



Hello lovely Kelvinites,

Time for another Edition of The Jester – everything you need to know about what's going on at the studio, who is doing what, and news about the exciting productions happening in 2017.

As this is our third edition now, we thought it was time to formally introduce ourselves as Roger and Lucy, your Jester editors. If you have any comments or suggestions we'd love to hear your thoughts so pop an email to jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk

That's quite enough from us now, enjoy the December-January edition of the Jester, and enjoy the festivities vastly approaching...(we can't say the 'C' word quite yet!)

Lucy and Rog

In this edition you'll find:

- Committee Changes
- Studio Report
- New members
- Brief Encounter Report
- Making Kelvin Green
- Call for Directors
- Read about Kelvin History
- Call for Creatives
- D is for Digital and Development
- The Beaux' Stratagem
- Chatting to Sue Stobbs
- Kelvin Diary





Kelvin's Committee Changes

Robin Turner stood down as chair after two years (this time) in the role. I would like to extend my thanks to Robin for all his hard work over the last couple of years. I was honoured to be elected as Chair in his place (chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk).

Other Committee changes include:

- Peter Spence (replacing Lizzie Nicholson) as Secretary: (secretary@kelvinplayers.co.uk)
- Fran Lewis succeeding Josh Cooper as Artistic Director whilst Josh focusses on his new play: (artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk)
- Roger Shutt replaces me as Company Stage Manager: (<u>stage@kelvinplayers.co.uk</u>)
- Rachael Lane has stepped up to take on Membership Development Officer in place of Anna Wills: (membershipdevelopment@kelvinplayers.co.uk)
- Alex Needham has been elected to committee as the Members' Representative as Rachael has moved role: (MembersRep@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

Unchanged Committee Roles remain as:

- Treasurer: Denise Jones (<u>treasurer@kelvinplayers.co.uk</u>)
- Marketing Manager: Craig Malpass (<u>marketing@kelvinplayers.co.uk</u>)
- Premises Manager: Dean Bentley-Hawkins (premises@kelvinplayers.co.uk)

There have been changes to Non-Committee Roles as well:

- Chrissy Fryers has taken on the Wardrobe Manager with Mary McCallum as Jacqs has now stood down.
- Pat Needham has agreed to be Kelvin Librarian, taking on the role which has been vacant since Christopher Warren undertook great feats cataloguing everything some 4 years ago. (library@kelvinplayers.co.uk)
- Lesley Small has now offered to look into the development of 'The Friends of Kelvin' (rather than 'Patrons') to investigate how Friends can be won and rewarded!

Details of unchanged non-committee roles are on the Members' website.

I would take this opportunity again to thank all those who have undertaken sterling work on behalf on the club over the last 12 months and to wish them well over the next. Welcome to all those taking on new responsibilities.

Awards

Congratulations to all the following members who won various awards at the AGM. The following Awards were presented:

- 1. The Member of the Year 2015/16 Catherine Alcock
- 2. The June Wilson Cup for the Best Cameo of the Year Lizzie Nicholson for Dancer in Cardenio
- 3. The Milton Johns Award for Best Acting Performance Sam Grayston for Danny in Orphans
- 4. The Higson Award for Best Female Acting Performance Rosie Collins for Rose in Di & Viv & Rose
- 5. The Kelvin Award for Best Director Jacqs Graham for Di & Viv & Rose
- 6. The Vice Presidents' Cup for Best Supporting Acting Performance Rick Procter for Laurence Moss in *Abigail's Party*
- 7. The Harrison Award for Technical Achievement John Cousins and Neil Bonnett for Set and Multi-Media Di & Viv & Rose
- 8. The Tim Stevens Award for Rehearsed Reading of the Year Anna Marshall for Lost Property

Surprise!

In addition Honorary Lifetime Membership was awarded to Susan Howe and Denise Jones for their unstinting work for the club over many, many years.

Congratulations all.

Jonny Wilkinson Chair chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Roger Shutt Company Stage Manager

Email: stage@kelvinplayers.co.uk



Autumn moves into winter and as one production closes the next begins to bubble towards opening night. The studio work rate is amazing as, once again, the décor becomes a blank canvas and the set designers offer the construction team their next challenge.

