

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Annual General Meeting – 2001

These are the minutes of the first AGM of the Chiltern District Welsh Society held at The Saracen's Head, Whielden Street, Amersham on 17th May 2001 at 8.00pm.

1. The President, Ann Evans welcoming the 19 members who attended, opened the meeting. She hoped that the members agreed that it had been a very successful first year. All agreed that it had. Ann then indicated it had been a learning curve for the Society and hoped it would grow from strength to strength. Of the 50 members who had joined in the first year, two had resigned but another eight have since joined making the current membership 56. She indicated that the Society would welcome more members, needs fresh ideas from members of what could be achieved and gave thanks to the Founder Members for their support over the past year. She further thanked all the members for their enthusiasm.
2. 20 members including Betty Rees who had been admitted to hospital submitted **apologies for absence**. A card from those present was being sent.
3. Ann handed over the proceedings to Colin Wills as Chairman for the evening.
4. The **Hon Treasurer**, Mrs Gill Wills, reported the accounts for the period May 2000 to end March 2001. The balance at that time was £35.50. A healthy profit (£112) was made at the barbecue function, a loss occurred at the Saracen's Head Dinner (£365.40) and a marginal loss at the St David's Day dinner (£30.37).

Gill reminded those present that the Society does not aim to be profit making but needs to retain a healthy financial balance. In organising functions a lot had been learnt on how to gauge costs and charges, which venues to use and how to cater economically *without imposing additional work on members*.

Additional and alternative venues were discussed and noted, which the new committee would look into.

Some suggestions on means of saving postal charges were offered and registered.

Gill was thanked for the clarity of the accounts and they were duly proposed and accepted.

5. The Chairman moved to the next item, **election of the next Committee**.
Ann Evans was proposed as **President** by Margaret Waterman and Seconded by Ralph Broomby.
Denys Jones was proposed as **Chairman** by Ann Evans and Seconded by Ralph Broomby. Both Colin Wills and Ralph Broomby offered their services as Deputy Chairmen
Gill Wills was proposed as **Treasurer** by Ann Lawrence and Seconded by Muriel Jones.

Gay De Marco was proposed as **Secretary** by Betty Rees and Seconded by Ann Evans.

The Chairman mentioned the request that all Founder Members be re-instated en bloc for the next period. The proposal was agreed unanimously. He then requested additional members to the Committee. Ann Lawrence was Proposed by Gill Wills and Seconded by Colin Wills. There being no other nominations, the Chairman thanked those who had volunteered.

6. **Any Other Business.**

A need to **generate a healthier fund** was proposed. Members suggested that this could be achieved by:

- Raffles at all meetings
- Collecting stamps at meetings
- Bringing Guests to dinner functions
- Increasing membership (the fee of £10 should be retained)
- Introducing a surcharge for non-members who attend meetings
- Producing a press report that could be issued to the Bucks Examiner. A Press Officer was suggested for the Committee to consider.

Additional Meeting options were considered from which the following were proposed for the Committee to pursue:

- Thelma Lusher offered details on highly commendable City and Village tours.
- a **River Trip** was suggested by a number of members
- a **Barbecue** was considered to be a useful summer event
- a **St David's Day Dinner** should remain in the calendar
- a **Quiz Night** as proposed by a previous Berkhamstead speaker could be considered.
- **The Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs** is to perform in the Royal Albert Hall on 16 March 2002. Maldwyn Pugh suggested that a block booking should be made soon. Coach fares are to be examined. Members should be notified as soon as possible and early commitments required. 50 seats was suggested
- a Race Night.

Ann Evans requested that those who had indicated interest in the **walking weekends** should contact her direct.

There being no other items for discussion, Denys Jones gave an extremely interesting presentation on the background to Public Inn signs. He elaborated on some of the more popular and on some that could be found in the neighbourhood. Members found this an exceptionally interesting subject and warmly welcomed the light-hearted interjections Denys offered coupled with the fascinating background. On behalf of those attending Norman Waterman gave a vote of thanks.

The meeting closed just after 10.15pm and the ladies who made the Welsh Cakes were given a vote of thanks.