

Col. Alfred J. Reese, Jr., USA (Ret)

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5 November 2002

Dr. Ellis J. Jones  
Executive Director  
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association  
International Headquarters  
Gustavus Adolphus College, Box B47  
[REDACTED] West College Avenue  
St. Peter, MN, 56082-7540

Dear Ellis,

This letter will cover a number of subjects so I'd better do it chronologically.

We left Harrisburg early Sunday morning. I hated doing that but there was no sense trying to take part in any of the singing. I really was not feeling well and, in many respects, there has not been as much improvement as I would like. The only thing that drives it away is Prednisone with its side affects. You may have noted the bloating in my face and I have gained 20 pounds. I've reduced its intake to a maintenance level but don't know what it is doing. I had a bronchoscopy and that turned out negative. Everything in the way of a test has proven negative and I can be thankful for that. I am now on a nebulizer and can't tell if that is doing any good. The Prednisone may be masking everything, the freeze may have help if I've had allergies, or it may be that it is something I will have to live with.

As you know, I was very disappointed with the absence of the WNGGA Banner at anything I attended. I know you did all you could. I've been told that an attempt was made to display it during the gymanfa by taping it somewhere. I don't know what kind of tape was used and I hope it did not do any damage. I had hopes after San Jose when you told me that Glenn Grove was disappointed that it was not displayed. Inclosed is a copy of my letter to Lynn on this subject and others. I've gone into some length on my feelings in hopes that she makes sure something is done beginning next year at Richmond.

Inclosed is a copy of my letter to Ron asking for his help in the Archives. Also inclosed is the tentative Table of Contents for the Compendium and, ultimately, the History of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association. It should go without saying that any comments, suggestions and recommendations on the approach and the material to be included would be appreciated. I don't know if an Index would be useful or even possible.

The mention of Ron reminds me to tell you how much more I came to appreciate all the work that he does for the Association during the Nationals. I already had a feel for the great


assistance he must provide at the International Headquarters. It was also apparent that the great service he performed with the Archives will prove invaluable for all time, especially now with some turmoil unavoidable. I feel sure his work will provide a firm foundation for someone less qualified to follow in maintaining the WNGGA files in useable order.

However, it only took a short time with Ron at the WNGGA table in Harrisburg to get a much better appreciation of the public work he does for the Association. Without being there, the other members of the Board can only have passing understanding of the work done and the demands placed on him by our clients, both customers and window shoppers. If the time he spent there alone was in any way a reflection of the few moments I was there with him and alone, he surely must have a constitution and patience way beyond mine. There must be some way to thank him for everything he does for the Association. I appreciate the major contribution he makes as an Outstanding Ambassador for the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

I am deeply at it with the history, putting in 3-5 hours daily, and finding it very interesting. Inclosed is the tentative Table of Contents. As mentioned to you in Harrisburg, it became obvious that I needed a summary type document condensing all of the information from minutes and the individual National Programs and eliminating boiler plate and other non essential information.. The product of this first reduction of minutes and the National Programs will appear, year by year, easily available to anyone interested in what went on at specific meetings and Nationals. In Chapter 7, I will bring together all of the information relative to the beginning and development of specific subjects. For example, if someone wants to follow the WNGGA Constitution from the original version approved in 1935, becoming in 1936 its first Constitution and By-Laws, through the process of amendments and reissues, they will find it all in one place without having to dig through the individual minutes. The same applies to the other subjects in Chapter 7. I have completed working through 1997 on this first product which now is around 200 pages. The Compendium, the title suggested by you, should be a valuable document for the WNGGA Archives and for libraries that should be interested in activities of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association. This institutional memory would also be invaluable for officers and trustees interested in getting background on the organization they are charged with managing. In developing the Compendium, I have found numerous instances where actions were taken at Board meeting that never were acted on or that died a death only to be repeated in following years. And, inevitably, there are always instances of reinventing the wheel.

I will have a continuing need for minutes of all meetings, financial reports of all kinds, Programs for the Nationals, reports of the Offices and Executive Director, reports of the Grants/Scholarship Committee along with any other committee reports, and anything else of interest for the history. It is my intention to prepare the Compendium and History covering the years 1929-2003 and to have both ready for early in 2004 with the History ready for review shortly after the first of the year 2003. Since the Compendium follows the minutes and National Programs, I do not think a review is necessary. In addition to facts, the History will include my comments, analyses and conclusions and should be reviewed by knowledgeable people.

Sincerely,

  
Alfred J. Reese, Jr.

