

**PLAYGOERS CLUB FOR  
WORKINGTON**

**Enthusiastic Inaugural Meeting**

There was an enthusiastic gathering of a hundred and twenty Workington people on the Council Chamber, Workington on Thursday Night to discuss the formation of a Playgoers' Club for the town. At the end of a long discussion the meeting unanimously decided to form such



Mr I. M Banner-Mendus

a club. Mr I. M. Banner-Mendus presided, and said that in spite of a population of nearly thirty thousand Workington lacked a dramatic Society of any size, while Penrith, only a quarter of the size had a society with a membership of between, five and six hundred.

Ever since he first came to Workington, he said, he had cherished the idea of starting such a society and, indeed had made two tentative attempts. The main difficulty lay in the lack of suitable premises because rooms would be required for the performance of plays both public and private and also for rehearsals. In September he had made enquiries of Messers Graves Cinemas, Ltd. about the Theatre Royal and after negotiations had been complete he had found it would be possible to take the theatre on very favourable terms. The theatre, of course, would require certain adaptations - alterations to the switchboard, provision for footlights etc. - and these would cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of £40 (2019's equivalent of £2,821.19). The temporary committee which had formed itself had already received promises of between £37 and £39, so that would cover the initial expense.

The theatre would be taken for the six winter months and the rent and rates would amount to £24 (2019's equivalent of £1,692.71). They would be allowed to open the theatre for public performances on six days a year.

It was essential that the club should be town's affair and not in anyway cliquish. The temporary committee had decided to to make a recommendation that the subscriptions should be five shillings (2019's equivalent of £17.63) per annum.

Mr W.A. Hunt, proposed that a Workington Playgoers Club be formed for the purpose of furthering drama in the town. Mr G.T.Weir seconding said such a club would be a real power of good.

Major C.A. Valentine said that the Club would not in anyway get in the way of the Workington Amateur Operatic Society. This society still lacked the wonderful help of dramatic work.

Mr H.H. White of the United Steel Co's Dramatic Society, also spoke in support of the motion.

On the motion Mr. White, seconded by Mr R.E. Hunt and supported by Major Valentine, Mr Mendus was elected President. All spoke of his splendid work as secretary of the Operatic Society.

A temporary committee was elected as follows:- Messers H.H.A. White. R.E. Hunt, R.W.Bell, S.B.Beck, F.W.Payne, H.C.Caistor, A.Barton, N.Somers, H.A. White, P.J.R. Thomas, R. Goodlands G.T.Weir., Mrs R.W.bell, Miss Z Harrison, Miss K. Hickman, Miss Johnston and Miss Sandwith.

***This review was written up by Jenni Rushton (Archivist) assisted by Sylvia Heaney from the microfiches of the Cumberland Evening Star & West Cumberland Times housed in Workington Library.***