

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008 MINUTES

Minutes of the 97th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Genealogists held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 64-68 Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2PA on Tuesday, 24 June 2008, at 6.04pm. 78 Members were recorded as being present.

President of the Society, Patric Dickinson, LVO, MA, FSG, took the Chair.

1. The Chairman reported that the Minutes of the 96th Annual General Meeting had been circulated in the Genealogists' Magazine and had been published on the website. He pointed out that the Trustees had already approved the Minutes but they were provided for information at the meeting. The Chairman reported an extra agenda item would be included that was not an extraordinary item it would be raised at the relevant point in the meeting.
2. The Chairman invited the Members to note the Auditors report on page 24 of the Annual Report. He also raised the matter that the abbreviated accounts circulated in the Annual Report had been incorrect. Amendments were on everyone's seat at the meeting and would be made available on the website. He highlighted that the Auditors were satisfied that the Society's Accounts gave a true and fair view of the financial position. With no comments from the Members, the Auditor's report was taken as read.
3. Mr William Michael Wood, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented the Annual Report of the Trustees. He highlighted the good results on Membership by losing only two members overall. He also pointed out the long overdue major change of Mrs June Perrin being promoted to the role of Chief Executive. He commented on the positive development of the new Family History Show and its growing success. He then went on to discuss the Society's future and the findings of its strategy analysis. He highlighted some strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and how moving forward was looking very positive. As this was the end of his term on the Board he expressed thanks to the dedicated staff who had made his role an enjoyable one.

Mr Geoffrey Stone, the ex-Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts to the meeting in the absence of the Treasurer Mrs Carole Thomas. He read the report from the Treasurer highlighting the good year due mainly to the £78,500 payment from the developers for the Society's loss of light. She had also extended her thanks to those who helped her in her first year. The Ex-Treasurer went on to point out that the Society had continued to reduce its operating costs where possible which had also helped. He warned again that the Society must not become complacent as it could not continually rely on donations and legacies.

The Chairman invited questions on the Report or the Accounts and Report of the Board of Trustees.

Mr Julian Duffas stated he was glad finances were in better order and enquired if Wednesday evening opening could be re-introduced. Mr Michael Wood reported the Trustees had considered this but at present the Society still does not have sufficient resources to do so. It was uneconomical in relation to the numbers versus the cost. It was felt any surpluses made would be put to better use to digitise records.

Mr Peter Christian noted the Key Performance Indicators and asked if it would not be more useful to note increase in numbers rather than income on lectures. Mr Michael Wood answered that initially the Society had used income as this was readily available information. It would look at numbers as time progressed.

Mr Steve Porter asked that as the Chairman had stated that the Society can be Risk Averse, what are the risks that could be taken with income not being great. Mr Michael Wood answered with an example of the GRO situation in ways we should be more aggressive and challenge government bodies on behalf of Genealogists. He did confirm however that the Society couldn't take financial risks given the current economy and could only take controlled and considered risk in this area.

Mr John Pollock asked about the GRO updated indexes no longer being available in Central London. Mr Wood asked the Genealogist Miss Else Churchill to respond. Miss Churchill reported that the Society had originally been offered the indexes but subsequently the GRO had withdrawn

the offer because their legal department felt they could not enter into a legal agreement with a non-public body. The Society is continuing to challenge this decision.

Mr Jeremy Goldsmith stated the impending centenary would be an ideal opportunity to raise the Society's image and asked if there were any working groups. Mr Wood replied that a Working Group had already been formed and several ideas were being considered.

There being no further questions the Chairman invited a Member of the Society to propose the resolution to approve the Annual Report; this was proposed by Mr Richard Moore and seconded by Mr John Pollock and approved with no objections on a show of hands.

The Chairman also invited a Member of the Society to propose the resolution to approve the Annual Accounts; this was proposed by Dr Colin Chapman and seconded by Mr Michael Isherwood and approved with no objections on a show of hands.

4. Mr Frank Hardy proposed the resolution to reappoint the Auditors and authorising the Board of Trustees to fix their remuneration. The resolution was seconded by Mr Peter Park and unanimously approved on a show of hands.
5. The Chairman announced that during the year Mr Roy Stockdill and Mr Michael Wood had finished their term of office. Mrs Sue Hourizi retired by rotation, and although being eligible, did not offer herself for re-election for a second three-year term. Mrs Kathy Elam resigned as from 24 June 2008. Thanks were extended to them all for their excellent work and hopes that they would continue to assist where possible.

Mr William Bortrick, Mr Hugh Guilford and Mrs Carole Thomas offered themselves for election, having been co-opted during the previous year. The Chairman announced that there being more vacancies than nominees there was no requirement for a vote and welcomed the new Trustees.

The Chairman noted there were still four vacancies and urged people to come forward to serve the Society.

The extra agenda item was raised at this point being the election of the President and Vice-presidents due to their first three year term coming to an end.

The Chairman handed over to Mr Michael Wood to announce that at this meeting the President, Mr Patric Dickinson retires by rotation but being nominated by the Trustees in General Meeting is re-elected for a further three years.

All the current Vice-presidents retire by rotation and the following people have been nominated by the Trustees in General Meeting to be re-elected for a further three-year term. The Right Rev John Kingsmill Cavell, President Boyd Packer, Professor Peter Spufford, Fergus Gillespie and Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith.

6. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr William Michael Wood, announced the award of a Certificate of Appreciation to Eve Perry who received her certificate from the Chairman. The Chairman of the meeting then announced another certificate of appreciation to Mr William Michael Wood.
7. The Chairman invited Mrs June Perrin, Secretary of the Fellows to announce the results of the elections for Fellowship of the Society. Mrs Perrin announced that Mrs Beryl Schumer and Mr William Michael Wood had been elected to join the Fellows. Congratulations were given and the President awarded the certificates.
8. The Chairman announced that the Prince Michael of Kent Award was not being made this year.
9. The Chairman asked for any other competent business or comments. There were none.
10. Before the closure of the meeting the Chairman thanked President Jeff Kirk of the Hyde Park Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for making the building available, and Sister Richens and Sharon Hintze and her team of volunteers for helping set up the room for the meeting. The meeting was then declared closed at 7.04pm.