

**Old Dy'vorians Association Cymdeithas cyn-fyfyrrwyr Ysgol Dinefwr
Annual General Meeting of the Association Held at Swansea Metropolitan University,
Dynevor Campus at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday March 7th 2012**

1) Present: Clem Williams (Chairman), Noel Blows, Phil Stone, Edgar McCarthy, David Dickinson, Roger Beynon, Keith Morris, Peter Samuel, Robert Howells, Bill Gibbs, Bill George, Robert Cowley, Stuart Winks, Godfrey Jones, John S. Thomas, Peter Lloyd, Keith Evans, Jim Waygood, Steve Way, D. Iorwerth Mort, David Bemmer, Brian Willis

2) Apologies: Peter Macpherson, Ken Sharpe, Mansel Thomas, Alan Goodwin, Dave Tovey, Alun Griffiths

3) Minutes for 2011 AGM: Approved

4) Matters Arising: Clem Williams read out an email from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams. This would be read out at the Annual Dinner when Phil Stone was installed as President.

5) Officers' Reports:

a) Secretary's report for AGM 2012 The Association has had another excellent year and goes from strength to strength, once again there has been an increase in membership numbers - it is fast approaching 600! It was a year when the annual dinner saw a record attendance of 357, under the Presidency of Dr. Rowan Williams, - a marvellous evening at Swansea University.

The Annual October lecture given by Professor Dudley Sennett, was very well received and again it generated best ever attendance for this event. Our biannual publication known as TOD continues to impress under the stewardships of Peter Macpherson and Jim Waygood and draws many plaudits. Our relationship with SMU continues to flourish and this year we recognised four students with awards, from the four faculties based in our old school buildings. It has been further cemented by awarding honorary memberships to SMU staff members Andrea Liggins and Steven White who have given strong support to our Association.

Your committee has endeavoured to modernise and to enhance the activities of the Association. We have coopted members and this year the first ever directory of members was established under the direction of Keith Evans and circulated to all.

Golf featured as a precursor to the Dinner and was very ably looked after by Ken Sharpe and Peter Samuel.

Perhaps the biggest potential change has been the redesign and upgrading of the website, this work is very much in progress building on the original valuable work done by Dave Tovey. The Association made an appeal for contributions to fund this initiative which should prove a key component in its on-going development. The ability to communicate quickly with members and a more interactive site as well as an enhanced historical one is an attractive proposition. Many members have responded generously to the appeal to help fund this work - it is still open for further contributions should members be so inclined!

Your committee has considered carefully the financial position of the Association in the light of increasing costs, and our Treasurer will give a detailed view later as to why there is a proposal to increase the annual subscription.

What of the future - your committee will continue to encourage other activities to take place e.g. later this year there is a cricket day at St Helens (Glamorgan's spiritual home) scheduled for 1st August Younger members need to be actively encouraged to become involved in all its aspects, organising events, contribution to TOD and as active committee members. The more that take part then the easier it is for the Association to flourish.

On this theme of younger members I have indicated to colleagues that I wish to stand down after five years as secretary. It provides an opportunity to bring a fresh voice and a new approach to the Association. The five years have been enjoyable and rewarding, and it with some regret that I need to take a back seat but increased involvement in other spheres make it the correct time to relinquish the post. Finally I would like to thank all colleagues for their support friendship and fun of being involved. I wish Phil Stone a very successful Presidential year - pobhwyla Llwyddiant am y flwyddyn.

Bill George enquired about attending the Cricket Match at St Helen's.

Iori Mort emphasised the importance of keeping cricket at St Helen's.

Brian Willis thanked Clem Williams for his hard work and commitment as Secretary.

b): Treasurer's Report: Steve Way distributed copies of his report and gave a detailed explanation Clem Williams thanked Steve Way for his hard work and his report. Steve thanked Robert Howells for his work in auditing the accounts. Bill Gibbs stated that he thought the Golf day would be "cost neutral"; Steve Way replied that a donation of £50 had been agreed at the Committee Meeting on 26th January, 2012. Edgar McCarthy suggested that donations should be looked at on an individual basis. Peter Samuel suggested that the Golf trophy should be handed back each year. Edgar McCarthy proposed a vote of thanks to Steve Way. This was agreed

