



Agenda

AGM

10.30am - 13.00pm

**Saturday 15th
October 2016**

*London Nautical School
61 Stamford Street
Blackfriars
London
SE1 9NA*

1. Minutes of the last AGM
 - 1.1. Accuracy
 - 1.2. Matters Arising
2. Chair's Report
3. Financial Report
4. Journal Report
5. Motion 1
6. Election of Committee Members
7. Election of Journal Committee
8. The future
 - 8.1. The Journal
 - 8.2. The Blog
 - 8.3. The Website
 - 8.4. Future Projects
9. AOB



Motions

Motion 1

Preamble:

It is with deep regret that the NEC tables this motion. The core of this NEC has served the Association for a number of years and therefore we understand the gravity of this proposal.

This motion has been tabled as a result of failing to meet the criteria laid out in Motion 1 that was passed at the AGM 2016:

- Organising a major National Conference.
- Arranging a series of regional events that will act as service and support for members and be a showcase for the organisation encouraging new membership.
- By these and other means to seek to double membership in the next twelve months.

We hope that this motion will enable a frank and open discussion as to the functionality of the Association and whether the Association is still able to meet the objectives set out in its constitution.

Motion:

We propose that the Association known as the National Association for the Teaching of Drama is dissolved within a year of this AGM. The incoming NEC are charged with dissolving the Association according to the terms outlined in the constitution in collaboration with the current group of trustees.

Further, the Journal for Drama in Education will publish a final issue before the Association closes; the website will be closed and the Blog For Drama in Education removed.

Furthermore, any monies remaining within the accounts at the dissolution of the Association will be donated to Amnesty International.

Proposed: NEC

Seconded: NEC

Speaking For: Susan Higgs



Chair's Report

Written on behalf of
NEC

In my classroom I constantly talk about the state of the world with my students. As Zeus ties Prometheus to the side of the mountain in Year 7, we discuss the nature of power and control in the world; as Perry Smith is beaten with a flashlight by his carers as a result of their prejudice in Year 9, we consider how inequality hinders the potential for human beings to achieve their dreams; as Gregor Samsa is locked away by his family in Year 11, we discuss how capitalism has forced human beings to place their own wellbeing above that of others. Through creating drama, my students and I have been able to reflect on our own position within the world and begin to imagine the possibilities for a better future.

Yet every step of the journey through these rich stories has been perilous. The context within which we create this drama is hugely reductive; talk of measurable progress, grades, success criteria, starters, plenaries, written feedback and preparation for GCSE and A-Level curricular are all not only on the minds of the teachers but, more worryingly, on the minds of the students.

What does this have to do with NATD?

Long standing member Miranda Ballin, in her apology for this meeting, mentioned that the pressure teachers face in their contexts is driving them towards a policy of individualism and isolationism, where people are drawn more to organisations and alliances that offer seemingly more immediate solutions to their problems. I believe this is true. In my classroom, using the tools practitioners such as Dorothy Heathcote and Gavin Bolton developed over the course of a lifetime certainly hasn't been a quick and easy solution. For all of those golden moments spent philosophising and creating with young people, there have been a hundred times more mistakes, tears and tantrums.

Unfortunately, unless you have seen the outcome of drama-in-education practices, the time needed to understand the intricacies of its workings feels far too great. When the pressures are on 'getting Tim from a D to a C', there is very little time to scour over the classic texts of Heathcote and Bolton, to read through academic journals or to attend lengthy training sessions in your own time.

It is here where our Association has fallen foul over the past few years. Rather than adapting to the times and reconsidering how best to further the aims of our Association in this pressurised context, we have instead stuck to the old ways of doing things. While this matches our ideology, teachers simply no longer have the time to engage with a membership association in this way.

National Conference

This year we planned a National Conference for the first time in 2 years. We reduced the number of days for the conference, condensing the event into one day to enable more people to attend due to the reduced cost and less time needed to commit. The conference itself had high profile speakers as a draw and sought to outline a way forward for Drama-in-Education as outlined by David Davis in his book *Imagining The Real*.

