

Minutes of the North America Festival of Wales committee meeting, Richmond Inn, Richmond, B.C. Sunday, February 17, 2002

Present: Alan Upshall (Chair), Lynn Owens-Whalen (Vice chair), Neville Thomas, Gerri Baker Parry, Helen Steinle, David Lintern, Don Murray, Gaynor Evans (Sec.).

1. Review of last meeting:
2. Finances: \$2000 interest free loan received from Victoria Welsh Society.
\$2000 interest free loan received from puget Sound , WA. Welsh Society.

Helen has acknowledged receipt of these funds.

A letter has been received from Tecwyn Roberts, president of the Vancouver Welsh Society, **Confirming** that the interest free loan of \$3000 be paid in three installments, March 1, April 1 and May 1, 2002.

Current Bank account: \$2,295.34 U.S. funds
\$1,848.80 Can. funds

Helen has agree to to keep track of individual budgets for each event .

3. Seminars:

A provisional budget for eth seminars had previously been circulated. The importance of keeping within the limits was stressed, especially if we try to bring people over from Wales. We will look fro sponsorship support wherever possible. We need to keep within realistic goals.

Agreed that 12 seminars to be offered on Friday and Saturday (24 seminars in all). Discussion as to which seminars have proved to be well attended in the past and will seminars be the same on both days?

Agreed that cost of seminars: A base hourly rate of \$12 U.S. - \$18 Can. with longer seminars costing more (**proportional**). This will be discussed at a later date when seminars have been decided.

We did not decide whether the honorarium for seminars was \$100 Can or 50 Can per hour. We will do so next meeting

Seminar list **sort through**:

Friday:

1. Beginners Welsh: David advised that there are CD's available for learning Welsh. A computer, projector and screen could be brought in and the lessons taught via an interactive web site. Can be repeated on Sat. if huge interest shown. **This CD program is sold by Sain so there is a sponsorship opportunity there.**
2. Intermediate Welsh: as above
3. Ysgol Gan: The four groups will join for this seminar.

4. Rugby songs: **not selected**
5. Penillion singing: Reserve list.
6. Cas Meurig: Reserve list. There will be a Welsh music night; the content to be decided at a later date.
- 6a. Welsh Web sites. **As long as it just does not list web sites, .we could consider.**
7. History of North America (part one): Neville to contact Rodney **Broome** for U.S. content and Eifion Williams for Canadian content. **Rodney has written an interesting book on the naming of America after a Welshman. He lives in Seattle**
8. Mabinogion: Reserve list.
9. Rebecca Riots: Reserve list.
10. King Copper: Neville to contact Ronald Rees, Saskatchewan.
11. David Lloyd George **not selected**
12. Celtic History: Reserve list.
13. Remembering Harry Secombe: This could be a 'poets and pub' night showing the video of his life together with segments from the 'Goon Show'.
14. Welsh quilt lady: **not selected**
15. Photo tour of Wales by John Baker, Boise, Idaho. Neville to contact.
16. Visiting Wales - its national parks and castles. Tourist Board seminar.
17. Carmarthenshire: **not selected**
18. Golfing in Wales: **not selected**
19. Business Opportunities in Wales today: Alan is in contact with the N.A. Chamber of Commerce.
- 20: The future of Wales in a Federal Britain. Where is it going? Possibly a two hour session. 19 and 20 can be linked.

Saturday seminars:

21. Teithiau Cerdded: A local walking or bus tour incorporating Welsh learned at the Friday seminars. If a bus is used for this seminar, the tour could possibly wind up at the Cambrian hall for a boxed lunch and Welsh conversation with members of the Vancouver Welsh Society.
22. As above.
23. Ysgol Gan: see Friday seminar.
24. Folk Dancing: The Vancouver Welsh Folk dancers will organize.
25. Clogging: Do we know of a clogger? Investigate.
26. Genealogy: Contact the national Library of Wales. **Annie Lloyd (CA) has expressed interest. At this time we would like a new approach**
27. Welsh Music.
28. History of North America (part 2)
29. Early Industrial Revolution in Wales: (Blaenavon) Neville to contact.
30. Welsh Miners in the Pacific North West: **not selected**
- 30a. Diamonds: Neville to contact Grenville Thomas.
31. Memorable moments in Welsh Rugby: Reserve list; (possible P. and P.)
32. Narrow Gauge Railway: **not selected**

33. Faggots, Cockles and lava Bread: Reserve list. (**perhaps** Welsh Development Agency).
34. Dylan Thomas: (Dylan Thomas Circle). Neville to speak with Jeff **Madoc**-Jones.
35. Distinctive Welsh animal breeds: (corgis, collies and sheep dogs). Neville to contact the Kennel Club and/or breeders.
 4. Repeat of Friday evening (19 and 20)

Neville will pursue the first line selections and report back at the next meeting

5. Neville introduced John Tompkins, free lance journalist. Alan explained that he would like to make stronger connections between North America and Wales by exposing the North America Festival of Wales to Welsh communities. He also would like to improve visibility of the event to local Societies, local communities and to areas outside of the lower mainland. John feels there are great possibilities in the Welsh market with potential to highlight the story on the changing face of the organization. Alan will meet with John to discuss the history of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association.

