ABTT Training and Education Committee Minutes

Tue 22nd October 2019

National Theatre

Present

Chair Peter M (PMc), Rikki N (RN), David B (DB), Geoff J (GJ), Robin T (RT), Kathryn G (KG), Louise B (LB)

Apologies:

Ros M (RM), Sebastian B (SB), Mig B (MB), Mark W (MW), Clare H (CH), David E (DE), Dave G (DG), Tom M (TM), John Y (JY), Steve M (SMc)

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

Accepted as accurate

2. **Training course update**

Purfleet – Bronze booked for Nov. Was supposed to be apprentices but when GJ got the names there were 17 college students, there are now 2 days for each course element

Belfast Lyric – Bronze Jan

Glasgow RCS – Bonze Jan still TBC

Hong Kong – Bronze, Train the trainer, Silver Electrics and stage all TBC

Birmingham Apprentices – Bronze Dec date TBC

Welsh Apprentices – Bronze March

Manchester RNCM Bronze March TBC

Manchester Grammar School – Bronze April

There have been 107 apprentices since Jan 2019 to now with 20 more in Purfleet in Nov.

GJ will be going through the feedback forms to collate feedback across the course

PMc asked if there was feedback from trainers

RN has access issues in Warwick as students can’t go up to the grid since the refurbishment, part of the course discusses headblocks and loading galleries so it’s good to see them. Photos could be taken and shown on PowerPoint, but the fly floor is narrow anyway. If it’s possible to book the Albany it’s a better place to teach

PMcaskedhow often content is reviewed. RN said he updates & sends out to other flying tutors. GJ has recently changed his MH & HS due to changes to RIDDOR**.** GJ has also updated the ladders check list.

3. Ladder training under 18’s

Its available GJ done 2 courses outside ABTT

Some requests for ladder training from schools via GJ & ABTT would like to have an ability to ensure schools can facilitate students climbing ladders

GJ & RT have discussed how to make it acceptable for insurance companies and have come up with the ‘4 S’s’

Stature – Under 18’s may be of smaller stature and consideration must be taken

Strength – Under 18’s may not have built up the strength need to move/carry ladders/steps and so consideration must be taken

Stamina – Under 18’s may not have the stamina to continue to work over long period of time

Supervision – Under 18’s might not remember what has been taught as well as an older person so this must be constantly so reinforced.

Supervisors must think about these and write a Risk Assessment at a suitable level

RN is keen that a manager’s Job is to supervise, and supervision needs to be hammered home more

Should publicity be broken down into chunks? Who are the best people to contact – teaching unions – theatre crafts (11 Nov) the STSG

GJ to draft an idea for the Safety committee to look at

RT moved on and spoke about Andrew Miller is a UK government champion for UK disability, he is a wheelchair user and has significant leverage the 4 s’s are the start of an idea for anything for consideration need to consult individuals – what can/can’t work for individuals/teams

It’s about access in its broadest definition – max participation

What should be drafted? Who is it aimed at? Schools outside STSG? Would a leaflet be useful?

PMc & RN suggested 4 markets – B-Tec courses. Drama departments in schools. Amateur theatre. Schools annual show training

RT spoke to UK theatre and now their round up has lots of claims in it! RT had a brief discussion with them about TAP Are we asking people what training/experience a casual we has or are we presuming? Are toolbox talks happening? Much of Europe is operating with freelance staff how do employers know they have the appropriate training. Its sensible to have a system of Confirmation to give confidence

Tom is looking at new technology partner for TAP

4. Outreach

This has moved on from what RN can do and it needs to go back to the office to go through.

It was suggested that can do more than just a brochure can we look at a handout for PLASA it needs to be able to be passed onto those that are likely to commission training so short and sharp. The new website as it progresses will become the font for all material so full info can be gained from there.

5. Communication

The website has been soft launched. All members will have access and will need to generate new password.

There are feedback opportunities, please feedback welcome all thoughts & suggestions etc

A newsletter will be sent to everyone explaining they will need to log in, 2 weeks after that an auto prompt will go to those that haven’t logged in.

Can now buy sightline/back copies etc. Eventually chairpersons will be able to add committee specific information such as minutes.

There are some fantastic images thanks to partners such as The national and the stage images of real people doing the real things!

Training prospectus content will use the same images. There will be short videos of mini edits of summer school but not sure if they are up yet

It is responsive so it doesn’t matter what machine or handheld device is used.

Still proudly non commercial

Social media is always on the homepage

KG asked is there a ‘Get into theatre’ link back to web site RT had a conversation but they wanted money and so it’s gone quiet

RT Thanked Elysia for all her hard work

RT spoke of the stage debut award for new talent. It well organised event with completely new faces comparing, presenting and receiving RT was impressed it was pitched right.

6. Bronze course in undergraduate course

PMc has been polling his colleagues and found higher up were more interested than others some already do it or wouldn’t want to do it. Bronze doesn’t cover everyone or everything on all the courses. PMc said we’re doing elements from the bronze & silver already.

Looking at industry standard individual tutors need to maintain they’re up to date. Students are trained in areas but no industry standards

RM would need to have a large input due to the accreditation

PMc asked would the ABTT be interested in assessing students in their 2nd year.

RN suggested that if they failed, they could not retake they would need to take bronze course

GJ is up for it and will look at test papers for 4 units the committee represents PMc, DB, MB, RM

PMc said with no NCDT a hole has been left and needs filling

RM & PMc to have a conversation

This gives students an ABTT stamp of industry skill, must be subjecting students to the same practical skills same supportive practical

7. AOB

Safety passport

SB has sent BECTU safety passport it is a 1-day GJ looked at link and said the bronze covers way beyond this to do this in a day the MH & H&S day would need to add extra with PPE, 1st aid & fire. We have the course just not general acceptance outside the industry. The bronze was originally called passport to safety. How can we get the bronze on an equal standing?

The bronze is Industry standard to be safe on stage but actually there has been incidents that they have to leave the stage while its being built as they don’t have a construction card.

GJ said the BECTU passport only teaches how to recognises the dangers not what to do about them

To have an IOSH cert could double the cost the of bronze

The real cost is £350 for day BECTU only charge £120 as they had significant funding

Need to ask what Michael was envisaging when asking the question can the ABTT deliver this? RT to check

RN said it needs to be taken back to HSE – CDM need a ticket but not for theatre industry – this was a question he constantly asked and was reassured it would be ok - can the bronze be the ticket

SB to supply what he did to pass

Mark White needs to go back on TEC distribution with his work email

Safety committee have revised Abtech competence statements on carpentry (NOS)

Meeting closed at 15:55

2020 dates confirmed as:

Tuesday 14th January 14:00 London

Tuesday 10th March 14:00 still TBC – GJ to check clash London

Wed 10th June – ABTT Theatre Show London

Thursday 30th July (or 6th August) 14:00 ABTT Summer School Warwick

Tuesday 13th October 14:00 London