing down after their 3 years' service.

I can currently fill one space with the waiting list, however, to achieve a diverse balance in the APC, I am advertising for any **female identifying members** to register their interest for the remaining 2 roles.

If you are interested or would like to know more about what is involved, please get in touch <u>artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk</u> – all member experience levels welcome!

So that's it from me for now.... get in touch – I'd love to hear from you!

Nicky (Your Friendly Neighbourhood AD!)



KELVIN PLAYERS 2020/21 AWARDS

The Member of the Year Award

Rick Procter 2020/21



The Milton Johns Award for Best Male Acting Performance

Adam Healey as Cyrano De Bergerac (Cyrano De Bergerac) 2020

The Higson Award for Best Female Acting Performance Gil Cowen as Hazel (The Children) 2020

The Vice-President's Cup for Best Supporting Performance Alex Heath as Comte De Guiche (Cyrano De Bergerac) 2019

The June Wilson Cup for Best Cameo Performance Charlotte Whitten for Cyrano de Bergerac 2019



The Kelvin Award for Best Director: Mat Rees (The Children) 2020

KELVIN PLAYERS 2020/21 AWARDS

(continued)

<u>The Harrison Award for Technical</u> <u>Achievement</u>

Bronwen Grover for Set Design

(The Children) 2020



Dugald McCallum Quaich Award Dean Bentley Hawkins (Premises Manager) 2020/21

The Tim Stevens Award for Best Rehearsed Reading:

Revolt. She said. Revolt Again. Directed by Fran Lewis 2019



After all the palaver of the pandemic and lack of possibilities for Kelvin's performances, at last I am delighted to welcome our first new members for 2021/2022:

(was anyone more aptly named?!! - ed.)

Phil Joyner (membership secretary)

Philip Burnett

Philip has been a member of St Pauls Players for many years. He has acted in a number of productions including "Christmas Carol" and "The Crucible". He has directing and stage management experience also lighting operation. According to Dean Hawkins who knows him well, he is a thoroughly nice chap and will be a huge asset to the club.

Lydia Williams

Acting since the age of 4 in theatre groups and throughout school. Lydia has auditioned membership to National Youth Theatre (still a member) and Hampshire Youth Theatre for 4 years, performing in theatres, and purpose-built spaces. She performed in the world premiere of *A Level Playing Field* in London's West End.

She has experience as a drama facilitator and was a facilitator for National Youth Theatre's summer youth course as well as other jobs such as a drama group for adults with learning disabilities, and a drama programme for young offenders.

She was vice chair and welfare officer of the drama society in her second year of uni, and Chair in her final year and was responsible for the day to day running of the society, organizing and ensuring the smooth running of shows and events, funding and finances, building and maintaining internal and external relationships.

She has commitment, lots of energy, positive attitude, loves working as part of a wider cast and she is a qualified first aider.

John Baddley

John has performed in 3 or 4 shows or so and has ASM'd for *Guys and Dolls* and *Legally Blonde* at Uni. What he lacks in experience he makes up for in enthusiasm and commitment and we look forward to working with him.

Morwenna Harris

Attracted by Kelvin's performance history, Morwenna has decided to join us for backstage experience. She is interested in set design and construction and ward-robe. She has plenty of experience creating drama activities for kids and has watched a great deal of drama and films in the last few months. She is keen, energetic and is a qualified first aider.

Toby Mitchell

Toby has landed the role of Billy in "The Goat".

He trained for 2 years at Bath Theatre Academy, working with The Wardrobe Ensemble and Full Rogue Theatre. He was training at U.W.E. in their Drama and Acting course but this was interrupted by COVID. He is really looking forward to playing Billy and thinks that Kelvin would be an amazing place to restart his acting career after the interruption caused by the virus. He is also a DJ which could be useful for after show parties.

Brendan O'Connor

Brendan married to our own Teri Mohiuddin has joined the company because "it's about time". He has acted at school, in festivals and at weddings. He will bring a willingness to pitch in and as well as acing would also like to do some writing.

Harry Wales

Has now reached the age of 16 and is looking for new acting opportunities. He heard about Kelvin's reputation and as he lives locally decided to join. He has been involved in the performing arts throughout his young life and is currently undertaking a performing arts B. Tec at North Bristol Sixth form. He is also a qualified First Aider.