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6 November 2002

Dr. Ron Green  
International Headquarters  
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association  
Gustavus Adolphus College, Box B47  
[REDACTED] West College Avenue  
St. Peter, MN, 56082-7540

Dear Ron,

As I told Ellis in separate correspondence, it only took a short time with you at the WNGGA table to get a good appreciation of the job you do for the Association. Without being there, the other members of the Board can only have passing understanding of the work done and the demands placed on you by our clients, both customers and window shoppers. If the time you spent there alone was in any way a reflection of the few moments I was there, you surely have a constitution and patience way beyond mine. Thanks for everything you do for the Association. I appreciate the major contribution you make as an Outstanding Ambassador for the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

Now that I've said that, it doesn't seem right to impose on you some more. The inclosed listing indicates some material I need from the archives. I hope that my listing will make it a little easier for you to find the items. It may seem to be a long list, however, when compared to the total files I have, my collection since I started on this project turns out to be pretty complete. Some of these, I mentioned to you during the swirl in Harrisburg. I am working on 1997 so there will be some additional needs, no where as many as these.

I am deeply at it with the history, putting in 3-5 hours daily, and finding it very interesting. As mentioned to you in Harrisburg, it became obvious that I needed a summary type document condensing all of the information from minutes and the individual National Programs and eliminating boiler plate and other non essential information.. The product of this first reduction of minutes and the National Programs will appear, year by year, easily available to anyone interested in what went on at specific meetings and Nationals. In Chapter 7, I will bring together all of the information relative to the beginning and development of specific subjects. For example, if someone wants to follow the WNGGA Constitution from the original version approved in 1935, becoming the 1936 its first Constitution and By-Laws, through the process of amendments and reissues, they will find it all in one place without having to dig through the

individual minutes. The same applies to the other subjects in Chapter 7. I have worked through 1997 on this first product which now is around 200 pages. The Compendium, the title suggested by Ellis, should be a valuable document for the WNGGA Archives and for libraries that should be interested in activities of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association. This institutional memory would also be valuable for officers and trustees interested in getting background on the organization they are charged with managing. In developing the Compendium, I have found numerous instances where actions were taken at Board meeting that never were acted on or that died a death only to be repeated in following years. And, inevitably, there are always instances of reinventing the wheel.

The inclosed tentative Table of Contents will give you an idea of the direction I'm taking. I would appreciate any comments, suggestions, and recommendations you may have. I hope you would also exercise great latitude in selecting other items, not mentioned by me, that you feel should be part of the History of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association and it supporting Compendium.

The ideal way to get all of this is for me to get to St. Peter and dig it myself. There is no way, Ron, that I can do this now. I realize the imposition this is on you and can only hope that you will be able to help me.

With Sincere Thanks,

Alfred J. Reese, Jr.

**HISTORY**  
**OF THE**  
**WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION**  
**ITEMS REQUIRED FROM THE WNGGA ARCHIVES**

**\*\*\*I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING PRIORITY, IF POSSIBLE, TO THESE ITEMS.**

\*\*\*A History of the WNGGA by Ben Haddock-Ellis knows of this.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Analysis of 2002 Membership Survey

I need to know results of screening of membership lists that Ellis conducted-Drops of deceased members, no longer members, lost addresses and any other reason for removal

**HWYL**- I don't know what I'm missing so I'll list what I have.

Volumes-Issue-----1-1, Nov. 1992, Feb. 1993, 2-1, 2-2, 3-1, 4-1, 4-2, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 6-1, 6-2, 7-1, 7-2, 8-1, 8-2, 9-1, 9-2, 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 11-1, and 11-2.

Results of WNGGA table activity at Welsh Market Place, Harrisburg, memberships, sales of books by type. Proceeds and anything else significant.

**LETTERHEADS**-I have the following:

1964 (the earliest I have), 1965, 1968, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984-85, 1988, 1990-91-92-93 and probably all after this.

**\*\*\*MINUTES**

Para 4 of BOT meeting of Sep 1, 1961 in Chicago refers the tabling of a National Executive Meeting. I would like to see this report.

Proposed Amendments referred to in minutes of Detroit Board of Trustees (BOT) 2:30PM, 30 Aug 1963

Minutes of BOT meeting 2PM Friday, Oct 11, 1974, in Cleveland. There are two versions, one missing a page and the other with a modification to the first paragraph under 6. I will be using both versions.

Para 11 of the BOT meeting of 2:30P.M., 29 Aug. 1975 refers to "the intensity of these paper presented by Past National President, Mr. Douglas Jones

on amendments to the Constitution and the legality of our Charter as a corporation. These were supposed to be distributed to members of the Board. Please provide these letters.