Construction work on the set of 'A Christmas Carol' is now nearing completion and we are confident it will meet the exacting standards of the set designer Bronwen Grover. A short breathing space and then it will be all go for the February offering of 'Dinner' by Moira Buffini (Dir Tessa Garrett).

Help for set construction is **ALWAYS** needed and obviously much appreciated. We meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to paint and build stuff. If you're interested in lending a hand, please call or text either me on 07758 267554 or Jonny on 07905 461013. Remember, you don't necessarily need to commit to both nights, nor every week, but you will be guaranteed good fun – and a mention in the production programme!

The sign boards on the Gloucester Road have now been upgraded and re-positioned and will also have (if not done already) some solar powered lighting – timely for the winter season – so the public can see the Kelvin offerings 24/7. Also we will have (again if not already have) 'parking' racks for another two cycles.

Draft plans for development of the Wesley Road entrance have been put before Bristol City Council and agreement in principal obtained that the development is acceptable and in keeping with the surrounding area. Read more about this in Jonny's piece later on.

I've said it before, when you're a very regular user of the building, you tend to accept, or simply not notice the little broken things around the place. It may take a while but if there's anything you've noticed which bugs you, let me know and we'll do what we can to fix it.

New Kelvinites

Mandi Previous Membership Person

Kate Dexter-Reed

Kate has joined Kelvin to give herself 'work/play' balance and to learn new skills. She has past acting and singing experience and is also interested in writing and producing. She would also like to help out with casting and directing. She has a practical mind and a 'can do' attitude.

Alan Winter

Alan lives locally and he would like to be involved and help in any way he can. He is in two choirs as a tenor. Thirty years ago he was an extra on stage in 'Great Expectations'! He is interested in learning more about play writing. He is enthusiastic with a dry sense of humour – perfect!

Merlin Goldman

Merlin has experience in stage management, producing and writing and has attended courses on directing and improv. He is practical and organised. He is interesting in learning more about set design and assistant directing.

Nathan Richards

Nathan has joined Kelvin to be able to get involved in all aspects of the Club. He was a member of the Bristol Old Vic Young Company when he was eighteen. After leaving College he started a theatre company called 'Utterly Yes!' and performed at the Alma Tavern. He has some experience in marketing, lighting and set design.

Brief Encounter Report:

'Outstanding teamwork'

These two words from the Rosebowl critique of Brief Encounter sum up my feelings about our October production.

The nature of the piece meant that there were several aspects of production that had to be drawn together into the final onstage presentation. As well as acting there was singing, choreography, filming and multimedia production as well as the more usual areas of set, props, sound and lighting design and wardrobe, hair styling and make-up. This involved a team of people who had to work not just within their own field but also with each other, the producer and director. The teamwork and commitment I experienced while rehearsing this show both from the actors and creative and production teams was exceptional and made me proud, once more, to be part of a group that can work together without discord or displays of 'ego' to produce a pretty good show.

This teamwork continued into the week of the show when the backstage and stage management team and the front of house and bar teams also worked together to give our sell-out audiences as good an experience as we can possibly produce.

The Actors - Weren't they great? Each and every one them was outstanding. I am particularly grateful to the four 'ensemble' players for their versatility and for providing us with some of the slickest and most entertaining scene changes seen in Kelvin.

Adam, Nicola, Jacqs, Dean, Becky, Josh, Sam, Lizzie, Pat, Rick and Robbie...and not forgetting the incredible Nipper Lewis who played the ukulele and led the audience in song at the beginning and end of every performance. What fun! Doowap, doowap, doowap,,

Thank you so much. You were all fabulous!

The Creatives - For bringing together all the aspects mentioned before and creating a great set, costumes and effects,

Jonny, Richard N, Bronwen and Rosie C, Teri, Owen and Neil, Martin, Jeanette and Chrissy, Avanti, Kate, Susan and Ellie.

Thank you so much for all your talents.

The Backstagers - For ensuring the show ran seamlessly all week.

Tim, Anna B and Sam, Rosie I and Peter.

Thank you for your dedication and concentration.

The Publicity and Front of Housers - The unsung heroes who sell the show and keep the audiences happy and comfortable.

Craig, Anna M, Dom and Sam G, Mike and team, Bill and team, Sue and team.

Thank you for performing the thankless tasks with good humour and grace.