Despite this, we managed only to attract 5 bookings for this conference, most of whom were members of the NEC or Journal Committee. Therefore, the conference was cancelled.

The Blog for Drama in Education

This year the NEC has established the Blog for Drama-in-Education. We have published 8 posts so far, ranging from comments on recent developments in drama education, musings on classroom events and reflections from previous prominent members of the NATD.

The blog has been a tremendous success as a companion to the website. We have had over 1,000 views - tapping into our ever growing social media following.

NEC Workload

The workload of the NEC continues to be an issue. This year, we have operated in a reduced capacity with only 7 committee members - two of whom have largely been operating from afar.

Each of the NEC members are working full time in the field of education and therefore we are struggling under the same conditions as the majority of our colleagues. As a result we have at times struggled to maintain contact over the year and completing anything beyond the standard administrative tasks of the Association has been challenging. Beyond organising the conference and starting the Blog, the NEC has struggled to extend its influence or drive the Association forward.

Without grass roots level activity, there is a very limited pool of members to recruit from. This will remain an issue in the coming years unless the constitution of the Association is changed to consider how it may be run more effectively.

Membership

Membership continues to decline.

Without events to draw people in and without a tangible benefit to joining the Association, we have struggled to recruit. Membership remains a concern and the formation of the Association

Membership currently stands at 22 members.

Administration

Rupert Page has continued to act as the administrator for this year.

He has completed all postage to members for the Journal and any additional correspondence throughout the year.

In addition to this, he has managed the membership records including invoicing of members for membership payment throughout the year.

The job is a lengthy one and often thankless. Therefore I would like to offer my thanks for this here!

Journal

Subscriptions for the Journal are now managed independently after the collapse of SWETS last year. This is a large source of income for the Association and should be considered when planning the year ahead.

The Fight for Drama

Another change in government leaves us in a place of uncertainty once more. The NATD continues to fight for Drama within schools, attending consultation meetings with examination boards to maintain integrity at GCSE level, campaigning for the inclusion of Drama in school curricular through the publication of the Journal and the Blog for Drama in Education and its many members continue to champion a child-centred approach to drama education within their settings and beyond.

Internationalist Perspective

The NATD continues to work with partners abroad to develop our internationalist perspective on the world of education.

We have begun to work with Cpi Novi Sad to apply for funding from the Erasmus+ scheme to bring international artists together to develop an international curriculum supporting the refugee crisis.

The work is hugely exciting and will not only have great influence in regards to changing perceptions about refugees and other marginalised groups, but will also allow a highly skilled group of artists to collaborate on the furthering of the Drama-in-Education practices.

Treasurer's Report

This year's audit was carried out internally by me as Chair and overseen by Susan Higgs as Vice-Chair and Acting Secretary. The audit runs

from April 2014 - March 2015 and so does not reflect the current state of the accounts.

The audit itself shows that the Association has made a profit this year for the first time in many years. This is largely the result of an increase in income from the Journal through the many subscription payments we have received over the course of the year.

We have seen a slight decrease in the income from membership compared to the previous audit.

Regional events run by the previous NEC were largely successful financially, resulting in a slight profit from running them.

A significant amount of expenditure comes from the video produced of Conference 2014 and, while seemingly expensive, has been an invaluable tool when selling our Association.

I would recommend to the incoming NEC that:

- Meetings continue to be held in a central location to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum
- Regional events that pull on the favours of local teachers are a cost-effective and low risk means of keeping the Association ticking over.
- An unsuccessful National Conference would cripple the Association financially and may result in the lack of fund to produce and publish the Journal.

Thank You

I would like to thank the outgoing NEC for their continued commitment to the Association over the last year. We have have operated under some immensely difficult conditions and have had many interesting discussions about Drama-in-Education along the way. It is never easy carrying the weight of history on your shoulders, but the decisions made by this NEC have been from the head and heart every step of the way.