When I joined the club in 1989, before any of our current performing members were born, I could never have imagined the impact that it would have on my life or that I would one day be president of the club. Even when I first joined the committee in 1996 I was happily typecast in the role of treasurer and general committee member, however somehow here I am delivering a presidents report.

This time last year it was hard to imagine what being President would entail and to be honest I’m not sure I know yet as everything that happens throughout the year is truly a team effort. As well as the committee, who I’m sure you are all aware put in an immense amount of work, we also have an army of willing helpers consisting of friends and family of members, ex-committee members, ex-members and current members without whom none of what we do would be possible, therefore I would like to extend a general thank you to each and every person who has done anything, however small, to help the club over the last year. I hope you all continue to support us in the future and help to ensure the club continues to be successful.

As usual this has been a busy year for the club starting with a fundraising bag pack at Asda in Newton Mearns which raised over £650 for club funds. Thanks to everyone who turned up on the day to take a shift and especially to Ruth Baillie and Christine Kyle for organising this and ensuring it ran smoothly.

Our panto was once again written by Alan McHugh and this year we decided to present an old favourite, Aladdin. This was directed by Alasdair Hawthorne, choreographed by Linda Smith, MD’d by Ronnie Hillis and produced by myself. As ever we didn’t disappoint our sell out audiences who were all impressed with our ability to continue to raise the standards of our productions.

The Christmas party this year returned to Giffnock North and everyone who attended appeared to enjoy it as usual, particularly the show tunes and dance offs. Particular thanks go our committee performing members, Sarah McLauchlin and Kevin Glasgow for organising this.

For our senior show this year we decided once again to try a lesser known show in Loserville. These shows don’t tend to attract as big an audience but those we did attract appeared to enjoy the show as much as the cast did performing it. We welcomed back Jen Smith as director who was assisted by Ruth Baillie as producer, Karen Mackay as musical director and Linda Smith as choreographer. I think it would be fair to say that the production did the club credit and that we can hopefully continue to try out new shows like this in the future.

In contrast to the senior show we chose a more traditional show for our junior show that can at last be referred to as “the may show” again. Once we knew we were performing Wizard of Oz we then faced the difficult decision of whether we should use the more basic script and score or go for the more adventurous RSC script and score. I’m sure anyone who doesn’t know Harlequin would think that it would be too ambitious for a junior section of a youth theatre to attempt the RSC version but we decided that our juniors were capable of it and lead by the musical team of Ronnie Hillis, David Zochowski and Kirsten Campbell they certainly proved us right. The remainder of the production team were Colin Dougall as director, Chris Glasgow as choreographer and Christine Kyle as producer and as a team they produced an excellent show.

Over the course of this session we have been more actively encouraging members to take on new roles including stage manager, assistant stage manager, MD to name just a few and this is something that we would like to continue to encourage, in fact this has continued into pantomime with the addition of Kirsten, Jamie and Jo to the production team. If any other members are interested in taking on any roles they haven’t previously tried or shadowing any roles then please speak to any committee member.

This years session came to an end with the hugely successful 50s Fundraising night in Clarkston Halls. Not only did this raise around £1,300 for club funds but it was a great night enjoyed by members and their families and friends. Huge thanks to the sub-committee who organised this of Tam McLean, Lora Angus, Kevin Glasgow and Sarah McLaughlin.

Unfortunately this year both Sarah McLaughlin and Shirley Taylor are stepping down from the committee, and in Shirley’s case, not for the first time! Sincere thanks to both of you for all your hard work, not just in the past year. Tam is also released from his role as immediate past president and is properly free of us, thanks for your support over the last year. I’m fairly confident that all of you will be around in years to come to continue to support the club.

So here’s to the 2015-16 session which I’m sure will be as eventful and successful and the previous ones.