

The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association Inc.

(of the United States and Canada)

Cymdeithas Gymanfa Ganu Gogledd America

National Officers

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Vice President	Gwynn Parri
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Chairman	Ald. John Allison J.P.
Vice Chairman	Rev. Trebor Lloyd Evans
Secretary	E. Cyril Rees
Treasurer	Gwynfor Craven J.P.

DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD
Come, Sing to the Lord

**The 43rd North American Welsh
National Gymanfa Ganu, Swansea,
1974 - sponsored by the City of
Swansea and The Wales Tourist
Board.**

All enquiries to:

**E. Cyril Rees,
Secretary,
Swansea '74 Gymanfa,
21 Mayals Avenue,
Mayals, Swansea,
Telephone Swansea 68902.**



Y DDRAIG GOCH
A DDYRY CYCHWYN

Mr. Jack Meadows,
Secretary,
The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association Inc.

Youngstown,
Ohio 44512,
North America.

10/73

Dear Mr. Meadows,

Enclosed herewith are the Minutes of our Executive Committee meeting held on the 11th. June last which have just been circulated to members along with a notice of the meeting to be held on Tuesday evening next 25th September.

At this meeting we hope to receive a report from Mr G. Alban Roberts on his recent visit to North America for the 1973 Gymanfa Ganu at Toronto

We trust you had very successful meetings there & we all now look forward to the next Gymanfa Festival at Swansea.

With kindest regards & best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Hon Secretary Swansea '74 Gymanfa.

October 15th 1973.

E.Cyril Rees,
Mayals, Swansea.

Dear Mr Rees.

Thank you very much for the minutes of your June 11th meeting.

Opinions expressed by the executive committee are unanimous in praise for the work being done in our behalf thank you very much.

The main issue seems to be the cost of the banquet, but again it is unanimous that we will be guided by our representatives Mr & Mrs Trefor L. Roberts as they know our wishes and fully understand our requirements.

I am very happy to state at this time that the response is fantastic and that the plane will no doubt be filled by the time you receive this letter, also the demand for seats in the Toronto and Niagara areas is beyond expectations, so I am looking forward to a larger gathering than in 1969, also for your information the Youngstown plane will depart Cleveland July 30th arriving at Rhoose airport the A.M. of July 31st, then by bus to Swansea.

It was a pleasure for me again to chat with Glyn Roberts who gave an excellent account of what to expect, and I can assure you he is a very fine ambassador, he was loved by every one.

Again thanking you for all the fine work.

Very sincerely

Jack Meadows, secretary
W.N.G.G.A.

MINUTES OF NORTH AMERICAN GYMANFA GANU
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT
COLLEGE HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF SWANSEA
ON MONDAY, 11 JUNE, 1973

Present : Vice Chairman - Rev. T. Lloyd Evans
 Treasurer - Mr. Gwynfor Craven
 Secretary - Mr. E. Cyril Rees

Mr. Gareth Bodycombe	Mr. Aneurin Davies
Mr. J.M. Fussell	Mr. D.J. Evans
Mr. Emyr Griffith	Mr. Len Goss
Mr. Lyn Howell, OBE	Rev. H. Wynne Griffiths
Miss Mati Rees	Rev. D.L. Jefferies
Mr. & Mrs. T. Lloyd Roberts	Mr. Glyn Alban Roberts
Mr. H.J. Tomlin	Mr. Tomi Scourfield

Apologies

Alderman John Allison (Chairman)
Councillor T.R. Davies
Mr. Alun John
Mr. S.T. Bryan Ladd
Mrs. Rhiaian Phillips
Mr. David Thomas

The Rev. T. Lloyd Evans presided in the unavoidable absence of Alderman John Allison and he warmly welcomed Mr. Aneurin Davies, University College Registrar and Mr. Tomi Scourfield, Secretary of the West Wales Arts Council.

32/73 The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday, 13 April, 1973 were received, approved and adopted.

33/73 Matters Arising

(29/73) The Secretary stated that up to the present, no reply had been received from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and he read a letter from Mr. Peter Thomas, Secretary of State for Wales, accepting the office of President of the Gymanfa.

On the suggestion of Mr. D.J. Evans, it was unanimously agreed to invite the Chairman of the Wales Tourist Board, Mr. T. Mervyn Jones, to be one of the Vice Presidents.

34/73 Mr. Emyr Griffith reported on his visit to North America with the Morryston Orpheus Male Choir in May. Mr. Griffith had met with Mr. Owen Roberts (President of WNGGA) of Lachine, Quebec, at a meeting in Montreal Jack Meadows (Secretary) at Youngstown, Ohio, at meetings in Niagara and Youngstown, and with other officers and members of the Board of Trustees, including John Martin (St. Catharines, Ontario), Lewis Edwards (Niagara Falls, Ontario), Judge Elwyn Jenkins (Youngstown, Ohio), Mrs. Nair Monkhouse (Hamburg, New York State) and Rev. Kenneth Jones (New York City

Mr. Griffith reported that he had distributed 60 of the new Wales Gymanfa posters at each of the nine centres where conferences were held and choir members assisted with the distribution of the small colour invitation brochures to interested parties only. Approximately 500 of these were distributed. Enthusiasm seemed very strong in certain centres.

