

Minutes of the North American Festival of Wales committee meeting, Richmond Inn, Richmond, B.C. December 7, 2002.

Present: Alan Upshall (Chair), Lynne Owens-Whalen (Vice-chair), Gerri Baker Parry, Brian Parry, Phil Humphries, Don Murray, Helen Steinle, Neville Thomas, Gaynor Evans.

Review of minutes of Nov. 16 meeting:

Rugby: A rugby game between an under 16 years team from Wales and a B.C. team is still a consideration. Alan met with Gareth Rees and discussed the possibility of organizing a match if the coordinator here can find a connection in Wales. There is also a contact locally for organizing an “over 40’s” rugby match. Minoru Park could be used if available, as it is close to the Richmond Inn. Find cost of purchasing rugby jerseys displaying the Festival logo.

Ysgol Gerdd has advised Alan that they are having a problem raising funds to offset their tour costs. There are 58 in the group and they will need to raise 70,000 pounds.

Alan suggested several options to assist them.

1. Contact the Welsh Development Agency to ask if they would consider sponsoring Ysgol Gerdd instead of the Rag Foundation.
2. Try contacting a well known personality with Welsh connection such as Catherine Zeta Jones with an invitation to attend the Festival and present an opportunity to become a sponsor.
3. Ask Dunvant Male Choir if they would put on a fund raising concert for Ysgol Gerdd.
4. Find out if our local Welsh choirs would put on a fund raising concert for them.

It was agreed to increase the stipend to Ysgol Gerdd to \$18,000 from the original amount of \$12,000.

Do we as a committee offer to organize another concert for the choir during their visit in 2003, in which they would receive all the takings and should we offer to find hosts for the choir members to offset hotel costs?

It was agreed that we should try all of the above.

Tom Gething has agreed to oversee the informal singing and he will organize the directors and accompanists.

Alan has had no response from Rag Foundation although the group "Mabon" are still keen to perform at the Festival.

Correction to Eisteddfod prizes: Youth Choir - \$150: Youth solo - \$70.

(The exchange rate on the dollar: 0.7%)

Alan has written to David Buchan and John Trepp re. adjudicating/accompanying for the Eisteddfod but has had no reply to date.

Correction re. Sunday Service: The Rev. Benjamin Rees will officiate.

Gymanfa Ganu: Richmond Secondary School will likely not be completed by September 2003. McNeil Sec. School will be looked at and considered and if used we will need shuttle buses to transport guests from the Richmond Inn.

Change registration time to begin at 8.30am on Thursday. August 28, 2003

Program:

Market Place: Vendors tend to want to set up on Wednesday and close up on Monday. Lynne to check whether rooms will be available on Wednesday afternoon and Monday morning and find

out if there will be a charge. Are we prepared to pay for the rooms if necessary?

The Richmond Inn will provide the tables and skirts free of charge. It was agreed that we charge \$125 per booth (8ft. X 6ft. space with an 8ft. X 30ins. table) and \$75 for a half booth (sharing). Cost will be more if pipes and drapes are required.

Y Drych, Ninnau etc. can use 8ft. x 18ins. tables for their displays at no cost and sponsors will also have Market Place space free of charge.

Phone lines and high speed internet lines will be available in the rooms.

We need to find out how much floor space is available and allocate how much space is available for the booths and any additional tables.

The Market Place should be advertised in Y Drych and Ninnau and vendors interested in renting a space should contact Gerri using a 'hot line' to her own e-mail address.

Note: Market Place/Registration must be located in a lockable room.

Downtown Opening Ceremony: Don is still in contact with CBC.

Tea Room/Hospitality:

The Tea Room will be open from 10am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday.

It was decided that the use of tea pots and tea bags would be more convenient and Welsh cakes, Bara Brith and one other confectionery would be served. Lynne will structure this and bring back with costs to the next meeting.

We should try to get donations of ingredients for baking and tea bags from local large grocery stores.

Question as to whether we should supply refreshments on Thursday, Friday and Saturday after evening functions? We could set up tables with tea urns in the hallway or in the room used for

informal singing. Find out whether there will be an extra cost to us and also cost out having paper napkins, cocktail and dinner size, displaying the Festival logo for use at the Tea Room and BBQ.

Banquet: The Richmond Inn will have three entree choices on the menu; a vegetarian dish, pasta dish and a fish/meat dish. The cost to us is \$38.75 Can. including GST; we will sell for \$60 Can. The hotel can supply tables to accommodate 10, 11 or 12 people. They will advise us of how many tables we will lose if we decide to have a stage erected for the after dinner entertainment. Lynne to find out whether there will be enough space in the room for guests not attending the banquet to be admitted for the entertainment. Lynne suggested we have a “Leek” theme for the banquet tables.

Salmon BBQ: Lynne to find out if we can omit the soup and have a dessert instead. Does the hotel have a minimum number of guests for this function?
It was agreed that we charge \$30 Can. for the Salmon BBQ.

