

Minutes of the North American Festival of Wales committee meeting, Richmond Inn, Richmond, B.C. Sunday June 30, 2002.

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

Ellis was unable to attend due to a bereavement in the family.

Alan welcomed Brian Parry on to the committee.

The minutes of the June 1st meeting had previously been distributed and read.

The N.A.F.O.W. advertisement was included in the V.W.M.C. concert program at last night's concert and was very well presented.

LOGO: Alan produced four logo designs for the web page, via lap top computer. After discussion, one was chosen and will be displayed on the home page.

Question as to who from the committee might be going to Harrisburg and can we subsidize anyone out of our funds?

At the moment only Lynne and Alan will be attending.

LITERATURE:

The teaser brochure is ready and Tourism Vancouver will ship them to Harrisburg together with materials to dress up the display booth. The booth can be manned by committee members attending Harrisburg and as it will be situated next to WNGGA booth ,we could solicit help from their volunteers.

The teaser 's main features will be Jason Howard, Dunvant Male Choir and Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion. Mention will be given to seminars and the Eisteddfod. There will be a form at the bottom of the teaser asking for vital information from interested parties i.e. name, address and e-mail address. The teaser will also contain information on hotel accommodation, travel and tourism.

Question as to whether we are promoting Richmond Tourism?

We should have maps available showing the proximity of Richmond to Vancouver, B.C.

Either ask Tourism Vancouver for more maps or display one large map with the information.

The full brochure will be ready by January 2003.

Ginny of White Rock Tours has advised that brochures with information on the Alaska cruise and Rocky Mountaineer tour and costs of tours are being printed and given free of charge by Princess Cruise Lines and Rocky Mountaineer Rail.

Don needs more input, CV's etc. on artists and people involved in the weekend, for the web site. Good quality electronic or hard copy is required and this can then be reproduced for the brochure.

Alan will look into getting "blow-up" pictures of Jason, Duvant and Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion when he visits Wales, for display at Harrisburg.

Don will get a quote from Peggy Heath on cost of printing approx. 7 - 8 thousand brochures. 4,000 for WNGGA; 1,000 for headquarters; 1,000 for Wales; 1,000 for Harrisburg and the rest to be distributed locally to Welsh societies and other organizations.

Don to look into whether Tourism Vancouver has "give aways" e.g. pens, magnets etc.

Question as to whether we should have a lap top at the booth showing our web site.

It was agreed that everything should be in brochure form.

Alan will be leaving for Harrisburg on August 28 and everything must be ready before this date. The program for 2003 is already in place.

Discussion as to whether we should have some kind of promotion at Harrisburg to bring attention to 2003 weekend in Richmond.

Suggestions were: T-shirts or sweat shirts with logo (we would have to buy 50 - 100 and sell remainder at the 2003 Festival); boater hats with a band showing NAFOW logo in English and Welsh; lapel pins and/or sticky lapel badges.

Don will try to get a catalogue and decide which is appropriate cost wise. He will also price lapel buttons.

Ties and scarves with the NAFOW logo for 2003 can be discussed next year - perhaps these could be used for special presentations.

Discussion re. making a 5' x 5' banner with the Festival logo for display at Harrisburg and if it could be ready in time, for display at the Eisteddfod in Wales. The logo could be projected from the web page onto a screen in order to make the banner, and by changing the location and date, could be used for future Festivals.

Don and Peggy will be away until the end of July - Neville volunteered to pick up the teasers from the printer. No design work will be done until August.

Alan will be visiting Wales from August 3 - 13 and has a meeting set up with the Welsh Tourist Board. The Welsh Development Agency has agreed to talk but there has been no response from the Welsh Assembly. He will also be spending time meeting with people at the Eisteddfod and has arranged a meeting with the two choirs to structure the Grand Concert. Jason has agreed to work with these two groups.

Alan will be taking the teasers to Wales himself and Vancouver Tourism will mail the brochures. These will be displayed at the Eisteddfod.

Jason will be paid \$6,000 + airfare + accommodation - estimated cost; \$10,000. The Welsh tourist Board has been asked to sponsor The Rag Foundation Folk Group. We could also try to find a sponsor for Jason.

TOURS:

Alan and Lynne met with Ginny of White Rock Travel. The Rocky Mountaineer Rail Tour will be offered before the Festival weekend with interested parties either taking a 2 day trip from Vancouver to Banff or Calgary via Kamloops and flying back to Vancouver or flying to Calgary and returning to Vancouver by train via Kamloops overnight and on to Vancouver the following day. The seven day Alaska Cruise with Princess Line will be offered after the Festival weekend. The cruise leaves Vancouver for Anchorage on Monday and passengers can then fly back to their destination. All we need to do is advertise these tours and Ginny will do the rest of the organizing.

The prices quoted by Gray Line for the day tours was for a minimum of 30 passengers per coach. 40 or more passengers would considerably reduce the

price and Doug (Gray Line) will investigate and get back to Alan with updated prices.

Shuttle buses will also be needed to transport choirs to the venues and a few could be used to shuttle Festival visitors to and from the Grand Concert. The cost would be approx. \$3000 (per bus) and we would possibly need 10 buses.

Lynne will give tour descriptions to Don for inclusion on the web site.

Suggestion: that we auction any free seats on e-bay.

