

Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting of Cymdeithas Defaid Llanwenog
held on Saturday the 11th of November 2017 at
The Village Hall, Gorsgoch at 6.30pm

Chairman – David Henson (President)

In attendance – Delyth Williams (Secretary) Elfyn Morgans (Chairman)

David Henson welcomed all to the special, 60th AGM and gave an overview of his two year's as President. He also welcomed Thomas Davies of Flock No 493 who is the Great, Great, Great Grandson of Cliff Davies, who was the first President of the Llanwenog Sheep Society. Mr Henson then chaired the AGM.

Personal Matters

A minute silence was held in memory of Jenny King, a past Secretary to the Society.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from the following – Joan & Peter Hicks, Meinir Green, Mr Williams (Red Burrow), Rebecca Wilson, Mr and Mrs Bookham, Alison Ayling, Richard & Mary Hughes, Lawrence Jones.

2. Confirmation of 2016 minutes

Minutes proposed correct by Gareth Evans and seconded by John Green.

3. Matters Arising from 2016 minutes

Mr Andrew Jones raised an issue with the 2016 Ewe Lamb Registrations in that they were all listed as "singles" when some should have been "twins". This was noted and Secretary advised that the error had now been corrected in readiness for the 2017 registrations.

4. To receive Statement of Accounts

Treasurer's Report - Marrie Annette Williams

The Treasurer advised she was pleased that the Accounts this year show a small profit. Electronic communications had halved the postage costs and we have tried reducing advertising. The Deposit Account with Scottish Widows had now been closed and she hopes that an account with the Skipton Building Society will be opened shortly. In the interim she has had to show an adjustment for the capital transfer into the Lloyds Current Account in the Income/Expenditure accounts.

There was no Auditors comments as Mr Mortlock was no longer prepared to audit the Accounts. The Working Committee would have to discuss this at their January meeting.

Gareth Lloyd proposed the accounts be received and seconded by Huw Jenkins, subject to an Audit.

5. Correspondence

An Email had been received from Libby Henson of Grassroots with regards suggestions of how the Society could continue their tagging system in 2018 as we had now come to the end of the alphabet. A numbering system using the year was proposed and this was accepted in general by most present. It was resolved that the Working Committee discuss this further in their January meeting.

6. Chairman's Report

It is difficult to believe that nearly two years have passed since I became Chairman and may I take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Committee, a great team of people who have helped me and have reminded me of things that need to be done or at times things I have forgotten to do, and even at one stage reminding me that there was a Committee meeting!

I said last year that having Delyth as Society Secretary was wonderful and this year nothing has changed. My job as Chairman is made so much easier because of the hard work and dedication shown by Delyth. Diolch yn Fawr.

It has been a fantastic year in the show ring and I wish to congratulate all those members who have promoted the breed in numerous shows throughout the UK. I would also like to thank all breeders who have supplied quality stock for the show stand as it has travelled throughout the country. I have been fortunate enough to have visited several shows and the quality of the animals being shown are excellent and a credit to you as breeders.

The Show and Sale was a great success this year and it was a pleasure to see such quality stock up for sale, a credit to all those breeders who were selling – and congratulations to all those buyers – I hope you enjoy success with the animals that you bought.

I would like to thank you the Members for your support during the year and I wish you all well during the next year.

Lastly I wish to thank the outgoing President Mr David Henson for his sound support. Mr Henson has been a prominent member of the Society for many years and we have profited from his hard work and wisdom during the two years that he has been in this role.

Diolch yn fawr iawn am eich cefnogaeth.

7. Secretary's Report

This is now my third AGM and I feel that I may just be starting to get my head around things and becoming organised – although it may not look like that to you, the Members! It has been a busy year for the Society.

The purchase of the Grassroots system last year brought with it a lot of additional work, at the end of the day it will only ever be as good as the information we put into it. There have been some errors whilst learning the system, however, as long as you let me know, then they are easily rectified. The Ewe Registrations for this year took much longer than usual but I am pleased to report that most of the errors were member or operator errors rather than Grassroots errors! It is so easy to transpose a figure or miss a letter. I am therefore quite happy that the information contained on the system is correct, and there is approximately 20 years worth of registered sheep on the system.

Although Grassroots records all of the sheep, more importantly I have found is that it records all of our members information. This aspect has been of huge assistance in being able to keep track of our Members and their contact details. I definitely feel that we are communicating better as a Society either by post or Email to our Members and this is showing in the amount of returned Flock Returns this year and the attendance at today's Flock Visit and AGM this evening. Now that we know that the registered sheep on Grassroots are correct, the next challenge will be to allocate the sheep to the individual flocks. In an ideal world, your flocks in the field should match your virtual flock on Grassroots!

I would like to thank all Members who have provided their stock to be on display at the various events this year and for those who have assisted on the stand. These events are important to promote the breed and make new contacts. At the Spring Festival in Builth this year it was interesting to note a high volume of enquiries regarding the breed's wool. Wool seems to be popular again, with a high number of individuals taking up spinning and producing products from the wool, as you saw at the Flock Visit this morning. The Society have already discussed and looked into producing leaflets to promote the breed's wool and characteristics.

The last year has seen a significant increase in enquiries from new breeders interested in the breed, with many new Members having to, and been willing to, travel a fair distance to purchase stock to start their flock. We have had 17 new Members in the last 12 months with another five waiting for approval at this evening's meeting. This compares to 10 in the previous 12 months.

This increased interest in the breed was also reflected at our Annual Show and Sale held in Llanbydder this year. Although entries were down, there was a buzz around the sales ring, and I think our Sellers went home quite happy this year!

Looking forward to the next 12 months, I think as a Society we need to be ensuring that we keep communicating and looking after our new Members whilst also continuing to promote the breed to attract further new Members. We also need to ensure that we move with the times and are able to meet the needs and demands of prospective purchasers. The world of farming is changing and facts and figures are the key factors, and we need to ensure that we can provide them for the Llanwenog's.

As the Treasurer pointed out in her Report, we have made significant savings this year by using more of Email and I hope to continue with this. The website will hopefully be updated over the coming months and be made more user friendly and hopefully be used more to communicate between the Society and it's Members. We will of course continue to post the main communications.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman, President and the Working Committee for their assistance over the last 12 months. Whenever I am not sure of anything, I know that one of you will be able to assist or point me in the right direction.

8. Appointment of Officers and Committee Members

Officials were elected as follows;

**President: Gareth Evans Proposer: David Henson
Second: Pete Ebbsworth**

**Vice President: Maggie Wilson Proposer: John Green
Second: Gareth Lloyd**

**Treasurer: Marie Annette Williams Proposer: Gareth Evans
Second: Elfyn Morgans**

**Auditor: Eryl Jones, Llanybydder Proposer: Huw Jenkins
Second: Pete Ebbsworth**

2017 Elected Committee Members – The four retiring members, John Green, Marie Annette Williams, D Huw Jenkins, Ernest G Lewis had all been re-elected with no additional nominees. Therefore no election was required.

9. Show and Sale Entry Fees

It was reported that the Working Committee had agreed to keep the costs as they currently are, £5 for Rams and £2 for Ewes. Mr Henson reported that he was not happy with the English Support Group charging a levy at the Melton Mowbray Sale.

10. Any Other Business

None

11. Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks was given by Mr Gareth Lloyd.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.