

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004 MINUTES

Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 64-68 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PA on Tuesday, 29 June 2004, at 6.00pm. 75 Members were recorded as being present.

His Royal Highness, Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, was in the Chair. His Royal Highness welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting, despite the current Tube strike.

1. The Chairman reported that the Minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting had been circulated in the September 2003 issue of the Genealogists' Magazine and had been published on the website. He proposed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was carried unanimously.
2. The Chairman called on Mr Stephen Tanner (representing the auditors, Messrs FW Stephens & Co), to present the Auditor's Report for the year 2003. Mr Tanner drew attention to the Auditors' Report, as printed on pages 19 and 20 of the Annual Report, which had been circulated, to the Members.
3. The Chairman requested the Members' permission to take the Annual Accounts and the Report of the Executive Committee together so all questions could be asked after the presentations. This was accepted.

Mr William Michael Wood, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the Annual Report of the Executive Committee. He highlighted the excellent progress made, thanks to having the Business Plan, which enabled a focused approach to the work required. He thanked the volunteers and staff for making this possible.

Mr Geoffrey Stone, the Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts to the meeting. He reported that the expenditure-cutting the previous year had been very successful. 2003 had an anticipated budget of a £125,000 loss but the overall loss had been only £18,480; in fact, if the Society had not prudently written off excess book shop stock there would have been a profit to report. He also reported it was not intended to increase Membership fees for 2005. Mr Stone advised that 2004 would be difficult, as the Society knows items need replenishing but will continue addressing the income versus expenditure situation. Mr Stone stressed the need to raise funds to ensure adequate reserves are available for future safeguarding of the Society.

The Chairman called for questions on the Report or the Accounts. None was raised.

The Chairman called on the Members for a move to accept the Report and Annual Accounts; this was proposed by Dr Colin Chapman and seconded by Dr Michael Isherwood and carried unanimously.

4. Mr Geoffrey Stone, Honorary Treasurer, spoke on the remuneration and reappointment of the Auditors. In accordance with Section 384 of the Companies Act 1985 the remuneration and reappointment of the Auditors, Messrs FW Stephens & Co, at a fee to be agreed by the Executive Committee, was put to the Meeting, proposed by Mr Geoffrey Stone and carried unanimously.
5. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr William Michael Wood, proposed the re-election of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO, as President of the Society. The motion was carried unanimously.
6. The Chairman announced that in accordance with Article 37 the Executive Committee proposed the re-election of the Vice Presidents of the Society: The Rt Rev John Kingsmill Cavell, MA; Mr Patric Dickinson, MA, FSG, Richmond Herald; President Boyd K Packer, BS, MS, EdD, Quorum of the Twelve; Professor Peter Spufford, LittD, FBA, FSA, FSG; Robin Blair

LVO, WS, Lord Lyon King of Arms, Fergus Gillespie, MA, Deputy Chief Herald of Ireland; and Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith, FSA, FRSA, FRHistS. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. The Chairman announced that with regard to the membership of the Executive Committee there had been no resignations since the last meeting. Mr John Hanson, Flt. Lt. Nicholas Newington-Irving and Mr Geoffrey Stone retired by rotation, having finished a four-year term, and, being eligible, offered themselves for re-election. Mr Peter Bailey, nominated by Mr Frank Hardy and seconded by Ms Nova Atkinson; Ms Elaine Collins, nominated by Miss Sharon Hintze and seconded by Mr John Egan; Mrs Kathy Elam, nominated by Mr Colin Allen and seconded by Mr William Michael Wood; Mrs Susan Hourizi, nominated by Mr K Rothery and seconded by Mr Peter Clark, and Mr James Quinlan, nominated by Mr Ian Waller and seconded by Mrs N Furlong all offered themselves for election. i There being more nominations than vacancies, a ballot was held of the Members present. The result given by the independent scrutineers at the end of the meeting was held that Mr Peter Bailey, Mrs Kathy Elam, Mr John Hanson, Flt. Lt. Nicholas Newington-Irving and Mr Geoffrey Stone had been elected to the Executive Committee.
8. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr William Michael Wood, announced the awards of Certificates of Appreciation to Jack Baxter, Jeanne Bryan, Gillian Pickup and Ann Wilkie. Those present received their certificates from the Chairman of the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent.
9. The Chairman presented with great pleasure The Prince Michael of Kent Award to Michael Armstrong and ABM Publishing. Mrs Sue Fearn accepted the Award on their behalf.
10. The Chairman invited the Treasurer, Mr Geoffrey Stone, to put two proposals to the meeting, on behalf of the Executive Committee; a) to reduce the subscription for Members resident outside the United Kingdom; and
b) to reduce the discount given for paying subscription by Direct Debit.

Mr Stone presented the case for reducing the subscription to overseas Members. Since the last increase in subscription rates the Society has seen a large reduction in overseas Members. As numbers have reduced substantially, a drop in subscription rate will not affect the Society unduly, and if the Society is able to increase Membership in this area it will benefit everyone. Mr Stone recognised the argument for a reduced rate for people in the UK who are not able to visit the Library, but at present a way had not been found to be able to fund the loss in income that this would create for the Society.

Mr Stone reported that the Direct Debit discount was given initially to encourage existing Members to switch to payment by that method, and had therefore now passed its usefulness. He also added that the Recurring Transaction Authorities would no longer be accepted.

Mr Geoff Stone, on behalf of the Executive Committee, proposed the first amendment and the motion was carried.

Mr Geoff Stone, on behalf of the Executive Committee, proposed the second amendment and the motion was carried.

The amendments to the General Regulations are:

New paragraph 3(c):

- (c) The annual subscription payable for the year 2004 onwards shall be a maximum of £43 (inclusive of VAT), except that 'Non-London Members' shall pay a maximum of £33 (inclusive of VAT); for Members resident outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland the subscription shall be £25.

'Non-London Members' are those Members of the Society elected before 8 July 1997 whose sole or principal place of residence on the date for renewal of their subscription is more than 25 miles distant from Nelson's Column in the centre of Trafalgar Square.

New paragraph 3(e):

- (e) Members shall be entitled to a reduction of £2.50 on the rates prescribed in 3(c) or 3(d) above, as the case may be, if either
- their subscription is received within fourteen days of the date for renewal by variable Direct Debit; or
- at the time of payment, other than by variable Direct Debit, they submit a valid variable Direct Debit mandate for subsequent years.

11. There was no other competent business but two questions were made by Members. Mr Peter Shippley asked if the Society was looking at ways to attract younger people into the field of Genealogy. Mr William Michael Wood replied that this had been uppermost in his mind when looking at the recently formulated Business Plan, and that a new Education Committee is being created with Working Parties looking to address this issue.

Mr James Quinlan asked if there were any plans to hold electronic versions of the special collections. Mr William Michael Wood responded that the collection is catalogued on the whole by name, collection and content, and that it was hoped when the Library Catalogue goes on-line it will be more widely known what the Society holds. Mr Quinlan asked if people could lodge information on Gedcoms. Mr John Hanson stated that the Society had accepted information in electronic format for some time.

Before the closure of the meeting the Chairman thanked President Paul Munden of the Hyde Park Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for making the building available, and members of the LDS congregations for providing the refreshments for the meeting. The meeting was then declared closed at 7.00pm.