Mid-year meeting in Peterborough, 1994. I need complete pages 1-7

All minutes for meetings in Utica, 1996

Mid-year meeting in Ottawa 1997.

Reference Para 3, minutes of Annual General Meeting Sept 2, 1978. I need the "complete report of the Ottawa National of 1977".

Venue report from Dave Williams, Chair, Milwaukee 1997, referred to on top of page 5, minutes of April 18, 1998 mid-year meeting in Niagara Falls, Ont.

All BOT minutes for 2001 (San Jose) and 2002 (Harrisburg)

The BOT minutes for 1995 refer to a very thoughtful letter from Alan Upshall in the 1994 National in Bellevue. If this is titled CLOSING REPORT , PREPARED BY ALAN UPSHALL, CHAIRMAN, I have it. If its is some other letter, I would like a copy.

All minutes of 2002 meetings

**THE REDBOOK**- The minutes of the Bot meeting Sept 4, 1987 refer to the Rules and Regulations for Venue Committees. How many versions were there and how can I tell if I have the latest?

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-**

### **VENUES**

Salt Lake City sponsor of the 1971 National

Reports of Columbus-1986, Baltimore-1988, Pittsburgh-1989, Victoria 1990, Wilkes-Barre-1993, Utica-1996, Milwaukee 1997 referenced to on page 2, BOT meeting of Sept. 4, 1998 ( I have Michael Penny's letter of May 20, 1998 and the attached 7 financial spread sheets), I would like copies of any other correspondence between individuals from Milwaukee and Nelson on the subject of Milwaukee financial problems

\*\*\*Victoria, B.C.-1990- I would like copies of all correspondence to the failure of the Victoria Committee to submit an audited financial report. From the minutes, there was an un-audited report. I would like a copy.

\*\*\*There was a report from Dave Williams, co-chair of the Milwaukee venue, referred to on top of page 5, minutes of April 18, 1998 Mid-year meeting in Niagara Falls, ONT and also in Sep. 4, 1998 Executive Committee meeting and in Sept. 4, 1998 BOT meeting. I have the letter of Michael Penny, dated May 20, 1998 and the 7 attached financial data forms

WNGGA-

Treasurer's reports for 1959, 1960, 1961, 1971, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1981, 1991 and the Auditors Report in lieu of the 1997 Treasurer's report

WAY-

Reports for 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991 and 1999. May be combined financial reports and financial statements.

ENDOWMENT -

1978, 1988, 1991, 1992 (My copy repeats page 1 and there is no PAGE 2 but there should be), 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997

**\*\*\*SECRETARY-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS** for 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, and 1997.

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**-Don't go to any special effort on this. I am able to compile list from the minutes and programs. If you have something already done, or partially done, send it to me as a cross-check on what I have. Don't do anything more.

**DIRECTORIES** -The earliest I found was attached to the Secretary's letter of 22 June 1964 There is a big gap between these that I have:

1977-78 through 1984-85  
1990-91, 1992-93, 1994-95

I need these plus any others that may be lying around that will fill the gap.

1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1991-92, 1993-94

**GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS**- Report for 1997. If you have easily available a consolidated list of grants and scholarships awarded by year, I would like a copy. If not, I will ask Myfanwy Davies for one. I can take from minutes and her reports. Early years are sketchy.

**CORRESPONDENCE-**

\*\*\*Glynn Parri's letter of November 5, 1974 to the then Secretary Jack Meadows. Any other letters of Gwynn Parri during his term of office as President.

**MISCELLANEOUS-**

Do we have picture of the Chairpersons Chain of Office presented by venue committee in Victoria, B.C, 1990. If not, how about a description?

What about the same for the trophies contributed for the 1994 Eisteddfod in Bellevue? I have nothing on the winners at any of the Eisteddfodau 1994, 1997, 1998,1999, 2001 and 2002. Were there any others I have not listed?

Somewhere I read about a Poetry Contest. Do we have anything on this if it took place.

I need information on the hymn competition winner and the hymn in Harrisburg-1995

How about pictures of the vases used during the Memorial Service?

There was a registrant's survey following the 1992 National in Kansas City, I have the survey (yellow page) and the summary type comments made by Jack Nesbitt during the 1993 VOT meeting in Wilkes-Barre. If there was an official report of summary of the survey results, please send me a copy.

**CONTENTION**-The period 1972-1982 was a period of contention at the board meetings. I would like to see any further on the subjects of contention that may appear in correspondence. In this regard, Ellis has told me of some of the correspondence you uncovered while arranging the archives that seemed unusual I would like copies of anything of historical significance.

