

DSWA NORTH WALES BRANCH AGM 2014

Foelas Arms, Pentrefoelas 11th November 2014

Present: Sean Adcock Craig Evans, Alaw Jones Iolo Jones, Paul Smyth

In attendance: Ray Guthrie, Tim Roberts

Apologies: Colin Brown, Peter Jarvis, David Beasley

The Meeting Commenced at 8.05pm

1. To Approve Minutes of 2013 AGM

Craig Proposed Sean seconded there being no objections the minutes of the 2013 AGM were passed as a true record

2. Chairman/secretaries report

Only 1 out of 4 taster days went ahead (5 trainees), and both weekend courses were cancelled. Despite a number of online enquiries there were very few bookings, some of these subsequently cancelled and numbers were too low to make the courses viable. We do not know if anything much appeared in the press as no-one sent us any clippings. It is hoped that the drop off was more due to cyclical nature that we have seen in past, although we should make more effort to publicise next year. Without our training role the very future of the Branch must be questionable

Once again we ran a weekend course for the Snowdonia Society at Pensychnant with 8 attendees. It remains a shame that after 3 years of these courses the trainees have shown little interest in following up their experiences through the branch.

The Cheshire Branch visited Blaen y Nant again. 5 hardy souls turned up, inclement weather meant we were unable to continue repairing the milking pen, instead a gap in the competition wall was repaired. Hopefully we'll finish the pen next year.

No editions of Stonechat were produced during the year. On line 21 remains the most popular but only previewed 21 times downloaded 9; Editions 24 and 25 were uploaded late in 2012-13 year these had increased by 15/8 and 13/10 previews/downloads each. This is very disappointing. Did not upload 26+ copies to give some notional value to payments made by subscribers/supporters. Copies 1-5 have now been scanned and .pdfs are available but not publicised/uploaded as they are images only and so have no text to be recognised by search engines. This would be a future amendment.

The website, as was the case last year, remains a beacon. There had been only minor maintenance on no significant updates, and sadly a lack of information from South Wales. Despite this it received 6095 visitors in year almost 75% up on 2012/13 peaking at nearly 800 in May. There had been a slight decline since but in the two months since the year end it had still received 850 visits

There had been only one talk in addition to the Stonechat presentation given in Santa Fe, in October 2013 (and mentioned in last years report) which was a given to South Wales Branch meeting in July.

3. Treasurers Report

In the absence of Colin Sean presented accounts, explained the nature of donations, and highlighted and explained the difference in years for income expenditure on training.

There were no additional questions from the floor.

Craig proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Iolo. There being no objections the accounts were accepted.

4. Election of Officers

There was a brief discussion of Committee posts prior to voting, all three officers were willing to stand for another year but the Branch did need to progress as we were doing little beyond training it was a problem if that too failed. No one else present was interested in standing for election and there were no suggestions as to who else could be approached in future

In a departure from normal procedure Craig proposed that the committee be nominated en bloc this was seconded by Alaw and agreed unanimously.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Colin had approached Banwell Accountancy Penmaenmawr, and they had audited the 2014 accounts.

There were questions as to whether there would be a cost in future and if this was the case the situation would need reviewing. However in the absence of Colin, would review committee would need to review the situation.

Sean Proposed that Banwell Accountancy be appointed for 2015, this was seconded by Craig. There being no objections they are duly appointed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Membership fees

Sean explained that given the demise of Stonechat and Branch activities he had not pursued members for subs in 2014. A brief discussion of timing and rates took place, noting that DSWA of GB were increasing fees and reverting to a January-December membership. It was decided that the Branch should charge for 2015, but to reduce this to £10 but to leave the year at April-March as this worked better for renewals and reminders away from Christmas period.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 8.48pm