And finally, my production and directing team, without whose support and creative skills this show would have been much poorer.

Teri Mohiuddin, Production Manager Sam Skelton, Assistant Director

Peter Spence, Music Producer Lizzie Nicholson, Choreographer

Thank you all so much. You were amazing.

Mary McCallum (Director)



Making Kelvin Green

One of the things I want to focus on during my time as Chair is to make Kelvin Players an overtly 'green' company. Being sustainable isn't just about wind-turbines or doing the recycling occasionally, it's about doing the right thing; it's about integrity; helping to save the planet; providing habitats for wildlife; raising awareness – being good citizens.

In Bishopston, we're centred in a community which, to a large degree, wants to do the right thing. I'd like Kelvin Players to be transformed into a model of sustainability and a beacon of good practice on a budget. Of course, going the whole hog (or the whole falafel if you're veggie) can be very expensive. We have enough on our plate at the moment, with the new extension development in planning. However, we can make a start.

There are little wins we can achieve by spending little or no money. We're already doing some good stuff e.g.:

- Practically all our stage sets are built from recycled flattage, reused from show-to-show;
- Our new lighting in the Morris Room saves a considerable amount of energy compared to the previous array of traditional light bulbs;
- We do recycle (mostly) although we could be more diligent;
- Bill requested an instant hot-water dispenser for the bar which 'boils' the amount of water you need rather than a full kettle (or worse, the Burco Boiler) each time you make a cuppa. It was a nominal spend;
- We have replaced the windows throughout with double-glazing;
- I've ordered a couple more (free) cycle racks for securing bikes;
- The planned new extension is being ethically constructed including a green, sedum roof.

First off, we could go for the quick wins. Sustainable Power - We are now in the process of switching our energy provider from nuclear giant EDF to Good Energy, which generates and sells ALL its energy from renewable sources.

Divestment - Our current bank, Lloyds, invests in fossil fuels, nuclear energy, arms dealing etc. Bristol is home to Triodos Bank a 100% ethical bank. If we can show them we are and are working towards being increasingly sustainable, we could move our banking to them. They offer both deposit and current account facilities (online). Their Charity Current Account gives charities an ethical way to manage their day-to-day finances. The account provides the practicality and flexibility of a current account to manage day-to-day banking and at the same time not compromising values.

Other low cost improvements we could make include:

 We can move our Jester distribution to online/email by default and only by exception, print copies to mail out. Printing/Mailing costs a small fortune every couple of months – for something that will be read (or maybe not) and discarded in most cases. We will be moving to an Opt-In system rather than Opt-Out – more on this elsewhere.





- Sustainable renewable whenever we need to acquire or replace anything, find the best sustainable option e.g.: when a light blows, replace it with a LED – low energy and longer lasting;
- Make sure we recycle ALL our waste. I've ordered a new (additional) mixed dry recycling 'skip', so we can recycle everything we can, bottle, and card/paper;
- Collect and harvest rainwater (initially in water butts). This could be developed so that in due course we could harvest rainwater to flush toilets:
- PIR light switches in each WC and backstore;
- Replacing the gravel on our frontage with wild-flowers providing seed and habitat;
- Solar spotlights to shine on our posters.

There are many bigger ideas I would like us to investigate including:

Installing solar panels on our huge south-facing roof, so we become a generator of electricity providing our own day-time needs and perhaps others locally (maybe as a Bishopston Cooperative);

Create a green wall to the front (at least) of our building which is eye-catching, promotes sustainability, provides insulation and noise reduction, increases biodiversity and shelter for wildlife, reduces cost and protects the façade.

Becoming sustainable provides a reduction of ongoing costs which releases money for other core objectives: an example is that the RNLI got pushback from supporters moaning about money being spent on buildings - not saving lives. With the money saved by having sustainable, lower-costing buildings, they have managed to buy 10 new lifeboats – investors are now on board.

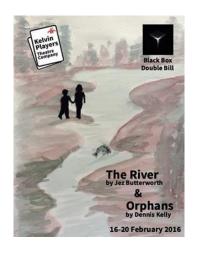
I know there's some enthusiasm in the club for sustainable initiatives. I don't want to have to do this on my own. I'd appreciate the support of the club generally and the extra support of an additional one or two who would like to help look into other greening options and costs. If you're interested in helping, let me know. If you strongly object to this course of action tell me why. I don't want us to be an organisation that does sustainability — I want us to be a sustainable organisation.