Alan met with members of the Vancouver Orpheus Choir and they were very impressed with the program.. They are interested in getting involved with Poets and Pints and would like to take part in the Eisteddfod. They also showed interest in taking a part in the Dylan Thomas conference at Simon Fraser University. Alan was unable to meet with V.W.M.C. but hopes to do so at a later date.

SEMINARS confirmed:

1. Welsh Language Lessons and Teithiau Cerdded: Gaynor Samuels has agreed to undertake these seminars. Cost limited.
2. Welsh folk Dancing: Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers to look after this.
3. Great Welsh Contributors: Terry Breverton is coming over from Wales and will give at least 2 seminars. Cost not known.
4. King Copper: Ronald Rees has agreed to undertake this seminar. Possibly will make his own way but may need accommodation.
5. Welsh Tourism: a) The Welsh Tourist Board will be in attendance and will give one seminar. Probably no cost.
b) John Baker (Idaho) has agreed to undertake a seminar and will probably need sponsorship.
6. Genealogy: Eirionedd Baskerville of the National Library of Wales has agreed to speak. Sponsored.
7. Business in Wales: Business workshop; tie in with Welsh Development Agency.

8. Diamond Mining in Northern Canada: one seminar with Grenville Thomas.
Possibly no cost.

9. Dylan Thomas: Two seminars; Cost limited.

10. Ysgol Gan: Haydn James has agreed to undertake.

SEMINARS not yet confirmed.

11. Distinctive Welsh Breeds: Lynne is in contact with Roma Stewart who knows a breeder of Cardigan corgis.

12. Clog Dancing: Awaiting information from Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion.

13. Welsh Music: Gerri is in touch with folk Group.

14. David Lloyd George: Rufus Adams is very interested but may need accommodation for a few days.

Nerys Haqq has shown interest in showing Cambrian Circle Singers Welsh costumes, but they will need some repairs and renovations.

N.B. Folk Dancing, clogging, corgis and costumes could be taken out of seminar list to make more time slots available and can be added as extras.

EISTEDDFOD:

Friday:

- a) Youth Instrumental
- b) Solos
- c) Choirs
- d) Adult Choirs (2 pieces, one Welsh, one English)

Saturday:

- a) Amateur solos (small prize)
- b) Profession solos (significant prize)
- c) Duets/Trios/Quartets

d) Ensembles (5 -12)

Y Drych has in the past had a literary competition with entries being adjudicated ahead of time and the winner announced at the event. This format could be followed to hold a poetry competition and the winner announced at the Festival.

The choir competition could be in categories with prizes for best choir over 60 voices and best choir under 50 voices. If enough choirs show interest, the competition could be extended to include Thursday. We should have a disclaimer for Harrisburg, that if not enough interest shown in a particular category, then it will be canceled. Phil will check with Harrisburg as to how many participants have shown interest.

VOLUNTEERS:

We need to estimate how many volunteers are needed for each function. Brian will keep track of volunteers.

Functions where help is required: (possible volunteer contacts)

Banquet: Lynne is in touch with the hotel regarding the salmon barbecue, banquet and tea room. (Gaynor Owen, Llinos Pritchard and others.)

Market Place: We need to attract vendors, calculate how many tables needed and cost of each table. Gerri will oversee with help from Gaynor E. (Irene Evans)

Ceremonies: Alan will oversee. David Ll. Williams, John D. Williams

Entertainment: Alan and Gerri looking after these events.

Tours: Lynne has been looking after tours: She will need two or three volunteers to help out. John Pritchard and Gwilym Evans.

Seminars: We will need at least 5 volunteers for ticket sales and ticket taking. Neville to take charge of this.

Concerts: Alan will need help with ticket sales, ticket collecting and ushering.

Hospitality/Information: Lynne has been looking after this area but will need about 3 volunteers.

Possible contacts; Jane Byrne, Mary Slaney and Kathy Thomas.

Eisteddfod: Phil Humphries.

Gymanfa Ganu: David Lintern and ? Richard Thomas

Church Service: David Lintern. Alan will look into finding a minister when he is in Wales.

Poems and Pints: Don Murray. Possible location: Hotel ballroom.

Technical: It was suggested that we contact Jeff Owen, Wynford Owen and Paul Lievesly.

Registration: All done through Ellis at HQ.

Sport: Alan is still hoping to organize a rugby match. He will speak with Dai Vaughn of Duvant Choir.

We should consider getting walkie-talkies for contact between coordinators of different functions, in case of emergency.

We need someone to contact City Hall, Vancouver re. feasibility of holding opening ceremonies downtown.

Gerri was asked to look after decorations for the Festival.

Possible volunteers from Victoria/Seattle areas: Cynthia, Ellen, Greta, Carol P. and John.

Entertainment:

The entertainment is on track; Alan is just waiting for confirmation from the Rag Foundation. There is a possible sponsorship from the British Council. If their visit

to the Festival turns out to be part of a tour, they are asking for a fee of \$2,000. The British council will be approached to take part in the Festival with a booth in the market place.

The location of the Grand Concert was discussed and a venue in down town Vancouver is being investigated.

An invitation for society members to volunteer for the Festival weekend will be published in the Welsh Societies newsletters.

A volunteer meeting will be held at the Richmond Inn on Saturday, September 28 at 2pm.

Next committee meeting: Saturday, September 28, 11am at the Richmond Inn

Ellis to be invited to attend the committee meeting on Saturday, November 2, at 11am