

Speech/Drama 2024 Annual Report.

The Speech and Drama section was held at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre in The Ropes Hall with a good stage and plenty of seating. The caretakers were extremely helpful and our adjudicator complimented us several times on our good venue.

It was pleasing that this year we had two very full days. The entries were such that we had to negotiate extra time on the Sunday, ending at 7.45 pm. We really needed more time on both days as our adjudicator used her time to the maximum and commented that it was all a bit rushed.

There were several withdrawals due to one teacher being seriously ill and unable to prepare her pupils sufficiently. There were only a few unplanned absences.

One of our regular volunteers was unable to join us this year, but other committee members helped to fill the gaps.

We welcomed Clare Hunt, both as a teacher and as a Licensed Chaperone, in her first Festival with us.

The BOPA regulations added extra complications, but these were less challenging than expected and the copyright reporting was helped by teachers being asked to send performance details to the Speech Secretaries before the Festival. Not all teachers gave the full details and so a form will need to be sent to them next year.

There are still a few of our cups somewhere at Woodbridge School, (where previous winners returned them,) and Gill Reidy is chasing them. We ensured that everyone who won a cup, left with one – but they were not always the correct one. A new Trophy is being bought and engraved for the Duologue Championship. A cup/trophy audit needs to be completed before next year's Festival.

I record my thanks to Cheryl and Clare and to Angela, Tom, Wendy and Graham for their help.

Gwyneth Rapsey.