Intersessional Meal: \$20 Can. (agreed)

Hotel Contract: The check-in time for guests is 4.00pm and check-out is 12 noon.
Encourage visitors to book their rooms before June 2003 as rooms will not be held after that date.
The hotel will staff all open bars.

Seminars: Friday August 30, 2003

9am -	Fa 01	Welsh Lessons:	Gaynor Samuels
10am		Beginners	
9am -	Fa 02	Welsh Saints	Terry Breverton
10am			
10.15 -	Fa 03	Genealogical Sources at	Eirionedd
11.15am		the national Library of	Baskerville

		Wales	
10.15 - 11.15am	Fa 04	?Visit Wales	Welsh Tourist Board
11.30 - 12.30pm	Fa 05	Welsh Lessons: Intermediate	Gaynor Samuels
11.30 - 12.30pm	Fa 06	Welsh Journeys	John Baker
12.45 - 1.45pm	Fp 07	From Coal Miner to Diamond Mine Proprietor	Grenville and Eira Thomas
12.45 - 1.45pm	Fp 08	Famous Welsh Pirates	Terry Breverton
12.45 - 1.45pm	Fp 09	Corgis	Roma Stewart
2pm - 3pm	Fp 10	Dylan Thomas	Dr. Geoffrey Madoc-Jones
2pm - 3pm	Fp 11	Ysgol Gan	Rhiannon Acree
3.15 - 4.15pm	Fp 12	King Copper	Ronald Rees
3.15 - 4.15pm	Fp 13	David Lloyd George: The Early Years	Rufus Adams

Seminars: Saturday August 31, 2003

10am - 11.30am	Sa 14	Welsh Lessons: Teithiau Cerdded: Beg.	Gaynor Samuels
10am - 11am	Sa 15	Dylan Thomas	Dr. Geoffrey Madoc-Jones
10am - 11am	Sa 16	Wales	Welsh Tourist Board
11.15 - 12.15pm	Sa 17	Clogging Workshop *	Ysgol Gerdd
11.15 - 12.15pm	Sa 18	Ysgol Gan	Rhiannon Acree
11.15 - 12.15pm	Sa 19	Welsh Journeys	John Baker

12.30 - 1.30pm	Sp 20	David Lloyd George	Rufus Adams
12.30 - 1.30pm	Sp 21	King Copper	Ronald Rees
1.45 - 2.45pm	Sp 22	Genealogy	Eirionedd Baskerville
1.45 - 2.45pm	Sp 23	Welsh Business Opportunities	David Williams
1.45 - 2.45pm	Sp 24	Teithiau Cerdded: Intermediate	Gaynor Samuels

* Cloggers will need a room away from other seminars.

9.00am - 11.00am	WNGGA Annual General Meeting
11.00am - 12.00noon	WNGGA new Board of Trustees Meeting
9.00am - 12.00 noon	WNCCA Meeting

Seminar speakers will pay for space at the Market Place if required.

Budget: Reviewed.

Helen had produced a summary of income and expenses for all activities.

Question whether we have alternate entertainment parallel to banquet. We could use the folk group if they are in attendance or we could shown films on Wales.

Alternate entertainment on Saturday afternoon could be the rugby match or films.

The Ysgol Gerdd concert will start at 7.15pm to 9.00pm followed at 9.30pm by the Dylan Thomas Group.

It was agreed that we give the Dylan Thomas group an honorarium of \$400.

Neville suggested incorporating Karaoke in the Poems and Pints part of the evening. He will investigate costs and equipment required for this.

It was agreed that there will not be a post concert reception.

Web Site:

Rob Lintern will put up registration form on the web page and will update tourism site with information on tours offered. Costs will be displayed on registration form only.

It was agreed that we use the word “sponsorship” when referring to sponsors.

The Special Lunch with John Bishop will not be advertised on the web page at the moment.

Don would like more information on Bronn and Kath Journey for the web site.

Haydn James will choose the hymns for the Gymanfa Ganu and they will be vetoed by the committee.

A registration form will be available on the web site for entrants to the Eisteddfod. We also need to mail out these forms as early as possible to give registrants with no computer access a fair chance to compete on the ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Competitors in the Eisteddfod must perform two pieces; one in Welsh and one in a language of choice.

Tours:

Whistler: cost - \$70.00 Can.

Victoria: cost - \$110.00 Can.

Multicultural: cost - \$65.00 Can.

Tall Trees: cost - \$95.00 Can.

Sponsorship:

It was suggested that we structure donation levels for sponsors similar to the WNGGA Annual Fund Program.

There could be three categories;

1. Organizations and Corporations
2. The Media
3. Individual/Patron.

Depending on the amount of donation, the person/org./etc. would have 1, 2 or 3 weeks after their name.

We still need sponsors for several different categories.

Publicity:

There will be a full page advertisement in N. American newspapers.

Also, John Tomkins has put out a letter to be sent out with WNGGA newsletter . WNGGA members can then include the article in local newspapers.

Next meeting: January 11, 2003