



Registered Charity No 1059537

**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Glamorgan Family History Society
held online via Zoom at 2 pm on Saturday 25 March 2023**

The AGM commenced at 2.00 pm followed at 2.45 pm with a talk by Richard Marks on 'Britain's Railway History for Family Historians'.

Society Officers present: Sue Hamer (Chairman), Nancy Thomas (Vice Chairman), Ian Black (Finance/Trustee)

Branch Trustees present: Aberdare: Pat Rees, Merthyr Tydfil: Carolyn Jacob

Jane Graves acted as Co-Host together with Nick Davey as Vote Counters. There were 36 members present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** The main business - the formal AGM - commenced with a welcome from Sue Hamer who confirmed the procedure for voting ie to use either a Voting Card, YES written on a piece of paper, the hand symbol in 'Reactions' on Zoom or raise a hand.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from: Jane Jones (Secretary), Mike Jones (Pontypridd & Rhondda), Janet Neilson (Swansea), Jean Fowlds (Journal), Elaine Romain (Finance), Sue Tiller (Bridgend/Membership), Jeremy Konsbruck (Cardiff), Karen Prior, Creighton Sims, Neil Merchant, Denis Hunt, Billie McNamara.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM (26 March 2022) and Matters Arising:**

3.1 There were no amendments to the previous minutes. Proposed they were a true record: Anouska Osborne, Seconded: Nancy Thomas, 17 members agreed that the Minutes were a true record, there were no objections.

3.2 Matters Arising – There were no Matters Arising from these Minutes.

4. **Chairman's Report** – Report submitted. Sue Hamer thanked the current Committee and volunteers for their hard work especially during the past three difficult years to keep the Society functioning well. All Branches had now returned to face to face meetings and the ARC is open twice a month. Overall membership numbers had dipped slightly but had now returned to normal levels but it was stressed the priority this year is to ensure we have enough volunteers coming forward to enable the Society to continue in 2024 (our 50th Anniversary) when all Society Officers positions would become vacant. There was still a vacancy for Treasurer since Steve Reis who had been preparing to take over had not been able to do so due to other commitments. Both Chairman and Secretary were due to step down in 2024. Some Societies had folded this year due to a lack of volunteers to run the Society not due to lack of finance.

5. **Statutory Financial Report** – Report submitted - Sue Hamer thanked the Finance Team of Ian Black, Elaine Romain and Independent Examiner – Guy Bevan

5.1 The Statutory Report and Accounts. Members were asked for any questions. None were raised.

5.2 Those present were then asked to approve the Accounts (for the year ended 31 August 2022). Proposed: Sue MacKay, Seconded: Nina Jenkins. The financial report and accounts were approved by a majority of the members present (22) and signed by the Chairman, Sue Hamer. They would later be uploaded and made available on the Charities Commission website.

