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DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOELAS ARMS PENTREFOELAS 7TH NOVEMBER 2012. 7.30PM

PRESENT : Sean Adcock, Colin Brown, Craig Evans, Geraint Evans, Ray Guthrie,
Paul Smyth, Alaw Jones, Dr Peter Jarvis,
IN ATTENDANCE: David Beasley, Nick Perrin

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Lou Bibby

2 MINUTES OF 2011 AGM

Acceptance of the minutes of the 2011 AGM was proposed by Geraint Evans and Seconded by Craig Evans, there being no objections the minutes were passed as an accurate record.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Geraint apologised for lack of activity due to personal circumstances. He noted the lack of membership at present. He also outlined his own work with Coleg Harlech. He now has an email address which should help with communications in the coming year

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Colin reported there was an error with creditors and accruals and circulated a revised version. The difference being a closing balance for 2012 (Opening balance +/- surplus/deficit) now showing 2586.68 (3787.52 - 1200.84) as opposed to 3001.68

The year had run at a deficit of £785.84, but we were not in the business of making money. The committee had established a reserve policy of £1200 and were working towards reducing our balance to this. We had received a smaller grant because of less training. And the new booklets were a major expenditure of £6000 with £5230 back. Sean pointed out that this counted for most of the deficit, and 'normal' operations had therefore more or less broken even.

Colin noted that as of 6th November we had £2745.83 in bank plus £218.83 cash with £146 to be banked. We had however brought an event trailer, and expecting substantial expenditure ahead as we were looking to translate leaflets.

Acceptance of the amended accounts was proposed by Peter Jarvis along with a vote of thanks for his work over the last year. Seconded by Craig Evans.

There being no objections the accounts were adopted.

5. SECRETARIES REPORT

Sean had previously circulated a written report with the AGM papers. He updated the membership figures, 4 new members (+1 on report – Barry Roberts) 14 had renewed (+5).. He noted that the website had had 349 visits in October and 90 in the first week of November. Stonechat 23 had been uploaded (3 downloads/9 views) with revised figures for Aug/Aug for 36/131 of no22 and 196/68 for 21. Supporters had risen to 13 renewals, and 5 new with 12 yet to renew. 3 of the branches had renewed (2 having renewed at 10 level from 5).

Sean invited questions from the report, there were none. He outlined the main aspects of Stonework and Codi Cloddiau, and plans for translation of future translations and reported that the DSWA Trustees had agreed to a welsh language CCS leaflet (to be funded by Gareth Fund & S Wales Branch) and a revised reprint of the Clawdd Specification leaflet to be funded primarily by NMWTRA plus the Branches, DSWA would be contributing £100 towards the cost of a central supply. There was some discussion of distribution of the leaflets. Peter Jarvis felt there should be a charge for them, something the committee should revisit. Peter Jarvis took a number of copies to 'tout' around, particularly within the Ffestiniog railway Shop.

6. DISCUSSION OF THE WAY AHEAD

It was generally felt that the programme as it stood is good. It was noted that getting people on training courses /tasters seemed to be becoming more of a problem and that we should look for more ways of training and getting more groups involved. Advertising was discussed, but it was difficult to identify a target audience and cost effective/realistic placement. Need to revamp our overall approach.

Membership remains problem, it was difficult to see what incentive there was for professionals to join and amateurs seemed disinterested it was difficult to see what we could offer beyond the current discounts, free practice and stonechat etc.

Ray raised the possibility of presence at more shows. Sean pointed out that not only would we need suitable events to be identified we would need greater commitment from the membership not only in terms of helping on the day but in organising in advance. If members came to the branch wanting support the committee would organise it, but was overstretched in terms of being proactive in this area. It was noted that the Anglesey show had been identified as a key event for our presence and the committee would try to advance this. Ray offered to help if we did.

Craig Evans mooted the possibility that there was little point in the Branch continuing with such a lack of support.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman: Geraint Evans

Proposed by Sean Adcock Seconded by Ray Guthrie

There being no other nominations Geraint Evans was duly elected.

Vice Chairman:

Iolo Jones had not renewed his branch membership and there being no interested parties this position was left vacant.

Treasurer: Colin Brown

Proposed by Craig Evans Seconded by Geraint Evans

There being no other nominations Geraint Evans was duly elected.

Secretary: Sean Adcock

Proposed by Craig Evans Seconded by Colin Brown

There being no other nominations Sean Adcock was duly elected.

Training Officer: Paul Brown

Proposed by Sean Adcock Seconded by Colin Brown

There being no other nominations Paul Brown was duly elected.

NE Representative: Craig Evans

Proposed by Geraint Evans Seconded by Sean Adcock

There being no other nominations Craig Evans was duly elected.

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

This had been overlooked following last years AGM craig apologised for this, and said he would treat it as a matter of urgency.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alaw Jones suggested the Branch should issue Membership cards Alaw there was a brief discussion with several concerns raised by Sean. The committee will discuss it further.

Alaw Jones suggested that competition should have a class for working without lines at competitions, sean pointed out that we did not hold a competiton and had no plans to, questioning the need for a separate class and the increased costs this would impose. Ray supported the notion but was unaware that you did not have to use lines in a competition. The committee would review the situation if it was organising an event in future.

Sean showed a number of items of clothing with an embroidered DSWA logo and Cangen Gogledd Cymru underneath. There was a discussion on pricing witha feelling that £20 for a jacket and £15 sweatshirt for a sweatshirt would be realistic selling points. Sean would bring costings etc to the committee for further consideration

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm and was followed by a showing of the DVD "L'Obra D'un Gegant" - The work of Giants, walling on Mallorca.