Chris Thomas

Chris is mainly interested in backstage including lighting design and operation, sound operation, and stage management. He has experience in all of the above. He is also a Composer and Singer.

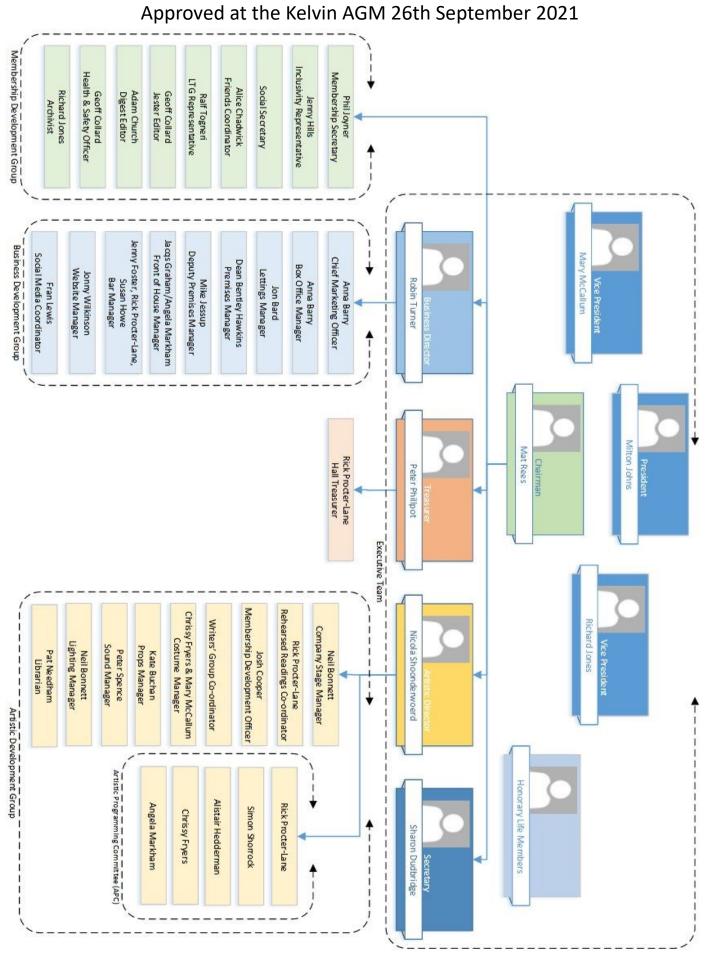
KELVIN'S NEW STRUCTURAL ORGANISATION

At the AGM on 26th September, a new organisational structure for Kelvin Players was agreed.

On the next page is an organogram showing the new structure of Kelvin's organisation.

The following 5 pages are reproduced from the last issue of *The Jester* for completeness, by way of giving the context and aims of the reorganisation.

Organogram showing the Organisation of the new Kelvin Committee Structure



A PROPOSAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF KELVIN PLAYERS



To create excellent theatre through the sharing and development of skills and expertise in all aspects of production and performance.

Background

In 1999, there was a formal review of the structure of Kelvin Players. This was followed by a further restructure of the management committee around a decade later as the roles on the management committee and the lines of responsibility were more clearly defined. The current structure has remained more or less the same since then – apart from the creation of some new Elected Officer roles, including Artistic Director, in the mid-2000s.

Currently, the club is largely in hiatus (due to the pandemic) and it is an opportunity to review the way the club works and to review its aims.

The recent survey by the Inclusivity Action Group hinted at a need for change – many ideas were raised around the membership fee and structure, the need for a vision, and many suggestions for a more creative approach to our productions.

Aside from a few innovations over the last 20 years, such as the rehearsed readings and the black box productions, our approach to theatre has remained much the same for many years.

Proposal

This proposal aims to explore how Kelvin Players can develop further as a centre for the arts. It addresses the three main activities of the Club: artistic, business and membership.

We want to develop a clear direction for the Club, that frees members up so that they can realize their own creative potential, and focuses the club on becoming the best it can.

We propose doing this by enabling the strategic development of the Club through the creation of a new tier of governance – the Executive Group. This proposal will also:

Promote innovation and creativity in the artistic policy of the Club

Ensure the Club is meeting its mission statement

Draw on the skills and experience of longstanding Club members

Ensure the Club is progressive and forward-thinking

Retain what is working well (e.g. rehearsed reading programme, members' enthusiasm and engagement, local reputation etc.....