If anyone is really keen to get involved or simply wants to make a suggestion, please get in touch with me.

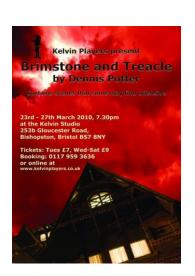
Jonny Wilkinson Chair chair@kelvinplayers.co.uk

Hey Directors!









Do you know what? Preparations are already well underway for the first production of Kelvin's 2017 season – that's the papercut-sharp black comedy *Dinner* by Moira Buffini, on in February, it's going to be awesome, by the way – and before long, that'll be over, and everyone will be anticipating the next fantastic show instead.

If you think I'm getting ahead of myself, then you're right. And in fact, I'm thinking *so* far ahead, I'm already wondering what marvels await us in the 2018 season. Which is where *you*, dear directors, come in! Yes, that's right – we can't have a season unless some brave souls come forward and propose the *heck* out of those theatrical masterpieces that they've always wanted to direct...

So, is that you? Are you a director? Have you got an itch to scratch? By which I mean, is there a play you'd love to direct for Kelvin? Please don't send me any pictures of worrying rashes. Just go to the doctor. And then propose a play for the 2018 season!

Are you a *new* director? Then please remember, if you have never directed a main show for Kelvin before, you must:

- Have directed at least one rehearsed reading
- Have performed a significant production role

If that is you and you have already fulfilled the above criteria (hooray!), then your first full directing role must be a Black Box Production. A BBP uses the black curtains in the studio and has minimal set, props and costume. It is a step up from a rehearsed reading, but not quite a full-on, guns blazing, jazz hands main production. For more information on BBPs, please speak to a member of the Artistic Proposal Committee (the APC) or the General Committee.

You can propose as many plays as you like – honestly, it's fine, the APC *love* reading plays, that's why they're on the APC – and it really helps to give us lots of lovely information on your proposal form, too. Oh, and if you submit it with an electronic version of the script then we will ADORE YOU FOREVER. If you only have hard copies, that's perfectly acceptable as well, we will just adore you for a very long time instead.

Whether you're a newbie or an old hand at this directing stuff, if there's a lovely shiny play (or two, or three...) that you want to direct, then you must fill in a proposal form (for EACH play) and submit it to the APC for consideration. Forms can be found on the members' page of the Kelvin website, along with the answers to any niggling questions you may have. The deadline for proposals is 1st May 2017.

Have I mentioned that we'd like some proposals for the 2018 season yet? I have? Great!



Particularly for the information of new members, there are still some copies of the Kelvin History books available to purchase at a cost of £5 each.

Volume I covers the years from 1929 to 2004, from the first production through to the 75th anniversary production of Nicholas Nickleby, Parts I and II.

Volume II describes how Kelvin progressed over the next ten years from 2005 to 2014, featuring many who are still members today.

Each volume lists plays staged and awards garnered along the way. Each deals with Kelvin fortunes in a non-censorious way with many anecdotes, including the Kelvin couple who eloped to Gretna Green to get married.

For your copy, please contact the Author – Richard Jones, Richden@btinternet.com

Creative folk: In case you missed the call-out in the Digest, we need your help!

Are you one of those creative people who like drawing and painting and suchlike?

Do you fancy seeing one of your designs on a 2m tall banner hanging from a lamppost on Gloucester Road?

Then why don't you have a go at creating an image which represents the Kelvin Players, that can be used as a banner design, and will be eye-catching, vivid and memorable?

The Gloucester Rd Art Banners is a project created by Glos Rd Central to celebrate and promote businesses and organisations that line our fantastic independent high street. The banners will adorn lampposts from up near the Wellington pub, all the way down to Colston's Girls' School. Glos Rd Central is asking for submissions from local companies, and as the only theatre company based on Gloucester Rd, we'd have a pretty good chance of claiming one of those lampposts!

It's a great opportunity to spread the word about our brilliant company, as well as, strengthen our links within the community.

We'd love to see what designs you'd create – you have until the 1st February 2017 to submit an image to the committee for consideration. Remember, these banners will be hanging from lampposts so the images need to be bold.