5. Entertainment.

Gerri is focusing on the Thursday evening youth program. She gave information on different Welsh youth groups and is thinking of a possible joint concert with a local Celtic youth group. **Rag Foundation is the preferred group Gerri is in contract with Nancy Carlin.**

Alan is focusing on the Saturday evening Grand Concert. Alan has received a positive response from Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion. The choir has about 45 - 48 members and the cost per person for the tour is 1,250 pounds. They are looking to the committee to sponsor 60% of the tour cost (approx. \$50,000.) As the committee cannot commit to this amount, Alan will negotiate with the choir and offer them a fee and help with contacts for an extended tour.

Morrison Orpheus Male Voice Choir has been contacted and are interested in performing for the weekend. Sponsorship is virtually non-existent in Wales so the choir would need financial assistance also. A fee (\$15,000) would be offered to the choir for their performance at the Grand Concert. This would help the choir raise funds to off -set expenses. Alan will work with both choirs to find the lowest costs to bring them out for the Welsh weekend. **There is the possibility of sponsorship of the Choir from a Vancouver business person. Alan will pursue that also.**

Alan had sent around a provisional budget which showed that there would not be a huge profit because of the limitations of the hall size. We need to look at ways of reducing the expenses. There was discussion as to whether they should perform two concerts, one for the weekend registrants and one for local community, or two for us and we control the funds.

6. Logo:

Don introduced Peggy Heath, with whom he has worked on advertising promotions for Van Dusen Gardens. Peggy is interested in helping with design and art work for advertising the event and a new logo for the Festival was discussed. It was decided that we will stay with the standard logo of the Welsh dragon but will work on a new design. Alan would like the logo and new design ready by the end of Feb./March so that information brochures are ready to go to Harrisburg in August and are ready for advertising in Welsh newspapers by fall. Cost of pre-print design work **and document production would come to about, \$7, 000 to \$10,000. We discussed seriously not reinventing eth wheel since we had all of San Jose's documents and masters on disc. We might modify that pattern with a new logo.**

Registration, name tags, tickets, posters all made from H.Q.

Don is organizing an e-mail promotional campaign and inscripting a precise message advertising the weekend.

7. Venues:

Lynn reported that the building of the new Richmond High and McNeil schools is on track and should be finished by 2003. McMann High School is available in the event the construction is delayed.

8. Tours:

Lynn is in contact with Vancouver Tourism, Grey Line Coach Tours and White Rock Tours. Grey Line has advised that we can design and pre-sell our own tours and all advance booking will receive a 10% discount.

Possibilities for Monday and Wednesday **were discussed but we need more information.**

Whole day tour to Whistler: 9 hours - \$63 Can. - \$49 American (food not included)

Whole day tour to Victoria : 12.30 hours - \$125 Can. - \$80 American (food not included)

Sunset Dinner Cruise.

Half day tours: Parks and Gardens,

Multicultural: (Steveston, Chinatown, U.B.C. Anthropology)

Greater Vancouver: Granville Island and Business section.

Morning tours would be slightly longer and could stop off at the Cambrian Hall for a drink and a boxed lunch.

White Rock Tours could be used for tours before and after the Festival weekend .

Interest has been shown in an Alaska Cruise or the Rocky Mountaineer Rail Tour.

No decision was taken as to tour specifics. Lynn would bring more information next time.

Is there room to organize a golf tournament Mon. through Thurs.? Tour group could possibly set this up. Table to next meeting.

Banquet: Table to next meeting.

Market Place: Table to next meeting.

Expanding Committee: Alan recommended we contact Brian **Parry (Puget Sound)** to oversee the **logistical planning of** the weekend.

Eisteddfod: Phil Humphries(Bellingham) **will be asked to** oversee this event.

It was agreed that we use John for publicity. **Since** Newspapers usually pay for written articles **it will be at no cost to us.**

Peggy Heath **was** given the CD containing all San Jose designs and materials. She will be given our text and can change the **materials** accordingly.

Don proposed we use Peggy heath for design and film work for a **total** maximum of \$10,000 and he will live up to his budget allowance.

Don to contact Air Canada regarding sponsorship and the possibility of getting free seats or discounted air fares if we use them as our main carrier.

Meeting adjourned at 5.35pm

Next meeting: Sunday, April 21, 2002