

# noda

SERVING AMATEUR THEATRE SINCE 1899

## CHELTENHAM OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

**'See How They Run', by Philip King      The Playhouse. Sept 2008**

**Director: Mike Barwick**

In order for a farce (or any comedy for that matter) to work, the actors have to convey to the audience that they truly believe it is happening. If they don't, it can easily slip into the realms of pantomime. This talented cast, under the experienced direction of MIKE BARWICK, pulled it off with pace and realism. The director utilised the set well, and developed the comedy moments to the full. The set, also designed and constructed by MIKE BARWICK, was every inch the village vicarage. I have seen many of Mike's sets, and his attention to detail always shines through (even down to the mouse hole with set trap in the skirting board). It was suitably dressed for the period with the correct props, including the right magazines in the rack. The costumes were well thought out and in style for the times, even the Vicar's underwear! However, I did think the various 'dog collars' could have been at least starched, as they did look a little limp. The hairstyles were also well representative of the 40's. There were some excellent characterisations throughout. PAULINE BLACKBURN (Penelope Toop) gave a beautifully believable performance, and was perfectly complimented by MATTHEW CRUMPTON's expressive Reverend Lionel Toop. LYNSEY MACDONALD was perfect as the housekeeper with attitude, and MARGO THOMPSON gave a well controlled performance as Miss Skillon. The remainder of the cast were well polished and had good comic timing, although I did think the Police Sergeant was a bit too 'Keystone Cops' for my liking. Generally, congratulations to C.O.D.S. on an excellent evening's entertainment, and I'm sure 'they ran' successfully for the remainder of the week.

Malcolm White  
Regional Representative - Area 15  
NODA

*kindest regards,  
 Malcolm*

**National Operatic and Dramatic Association**

Patron: The Lord Lloyd-Webber

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