For more details and example images, check out www.glosrdcentral.co.uk

Fran Lewis
Artistic Director
artisticdirector@kelvinplayers.co.uk



is for 'digital'...

As part of our drive towards becoming a more sustainable company we need to stop printing and mailing out copies of *The Jester* unnecessarily.

Until now, we have asked that if you'd rather receive a digital copy, you could 'opt out' of receiving a paper copy. A goodly number of you have done so but it seems we're still printing and posting around 80 copies of each edition which is an enormous number for the 21st century. It costs £50 (plus postage of another £40) six times a year which amounts to over £500 per year. If we consider that the paper alone amounts to nearly 3,000 pages (double sided) or six reams, which are read once and recycled (or simply thrown away) that's 15kg of waste. On top of that you have the envelopes – another 2.4kg. That's equivalent to the weight of 120 Fairtrade bananas!

It has been decided therefore that, from the next (February-March 2017) edition, we're going to send *The Jester* by email only unless you **Opt In** to receive a paper, posted copy. Opting in implies that you don't have access to or are unused to using email. That's fine. All you have to do is let us know you'd prefer to receive a paper copy and we'll continue to send it. Please just drop us a note or a postcard confirming your postal address and we'll keep sending it.

Send to:

Jester Mailing List Kelvin Players, 253b Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8NY

...and for 'development'

We're planning on developing the studio! Where there is currently a car parking space and an additional space, we're hoping to build an extension as a super-cool new patrons' entrance to the studio and providing nice new box office facilities (rather than force our lovely box office ladies (sorry) to sit with coat on in the draughty corridor. The Wesley Road wall along the pavement will be 'shortened' to allow a loading space outside (where the waste bin is now.

In line with my vision of us becoming a more sustainable company, the new building (which is being designed by former Kelvin Member – Nico Smyth (Hot House, James & the Giant Peach) will be of sustainable construction, with a sedum roof. That will of course necessitate the replacement/securing of the present Morris Room balcony door. Additional works could include the installation of two new WCs by the back-store and completion of laying and installing a new mains water supply from Gloucester Road. The extension draft plan has already been submitted to pre-planning and they don't envisage any problem.

Full detailed plans are being drawn up at present, to submit for full planning permission. If we decide to go full steam ahead, we'll need to raise some money to pay for it all. Robin will be coordinating fund raising (once Christmas Carol is done and dusted).

THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM

A Comedy by George Farquhar

It is the early 1700s. We are in Lichfield, Staffordshire. The action takes place in a local Inn and the house of Lady Bountiful.

At the Inn, two beaux, Archer and Aimwell, down to their last pennies and fleeing the fleshpots of London, plot to recoup the money they have lost by winning the hand of any wealthy and available woman. Their stratagem requires Aimwell to pretend to be a lord and Archer his servant. Whilst there, they meet a variety of disreputable characters.

Highwaymen plot crimes, the Innkeeper attempts to corrupt his daughter, we encounter a French priest with a rather dubious accent. A French Count however, a prisoner of war, has designs on Lady Bountiful's daughter in law. Money is stolen. Drunkenness encouraged.

In contrast, Lady Bountiful's House is dominated by love, charity and concern for others. The sick are made well and the wicked converted to virtue. By coincidence, Lady Bountiful's daughter and daughter in law are desperately seeking eligible men: one to seek happiness in marriage and the other to seek happiness in escaping from an unhappy marriage. Plots and counter plots abound

The Director, Martin Walsh and Production Manager, Geoff Collard, are looking for any of you who are interested in supporting this production in the following roles:

- Stage Management
- Costumes (18th Century)
- Make-up/Hair/Wigs
- Sound
- Properties/Weaponry
- Movement/Choreography
- Fight Direction
- Singing Coach

For Information about what would be involved please go to the Production pages of the Kelvin website, and if you are interested in taking part please contact Geoff on 07709 948901 or geoffrey.collard@btinternet.com



Performance dates:

25th-29th April 2017

Here are some dates and times details for those of you interested in taking a part:

READ THROUGH:

Thursday 15th December at 7:15pm

AUDITIONS:

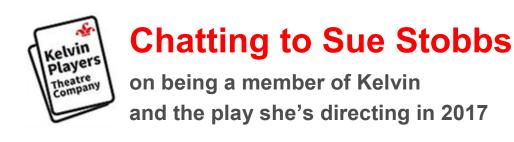
Thursday 5th and Sunday 8th January, both at 7:15pm

All of the above will be in the Morris Room.

Rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with some Sunday from the end of February.

If you have any queries regarding the production, please email me at: martin_s_walsh60@btinternet.com

Martin Walsh (Director)





How many years have you been a member with Kelvin, and why did you first get involved?

I joined the club in 1992 after watching a great production of "The Entertainer" so I can safely say that I have been an active member for over 24 years. I used to be a stage manager for the Bristol Musical Comedy Club so I already knew people like John Cousins, Christine West, Mary McCallum, to name a few. I felt that whilst I enjoyed stage management I wanted to get involved on the acting side and Kelvin at that time seemed the ideal choice for me to get involved with, especially as they had recently moved from Somerset Street, where I used to visit and attend quite a few of their social functions.

Which Kelvin production has been the most memorable for you and why?

For me it has to be the production of "Tom Jones" in 1996 directed by John Cousins. I learned so much during this production and had so much fun. It is memorable in many ways but most of all I was nominated for a best supporting actress Rose Bowl award which I went on to win (to my great surprise I might add!) and was presented to me at the Bristol Council House.

You're directing the last Kelvin production of 2017 - 'On Golden Pond' - what was it about this play which made you want to put it on at Kelvin?

I love the charm and simplicity of this play. It is a drama which emphasises the stages which people of various ages endure. I think the play prompted personal reactions for me as I imagine it will do with the audience and the text in the play is based on accepting the fact of age, family and dying. It is a very powerful and moving story that is told and I completely resonate with this.

What are you looking forward to doing In the rehearsal process for this play?

Exploring the physical, cognitive changes that is happening to both of the main characters Norman and Ethel Thayer and also having the chance to direct a teenager as this is something I have not done before.

Any advice for budding directors among the members?

I think that new directors should have a good all round experience on working on a production. If you are techie type then have a go at getting cast in a production and experience how it feels to be directed. If you already go on stage then try having a go at something backstage. This will help give you that all round experience that is really useful when it comes to understanding how a production is put together.

I asked Sue if she wanted Kelvin Members to know anything else about the production, she replied:

I really hope the play causes a lot of interest for the members both in a technical or acting role. I am really pleased to be able to offer two very good parts for the older members of Kelvin to have a go at. I feel this will really appeal to the community and will sell well at the box office.

Wasn't that a great read? Want to know about a members' favourite production or have a story to tell? Let your editors know at jester@kelvinplayers.co.uk



Kelvin Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2016

30th November

to 10th December Performances of 'A Christmas Carol' The Studio Theatre

(except Sunday 4th, Monday 5th Tuesday 6th)

15th The Beaux' Stratagem Read Through The Morris Room

Management Committee Harrison Room

JANUARY 2017

5th (Thursday) The Beaux' Stratagem Auditions The Morris Room 8th (Sunday) The Beaux' Stratagem Auditions The Morris Room 17th (Tuesday) The Beaux' Stratagem Call Backs (if needed) The Morris Room

February 2017

1st Closing date for submissions for Kelvin Players Banner Designs

(see Members' Website)

4th Rehearsed Readings *Launch Night* The Studio

14th to 18th Performances of 'Dinner' by Moira Buffini (Dir Tessa Garrett) The Studio Theatre

MARCH 2017

4th Rehearsed Readings Performances The Studio Theatre

APRIL 2017

1st Rehearsed Readings Performances The Studio Theatre

25th to 29th Performances of 'The Beaux' Stratagem' The Studio Theatre

By George Farguhar (Dir Martin Walsh)

MAY 2017

13th Rehearsed Readings Performances The Studio Theatre

JUNE 2017

17th Rehearsed Readings Performances The Studio Theatre

..... and finally can we send our best wishes to some Kelvinites 'Tying The Knot'

Congratulations to our very own Rachael Lane and Rick Procter (and thanks for that great party)



Congratulations to Mr Andy Payne who married Major Jen Rathbone at Chipping Sodbury on 4th November. We hope they enjoy many years of happiness together. I'm sure they will if Jen says so! It seems Andy's new wife is a Major Payne!