Almost all the people who expressed interest in visiting Wales in '74, were interested in obtaining details regarding charter flights. Many of the younger people were interested in the idea of a month in Wales with visit to the National Eisteddfod at Carmarthen included. Two charters are now definitely being arranged by the Youngstown Automobile Club of Youngstown, Ohio. Arrangements are being finalised with PanAm to fly direct from Cleveland to Cardiff with return flight from London a month later. These flights will involve approximately 100 people. A further 300 could be expected on two other charters planned from Canada. Lewis Edwards of the Niagara Falls is chartering with Air Canada to fly Welsh exiles from the Niagara/St. Catharines/Hamilton/Buffalo areas from Toronto to London and Eluned Thomas of Toronto is also arranging a similar charter which will fly to London. Should these plans materialise we would be assured of at least 600 people at the Swansea Gymanfa. A few people stressed that they would travel independently by Jumbo-Jet, taking advantage of the new low cost fares (payment 90 days in advance) for a return ticket at approximately 189 dollars. Mr. Griffith reported that the following detailed points emerged from discussions with the officers of the WNGGA and others regarding the '74 Gymanfa at Swansea.

- (a) Banquet The proposed cost at Swansea is £5.00 (12.50 dollars). This is considered excessive in comparison with the proposed cost at Toronto in 1973 at which the Banquet will be 6 dollars; Banquet and Dance - 9 dollars or Banquet, Dance and Registration Fee - 10 dollars. At Cardiff in 1969 the cost of the Banquet at City Hall was 5.50 dollars. It was considered by the consensus that 6/7 dollars should be the right amount to be charged at Swansea. It was generally considered that at 25 dollars a double ticket, the support from the American visitors would be negligible.
- (b) Menu, Wine, etc. At the majority of Banquets held in North America no wine is served but there is usually a cocktail hour (sherry reception, soft drinks) before, or in a few cases, after a Banquet. Iced water was considered the most important beverage.
- (c) Garden Party & Civic Hospitality at Singleton Park The North American Officers were delighted with the developments to date. When similar party was held in the grounds of Cardiff Castle in 1966 it proved to be one of the most popular events of the festival.
- (d) Registration In North America the Registration Fee is 2 dollars. £1.00 proposed at Swansea was very acceptable. It was suggested that at Swansea 2 different colour registration badges with name tags be allocated with one colour specifically for overseas members. It was requested that a copy of the registration list be made available to WNGGA Secretary, Jack Meadows.
- (e) Noson Lawen It was stressed that the Noson Lawen should be as spontaneous as possible with audience participation encouraged and no printed programmes prepared. Mr. Griffith was able to assure the Secretary of the WNGGA that the choice of compere and artistes would ensure informality and spontaneity.

- (f) Welsh Crafts It was suggested to Mr. Griffith that certain genuine Welsh souvenirs should be available for sale at one central point or at the Headquarters Hotel, during the Gymanfa. Items for sale should include dolls in Welsh costume, Welsh flags and pictures of 'Salem'.
- (g) Approach to Stores It was reported that in North America the custom is to approach all large stores at the Gymanfa venue for financial support and that revenues obtained from these sources are usually fairly substantial. Several other money raising events are arranged by each local organising committee.

5/73 Banquet Friday, 2 August, 1974, University College

Mr. Emyr Griffith stated that in discussions he had in America with officials of the Gymanfa Association, it was considered that the suggested price of £5 each (12.50 dollars) was excessive compared with Toronto and that a figure of 6 to ~~10~~⁷ dollars would be more likely to receive support.

Similar comments had been made in letters received by Mr. Glyn Alban Roberts from various sources in North America.

The Secretary read a letter received from Mr. Jack Meadows, Secretary WNGGA, in which he stated that "the consensus of opinion is, that the cost of the banquet at £5 does seem rather high in comparison with the 1969 banquet held in City Hall, Cardiff".

Mr. Meadows also indicated that the proposed menu met with the approval of all and that the standard should not be lowered nor the cost increased. Mr. D.J. Evans said that he had obtained quotations from hotels in Carmarthenshire for a similar menu and that the price of £5 indicated by the Banquet Committee was well below these.

After some discussion, it was agreed on the proposition of Mr. D.J. Evans, seconded by Mr. Tom Scourfield, that we defer the matter until a reply is received from the Prince of Wales and that when this is received the Banquet Committee should reconsider their proposals.

36/73 Noson Lawen, Saturday, 3 August, 1974, Brangwyn Hall

The Secretary reported on the acceptances received from those invited to participate in the programme as under.

	Fee required
Mr. Alun Williams (BBC) to act as compere	£30
Bois y Blacbord & Cor Telyn Teilo	£50
Glyn and Wendy Ellis (Excerpts from Under Milk Wood)	£20
Yr Awr	£25

Mr. Dewi Morris had written regretting his inability to take part.

It was generally felt that some of the above fees were rather excessive and it was agreed that the artistes be asked to reconsider their charge.

The Treasurer, Mr. Gwynfor Craven, wondered whether the West Wales Association for Arts could assist with a grant, but Mr. Scourfield was not in a position to give a promise in this connection.

37/73 Hotel Accommodation for Officers of WNGGA

The Secretary reported that a meeting had been held that afternoon between representatives of the Wales Tourist Board, South Wales Tourism Council and Officers of the Swansea Committee, at which it was decided to recommend to the Executive that we agree in principle to provide full accommodation (bed and breakfast only) in the Dragon Hotel for the nights of Friday, Saturday and Sunday (August 2,3 and 4, 1974) for the officers of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association: viz President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, each accompanied by one person.

Mr. Gwynfor Craven (Treasurer) stated that it would be courtesy on our part to extend this hospitality, the cost of which (approx. £225) would be within our Budget. He therefore, made a formal proposition to this effect. It was seconded by Mr. Gareth Bodycombe and carried unanimously.

38/73 Mr. D.J. Evans proposed a vote of thanks to the University representatives for allowing us the use of the Committee Rooms for this meeting and for their kind hospitality.

39/73 It was agreed that the Officers should call the next Executive Committee Meeting as and when required.