c) Webmaster's Report: Keith Evans read out Dave Tovey's report in his absence. The site-hits figure for the current website has averaged 204 for the past six months, probably the highest 6 month activity level to-date. Some new webpages have been introduced e.g. the [In MEMORIAM] section and some index links have been consolidated e.g. the [NEW DYNEVOR] and the [PAST EVENTS] have been included in the [SCHOOL & ODA HISTORY] link under [KEY SCHOOL & ODA DATES] Work has started on the development of the new Website by Business Systems Services. The main structure is now in place and the Class and Group webpages are now currently being populated by Keith Morris, Keith Evans, Jim Waygood and Dave. It is going to be a long process since over 600 photos have to be uploaded and we are all still learning a new process with new techniques. Various other webpages will require the input from other ODA members e.g. Secretary and Noel Blows. Keith Evans will also be involved in the Members' Directory. The proposal to include the TOD Journal on the website has been abandoned but some form of electronic mail system alternative is being investigated. So, although Dave have been trying to reduce by his involvement in the Website he is currently maintaining the old site and acting as the link in the development of the new site. The link to the test site is <http://picseliwebdesign.co.uk/olddyvorians.co.uk/> He stressed that the appointment of a new Webmaster is long overdue and this is the ideal time for someone to take up the reins - at the start of an exciting project. Phil Stone asked if Dave Tovey's duties would pass to Teifion in Business Systems. Noel Blows replied that the situation regarding Teifion was uncertain as he was busy downsizing his company. Dave Tovey's duties would probably be spread

between a number of volunteers. Edgar McCarthy asked whether donations so far were covering the cost of the new website. Steve Way replied that the costs were almost covered now. Steve Way enquired why TOD online had been abandoned. Keith Evans replied that he was not sure if any individual could cover the job, it would probably need a sub-committee to manage it. Keith added that inter-activity was needed to attract younger members. Rob Cowley enquired whether SMU students could help with the new website. Jim Waygood replied that students moved on, and that they were already involved in suggestions for promoting Dynevor. Clem Williams agreed with the idea of a sub-committee. This was agreed by the members present

d) TOD Editor's Report: Clem Williams read out Peter Macpherson's report. TOD 18 was published just before the 2011 AGM, but was quickly followed by a Commemorative Edition, produced especially for the 2011 Annual Dinner on 25 March, which featured the installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, former pupil Dr. Rowan Williams, as President. The opportunity was taken to incorporate into the Special Edition the customary details found in the Dinner Menu, including the List of Speakers and Toasts, as well as that of Past-Presidents, making it an attractive souvenir to take away and keep with other memorabilia of Dynevor. TOD 19 was published in September and has been followed recently, in late February, by TOD 20. All seem to have been well-received. Deadline for copy for TOD 21 has been set at 21 June, 2012 and it is good to record that a reasonable amount of material is already to hand. It will be published in early September. We await your further contributions. I have indicated to the Committee that I propose, with their and your approval, to edit a further two issues, TOD's 21 and 22, before finally retiring in March, 2013, due to my rapidly advancing years. Enquiries have begun to find a replacement and Jeff Humphries (1958), a Graduate in History and former Journalist with the 'Western Mail', has indicated his willingness to take over from April, 2013, in time for TOD 23. I am sorry that a last minute change in plans has caused me to miss this evening's meeting, but I would like to take the opportunity, first, of thanking you all for your support in my work and secondly, of recording my continuing gratitude to Jim Waygood, without whose superior technical expertise and ready help and cooperation the content of TOD, whilst always being prepared, would never reach the printer!

e) Membership and Recruitment Report: Noel Blows read out his report. 2011 has again been a successful year for both Recruitment and for the existing Membership of our Association. We said a sad goodbye to a number of Old Dy'vorians including amongst others:-Viv Baker, Ray Linnard, Don Matthews and Gerald Macpherson all of whom died in 2011.

Statistically, despite these losses, the total membership continued to advance. 102 new members saw the database increase to 588 by the end of 2010. Members are spread over a number of decades: 14 came to Dynevor in the 1930's, 107 in the 40's, 286 in the 50's, 136 in the 60's, 26 in the 70's, 13 in the 80's, 1 in the 90's with 5 Honorary Members joining since 2001. Significantly, membership has yet to appeal to those who were at Dynevor after 1969 as we have only 45 members covering 1970 - 2002. 52% of members live in Swansea, 15% in the rest of Wales, 28% live elsewhere in the UK, and 5% reside abroad. There has been a shift in the residences of new members with the total % from Swansea falling by 3% points as each of the other categories expanded with the number of Overseas members almost doubling to 30. The Overseas members are well spread with 12 in the USA, 4 in Canada, 3 in Australia and France and 1 each in Germany, Ireland, Laos, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South African and Thailand. Membership was given a significant boost because of the "Rowan" factor as a number of new members joined and came to the Dinner to hear His Grace speak. Also acting as a big boost was Roger Williams' brilliantly organised and orchestrated 1958 Reunion weekend. This was spread over 2 days and featured golf, a school visit, walking and 2 other meals apart from the main, Friday, event. Reunions continue to be a