EXECUTIVE GROUP

Comprised

Club Chair* Club Treasurer* Club Secretary* Club President Club Artistic Director* Club Business Development Director** Club Vice-Presidents Honorary Life Members

Summary

The Executive Group will facilitate the strategic leadership and vision for the Club by drawing on its experience and expertise; speaking with the officers and members of the Club; and consulting with external artists and creatives, who may, from time to time, be invited to join the group. The non-elected members of the Executive Group will provide a long-term direction to the Management Committee. However, they will not form part of the Management Committee and will not routinely attend management committee meetings, and therefore will not having voting rights at those committee meetings. They will, however, provide a vision statement of how they see the club developing and operating. In the first instance the Executive Group will be chaired by the Club Chair. They may choose to appoint a Deputy Chair, if required.

Aims

- Develop a three-year strategy (reviewed bi-annually) this strategy will define the Club's vision and ambition, set out key milestones and achievements, and establish how we measure our success.
- Ensure the Club's statutory and financial accountability
- Steer the Club artistically and financially by engaging with the members and officers of the Club
- Consider members' engagement and satisfaction, as well as the overall promotion of the Club

Communications

- One meeting every six months where the group agrees the contents of the strategy and reviews progress.
- An online or digital group (WhatsApp, Teams etc) where the group is able to continue discussions and share ideas.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Comprised

Club Chair

Club Secretary

Club Treasurer

Club Artistic Director

Club Business Director

Summary

The role of the Management Committee is to implement the strategy as developed by the Executive Group. It is also to oversee the work of each of the management groups and ensure the effective running of the Club, including its productions. The Management Committee's aim is to enact the vision of the Executive Group. How they enact that vision will be their decision and they will retain voting as part of the decision-making process, with the Chair having the casting vote.

Aims

Implement the strategy and vision of the Executive Group

Set annual financial budgets for each production and the separate management groups

Oversee the work of each of the management groups, ensuring that cross-group liaison is facilitated

Monitor the productions – meeting Directors/Producers, agreeing production budgets, etc

Oversee the day-to-day business of the Club

Indicative communications schedule***

- An annual meeting to which all elected officers and postholders are invited, at which the Club Chair communicates the vision and strategy of the Executive Group.
- Brief, regularly monthly catch-ups for the 5 members of the committee, plus occasional presentations and updates from elected officers, postholders or directors.
- An online or digital group (WhatsApp, Teams etc) where the group is able to continue discussions and share ideas.

The Rule Changes

Amendment of Rule 4: Officers

The elected officers of the Society shall be: a Chairman; a Secretary; a Treasurer; a Business Director, an Artistic Director, and other key roles as necessary

Amendment of Rule 5: Management Committee

Rule 5: Management Committee

- The affairs of the Society shall be arranged by a Management Committee composed of the elected officers, as set out in 4 above). The Management Committee shall have the power to co-opt.
- At all meetings of the Management Committee, four shall form a quorum
- *Insert new rule* Each of the Elected Officers of the Management Committee must be made aware that, upon appointment, they are, by default, a Trustee of the Club and therefore commit to sustaining the charitable aims as outlined in rule 2a
- *Insert new rule:* Each of the Elected Officers (not Secretary) will Chair a Management Group – Membership Development, Artistic Development, Business Development, and Financial Management.
- *Insert new rule* The Management Committee will facilitate the formation of an Executive Group comprised of Elected Officers, President and Vice-Presidents, Honorary Members, and other co-opted members as relevant

Rule 6: Sub-Committees

Remove rule 6b - not necessary

Proposed Timeline (from September 2021

(assuming proposal is accepted by the members at the AGM)

DATE	ACTION
September 2021	AGM Management Committee formed Management Groups formed Routine communications (including any meetings) commence
Early October 2021	Executive Group convened to hold initial vision & strategy meeting (3 year plan)
Mid October 2021	3 year plan published to members
End October/early November	Elected Officers and Club Officers meet to agree actions in light of 3 year plan
Mid November	Budgets for each of the Management Groups agreed
March 2022	Executive Group meet to review pro- gress
July 2022	Executive Group meet to review pro- gress and set out next steps in readi- ness for September 2022 AGM
September 2022	AGM