**BROCHURES** – I'm sure I have recent brochures telling the story of the WNGGA and recruiting members. Copies of anything prior to Ellis' taking on the duties of Executive Director would be helpful.

**COMPUTER AND OTHER OFFICE EQUIPMENT**. Please provide me with a listing of equipment with brand, model, and capabilities. How does it compare with what we had in office in Niles?

**HWYL**- I don't know what I'm missing so I'll list what I have.

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**PLANNED GIVING**

**BEQUESTS**-I know the details of the bequests of Elizabeth Griffiths, Dr. Carlton Jones Lake, and Dr. Phillips G. Davies. I know the amount of the Chris Edwards

5  
bequest (\$10,000) but nothing else. What can you find in the files? Were there any other bequests?

STOCK TRANSFERS- I know of only one of these that of Marion Hoffman, Chicago during my term as President. Were there any others?

SUPPORT OF ARTISTS AND CHOIRS FOR NATIONALS- There were significant contributions from individuals in Columbus 1998: Olwen Joyce Anderson-Soloist Dodd and his family, Mrs. Draime-the Rhos Male Voice Choir, the Penrys-Stephen Smith Handbells, the British Council-CWLWM, Dr. David C. Jones-Ohio State Glee Clug, Niles GG Association-Greater Canton Male Chorus, and Anne Powell Riley-Dafydd and Menna Edwards.

Do we have any records on other contributions of this type at other Nationals?

Copies of everything applicable to the suits.

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15 December 2002

Dr. Ellis J. Jones  
Executive Director  
Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association  
International Headquarters  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
[REDACTED] West College Avenue  
St. Peter, MN 56082-7540

Dear Ellis,

I started this letter on 5 December. As I just told you on the phone sometime before that, I have completed the rough of the Compendium through 2001 to the extent that it can be capitalized. This was quite a condensation in that I was dealing with 7 inches of minutes plus the unmeasured stack of Programs. Interesting signs of growth and maybe something else: minutes of 1929-1976= 48 years at 2 ¼ inches; 1977-1995=19 years at 2 ¼ inches; and 1996-2001=6 years at 2 ½ inches.

I have sent another inclosed two-page list of items that I need to Ron. This should be the last of any bulk requests for help. From now on, there should only be an occasional bit of odds and ends as I get further into refining and writing the history.

I have found all of this very interesting. There is no question of the need for an institutional memory. The only question is whether any one will refer to it. For a future Executive Director, it will prove invaluable not only as a read in but as means of exercising some degree of controlling advice to future Boards of Trustees. I have found that I dropped ball on occasion and that confirms the need for a system of follow-up. While secretary of the NWAFF, I found it helpful to indicate in the minutes the officer/director responsible for each action. Then in the agenda for the next in the minutes, I would list the title of the action and the responsible officer/trustees under old business. This stopped the ball dropping.

As you would expect, I will have some comments and recommendations to offer. One of the first is that the WNGGA needs some form of recognition for what, for the lack of a better name, I will call Distinguished Contributors to the Gymanfa Ganu or WNGGA or something. This would be for someone who has gone over and beyond the normal participation to make our efforts successful. Some names come to mind, unfortunately one posthumously, such as Gwyndaf Roberts who served as organist at nine National Gymanfaoedd, And then I can think of

Meirwyn Walters a quintuple threat performer: the first President of WAY to become a trustee, serving for part of his term with his father (the first father-son combination), one who preached a sermon at a National (1997) and one who conducted at a National (1999). On occasions, he also provides informal legal advice to the WNGGA. I can think of anyone brave enough to chair more than one venue committee, and those associated with the arduous task of revising the hymnals (reformatted and phonetic). Our Secretaries and Executive Directors: Bundy, Meadows, Llewellyn and Jones fall into this group. Others could be those who, for example, contributed so greatly to the success of Columbus 1998 by sponsoring the choir and other entertainers.

I know there could be problems with those not recognized and the fear of this could kill the idea. I still think it is the least we can do to recognize those who perform above and beyond. I know we issue paper recognition but these lump all together: the run of the mill and the doers. As I read through the minutes, I see reference to plaques and other forms of recognition that have fallen by the wayside. Perhaps mention in the history would provide some permanency to recognition.

I sent the information in this letter to Lynn and as you see below by courtesy copy to Alan.

All our very best for Christmas and the New Year to you and all those working so hard for the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association at its International Headquarters

Sincerely,

  
Alfred J. Reese, Jr.

cc. Dr. Alan Upshall, Immediate Past President