major influence on membership and it is significant that the largest Year Groups, or Cohorts, of members, are the ones where Reunions have taken place. Consequently we have 1959 with 40 members, 1953 with 42, 1958 with 44 and 1955 with 50 members all of whom have benefitted from major get-togethers. 2011 saw the first Directory produced by Keith Evans with the printing well organised by Jim Waygood using the good offices of SMU once more. A 2012 edition will be published later this year. The 2012 Annual Dinner will, it is hoped, provide the stimulus for more, younger OD's to join the Association. The presence of Behnaz at the Dinner should prove to be a catalyst for more from her generation to join. The addition to the ODA of former pupils will be aided by the presence of some more of the staff who graced the portals of the school in its latter years. I am hopeful that this will follow on from the Dinner and I am grateful to the 2012 President, Phil Stone, for deciding in his presidential role to encourage this younger category to be a part of the ODA. Without the presence of Behnaz at the Dinner it is doubtful whether this would take place. Website reconstruction presently underway may also help to emphasise the ODA to younger OD's. When the static data has been finally loaded there will be an opportunity for Social Networking to take place provided that the requisite checks and balances have been properly installed. The creation of a Facebook Wall should allow OD's to converse with each other and raise the Association's profile amongst the younger members. It is hoped that some will join. The increased interest in the ODA has produced bigger attendances at all functions. The combined SMU / ODA Spring Lecture saw 50 attend and then 360 diners came to the Annual Dinner. Finally more than 100 attended Dudley Sinnett's October Lecture. The 2011 Dinner saw a Golf Tournament taking place at Clyne Golf Club earlier that day. This is to be repeated in 2012 and, additionally, a day supporting Glamorgan Cricket has been planned for Summer 2012. More activities are planned as demand and Committee's time permits.

Clem Williams thanked Noel for his report. Iori Mort pointed out that younger ex-pupils were busy with family life, so it tended to be the over-fifties with greater free time who joined later in life. Phil Stone asked whether Behnaz had joined as a member.

6) To Confirm Robert Howells as auditor to the Association: Proposed by David Dickinson, seconded by Iori Mort. Agreed unanimously.

7) Proposal to Raise Annual Subscription to £10: Steve Way outlined the case. The Committee had already agreed on the need to raise reserves to cover future loss of income as membership numbers would inevitably dwindle. Catering costs were also rising, which could not be passed on to members every time. Postage, Annual Awards, the possibility of incurring printing costs if SMU had to stop subsidising TOD, plus the Membership Directory and menus had further cost implications. The cost of the new website could not be further subsidised by donations. Therefore, raising subscriptions was a long-term project. Clem Williams thanked Steve for his outline. Edgar McCarthy supported Steve, and Rob Cowley suggested that there was no further need to discuss the proposal. Steve pointed out that we would honour subscriptions paid in advance and also consider hardship cases individually.

Edgar McCarthy proposed the motion, seconded by several members. The proposal was agreed. Subscriptions would be raised from January 2013. Keith Evans enquired about the lifespan of the Association, and whether we could do more as a non-profit organisation. Clem Williams suggested it was something for next year's committee to consider. Edgar suggested that we would need to look at the eventual winding-up of the Association.

8) Election of Officers:

Clem Williams praised Phil Stone for his work in standing in for Rowan Williams. Iori Mort felt that we should honour Dave Tovey for his work; he had declined the role of President

previously. Clem Williams announced his intention of retiring from his role as Secretary. Noel Blows proposed David Bemmer, seconded by Iori Mort. David was honoured to accept the role, but was only able to carry it out for one year due to other prior commitments. Agreed. All other Officers to continue in their roles - agreed. Role of Vice-President - Jim Waygood proposed Kevin Johns ('74-'79), seconded by David Dickinson. Agreed.

9) Dinner 2012: On 27th April 2012; 134 had paid so far (Noel Blows), optimistic 200 possible. Final numbers by 13th April.

10) Annual Lecture: Two possible dates dependent on SMU Awards. One speaker could be Tim Richards ('61), lecturer in Law and contributor to "Private Eye".
The Meeting closed at 8.58pm.

David Bemmer Honorary Minute Secretary