**Lorna Wyllie President’s Report at AGM August 2016 for the year 15/16**

It's hard to believe that it's only been a year since last year's AGM & then I look at what we've done over the year & wonder how we've fitted it all in. As well as the three shows we've had members attending THUGs meetings, the Christmas party, hiring of costumes, new member auditions, attending the NODA youth conference, clearing out of Eastwood House, theatre trips, club night, social media training and much more. So first of all I want to say a huge thanks to the existing committee for juggling all of that as well as supervising rehearsals, being part of production teams & taking on various show jobs. I'm sure many of the committee wonder what they did with their time before they gave it all up to ensure the continued success of the club.

The committee are also supported by a large number of members and friends of the club some of which I wanted to mention specifically. Myra Ralston who does a lot of ongoing work on adverts, programme compilation etc, John Ralston for work on our membership database, various members of the wardrobe team including Shirley Taylor, Caroline Carey, Wilma Dougall, Liz Gibson, Liz Cameron & Anne Queen, Barry Kyle for his photography skills & our regular backstage helpers including Tam McLean, Paul Carnan, Kenneth Robertson, Ross McDougall, Andrew Kyle, Richard Kelly & Eilidh Lawson. There are loads of other people who also help us out on a regular basis but if I name everyone we'll never get through the rest of the AGM. I hope everyone will continue to support the club in future years & that the current performing members will either continue to help out or will come forward to help for any shows you are not able to perform in.

The start of our 2015-16 session was panto which was Jack & the Beanstalk written by Alan McHugh. This was directed by Alasdair Hawthorne, choreographed by Linda Smith, MD'd by Karen Mackay & Produced by Christine Kyle. As I said this time last year we are also keen to support members coming through the club in non performing roles & therefore the panto production team were assisted by Jamie Stirling, Jo Thomson & Kirsten McLean. As usual the panto was a fantastic production which was enjoyed by sold out audiences.

Harlequin have always liked to take on a challenge & Avenue Q was certainly a challenge. We welcomed back Julie Brown as director & on this occasion she also took on responsibility for the choreography where relevant. We also welcomed back Stepps as MD and Ruth as producer. The cast & production team all rose to the challenge & the show was excellent.

Following the success of the juniors performing the RSC version of Wizard of Oz we were confident that they could take on the full version of Suessical & we were right to have that confidence. The show was directed by Colin Dougall, choreographed by Chris Glasgow, MD'd by Bryan McCaffrey who is new to the club & produced by Kirsten McLean with Christine Kyle supporting her. Despite this being a very difficult show the production team & cast did us proud & the show was excellent.

The NODA youth conference was attended by myself, Ruth, Christine, Kevin & Lorraine. The other clubs there potentially learned more from us than we did from them but it is hoped that there will be more events in the coming years that the club can benefit from.

The Christmas party this year was moved back to December from January which is potentially more relevant. Unfortunately, this meant I couldn't attend but I hear it was a huge success. Thanks to Kevin & Lorraine for organising this & to the committee members who were there to support them.

We also had a club night in January which was enjoyed by the junior members. Thanks to Jo Thomson for running this & Charlie Dexter for helping her.

We are members of THUGs which is a group of users of Eastwood Theatre. Christine Kyle is now secretary of THUGs which has been very beneficial to Harlequin as there have been a lot of changes at the theatre including it being transferred into a Trust. This has caused a lot of extra work for the THUGs exec. Every year it seems to become more difficult to secure the weeks we would like in the theatre but Christine & the rest of the committee are doing their best to ensure we secure the pattern of shows that works for us.

I keep mentioning the committee and all the work they do so it only seems fair to mention them by name. The outgoing committee, some of whom will be remaining on for next year are Colin Dougall, Ruth Baillie, Glenn Allan, Christine Kyle, Kirsten McLean, Marc Cowan, Cath Boyd, Debbie Handvidge, Susan Burgess, Karen McQueen, Lora Angus, Allan Muir, Lorraine Kyle & Kevin Glasgow. Unfortunately this year Christine, Kirsten, Lora, Allan & Kevin are stepping down so special thanks to them for everything they have done while on the committee. Hopefully you'll all still be around to help & support the new committee in the future.

As you know we are coming into Harlequin's 40th year & we have an unusual show pattern due to getting the opportunity to perform Legally Blonde in November. That is going to make 2016-17 even busier than usual so best wishes to the incoming committee. I hope all of the members and friends of the club continue to support us going forward in what I'm sure it will be a very exciting year.