



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FOELAS ARMS PENTREFOELAS
WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015.

Meeting began at 8pm

Present: Sean Adcock, Colin Brown Ray Guthrie, Alaw Jones, Richard Jones, Paul Smyth
In attendance: Nick Perrin

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Peter Beasley, Craig Evans, Iolo Jones, Dr Peter Jarvis.

2. Minutes of 2014 AGM

There being no amendments the minutes were passed as submitted
Proposed: Richard Jones Seconded: Ray Guthrie

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again we concentrated our activities on training with somewhat more success than in 2014, for no obvious reasons as significant publicity was more or less limited to one Daily Post article. We ran 3 taster days attended by 13 people, and both weekend courses were full. In addition we ran another weekend course for the Snowdonia Society, 6 trainees in total attending. A total of 24 trainees attended completing 49 trainee days (plus 3 practicing). Only 2 people took advantage of the DSWA voucher scheme. This has been extended to run until the end of July 2016, and the committee have drawn up a training programme earlier than normal to reflect this and accommodate Christmas gift enquiries.

7 participants attended both a taster and a weekend course entitling them to free membership for 2016, in recent years no-one entitled to this offer has attended any subsequent training events (free) or renewed after a year. This is something we need to address for the year(s) ahead. Kevin Chilvers has left the area for pastures new and so we are a trainer down and somewhat stretched going forward and consequently are looking for additional members to attend the DSWA Trainers course.

Membership is currently not really viable with only 10 renewals plus 3 supporters. Stonechat is still in abeyance, but work has started on producing a special edition to coincide with the 2016 DSWA of GB AGM/membership weekend which the Branch will be hosting in March.

As usual the Cheshire Branch visited Blaen y Nant and we managed to complete the milking pen. This has been a very worthwhile project but it remains a huge disappointment that over the 4 years the project ran other than myself no branch members were involved. It is not clear if there will be a new project next year this will depend on finding a new site and the enthusiasm of the Cheshire Branch..

For the period 1st November 2014-31st October 2015 the Welsh Branch's website received 6784 visitors around 10% up on 2013/14 modest compared to the previous year's gain but still a good increase on a solid base. The site has been regularly updated through the year to reflect news and events, with some re-working of the index/content to de-clutter pages and aid navigation. The lack of a Welsh translation and now outdated Welsh content is becoming a serious concern.

There had been one talk/meeting held at Pensychnant attended by 3 members 10 non-members. One additional talk at Wein und Stein a training event in Austria.

Sean noted that the report should be August to August to follow the annual accounting basis, whilst many of the figures related to calendar years or AGM-AGM basis.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

Colin reported on the previously circulated figures.

There was a surplus on the year, the training discrepancy due to the accounting period, change in dates will even out also if Sean marries annual report with finance period. The notable drop in secretarial expenses was due to the absence of "Stonechat".

Current as at 25.11: £2774.18 in bank with around £400 so just over £3000 available

Acceptance of the accounts were proposed by Sean Adcock and seconded by Ray Guthrie. There being no objections this was carried.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There having been no prior nominations and none from the floor, Richard Jones proposed that the current committee be re-elected, seconded by Ray Guthrie. This was unanimously agreed.

There was a brief discussion vis a lack of Welsh speakers on the committee, especially with regard to an address/welcome at the DSWA members weekend. Richard felt that of current members Alan Jones would be better than himself. Sean said that Brenda had performed a similar role at the Wein and Stein event. It was generally felt that she would be a good choice if willing to accept the role.

6. Appointment of Independent Inspector/Auditor for the Annual Accounts

Colin had spoken to Steve Banwell of Banwell accountancy Penmaenmawr, and he was happy to carry out the role again

Colin Banwell proposed by Colin Brown, seconded by Sean Adcock. Elected without objection

7. DSWA of GB AGM/members weekend 2016

Sean outlined details as had been included in Ar y Wal (mailed with agenda)

There was an in depth discussion of the possibility of the Branch subsidising accommodation for Welsh members. It was agreed that as this was in conjunction with guided walks and would facilitate cross branch relations/co-operation it was part of our charitable remit. There was considerable discussion of whether any charge should be made, Ray suggested a nominal £5/night fee might prevent all and sundry just booking. If numbers were not sufficient then the booking should not go ahead would it make a difference.

It was unanimously agreed that the Branch should subsidise the accommodation to an amount at Sean's discretion with a £5/night fee applied,

8. MEMBERSHIP

There had been an overdue renewal reminders with AGM papers, but very few past members had actually renewed. There was some discussion of changing year again, abandoning subs, or sending out further reminders. Generally it was felt that the situation and fees should be left unchanged, with new reminders sent out with the proposed DSWA Members weekend Stonechat.

There was also a discussion on the training membership package as this would potentially cost the Branch over £250 this year and in recent years no one had actively taken up membership or subsequently renewed. Sean proposed changing the format immediately and sending out a form which required those offered the membership to actually take it up rather than just be given it. This was agreed as a sensible idea.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the meeting was concluded at 21.04 p.m.

The meeting was followed by a short slide presentation from Sean outlining the content of his last talk and potential future talks