6. **Membership Report** – Submitted. Sue Hamer thanked the Membership Team of Nancy Thomas, Sue Tiller and Jane Jenkins. Nancy Thomas commented that at present this is our busiest renewals period with a dozen payments being received every day. There had been an issue this week with some online payments to the website but this had been due to a problem with Pay Pal rather than our website and was the quickest way to pay.
7. **ARC Report** – Submitted. Nancy Thomas commented that volunteers were continuing to update the Library. Bookings to Aberkenfig on a Wednesday were slow but increasing.
8. **Projects Report** - Submitted – Nancy Thomas would like someone to step forwards to take over this role. Most Branches are undertaking projects. Two new CDs almost ready to be launched by Merthyr Tydfil Branch: Obituaries 1910-1919 and WW1 Casualty Lists.
9. **Events Report** – Sue Hamer. It had been decided once again not to hold our Annual Fair at Methyr this year due to the continuing uncertainty as to the numbers that might attend an event which is a major expense for the Society. Holding a fair in March 2024, together with other events to commemorate the Society's 50th Anniversary, are currently being discussed.
10. **Journal Report** – Submitted. Jean Fowlds was unable to attend but had submitted a report. The quarterly journals were very popular. Regular themes had encouraged members to send in articles although sometimes these arrived for the following edition. Members were asked to access the journal online to reduce costs especially with postage increasing yet again.
11. **Website Report** - Submitted. Sue Hamer: A website committee has been formed but this needs a volunteer to take over its organisation. Material is being prepared by Nick Davey on local parishes but this needs a volunteer to upload.
- 12.1 **Aberdare & Cynon Valley** report submitted – Pat Rees: Numbers attending meetings continue low but regular. Projects ongoing with access now gained to Glyntaff registers to check burial records. Current project: 1950-1960 Obituaries. RCT burial books in the process of being digitised 4-5 year project which when completed will be free to view.
- 12.2 **Bridgend report** - Submitted – Nancy Thomas: Low numbers both at meetings and at monthly library sessions. Facility to access branch meetings virtually via Zoom possible with wider membership to be invited to attend.
- 12.3 **Cardiff & Vale Report** – Submitted – Sue Hamer: Face to face Branch meetings recommenced in November. The Branch has no Chairman or Secretary. Some committee members are unable to attend afternoon sessions due to work. Alternate evening and afternoon sessions to be considered as well as outside visits during the Summer.
- 12.4 **Merthyr Tydfil Report** - Submitted. Carolyn Jacob: Not quite as many attending meetings now that other organisations have restarted. Some very interesting enquiries and visitors. Details given of two local female Station Masters. Carolyn thanked Nancy Thomas for her help with recent projects enabling a large amount of work done by Branch members including Michael Donovan to be published. A WW1 history day at Merthyr Labour Club on Saturday 22 April suggested as an ideal location to launch the WW1 publication.
- 12.5 **Pontypridd and Rhondda Report** – Submitted. Eira Morgan: Some interesting talks recently at Pontypridd Museum had attracted new and returning members.
- 12.6 **Swansea Branch Report** – Submitted. Jeff Harrison: At the beginning of the year the Branch had held Research Afternoons in the Library where a number of people had been given help and advice. From 18th April the Branch would move to West Glamorgan Archives where an introductory talk would be given on what is available at the Archives. The branch would then meet monthly at the Archives hopefully once numbers start to increase booking Speakers again might be possible.

12.7 Online Branch Report – Submitted. Sue Hamer thanked Jane Graves for hosting the Online Talks both during the pandemic and since the creation of the Online Branch. The Online Branch Committee includes a number of experienced and long term members which has enabled a wide range of topics to be offered via the twice monthly talks and ‘Coffee and Chat’ sessions which rarely falls below 50 attendees for the talks and 30-40 for the less formal ‘Coffee and Chat’ meetings on a Thursday evening. The Summer programme is currently being considered as well as some online events for the 50th Anniversary in 2024.

13. **Appointment of Auditor:** Guy Bevan had agreed to act as Independent Examiner for the forthcoming financial year. Proposed: Anouska Osborne, Seconded: Jane Graves. Agreed by a majority (23) of the members present.

14. **Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members/Trustees**
15. **& Confirmation of Branch Trustees**

Nominations had been received as follows:

Chairman: Sue Hamer

Vice Chairman: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Jane Jones

Executive Committee Members: Ian Black, Jean Fowlds, Meic Jones and Penny Williams.

Aberdare & Cynon:

Pat Rees

Bridgend:

Sue Tiller

Cardiff & Vale:

Jeremy Konsbruck

Merthyr Tydfil:

Carolyn Jacob

Pontypridd & Rhondda:

Eira Morgan

Swansea:

Janet Neilson

Proposed: Tracey Sims, Seconded: Karin Ruthven, Agreed by a majority of those present (24).

17. Before the final item on the Agenda Sue Hamer asked if anyone wanted to comment or ask any questions.

17.1 Jane Graves proposed a vote of thanks for Chairman, Sue Hamer.

18. **Date & Time of Next AGM** – This will be confirmed once the dates for next year’s Six Nations Fixtures are available. The AGM is usually held on the weekend where there are no rugby matches. However the 2024 AGM will be part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations and so its timing and whether it will be face to face, hybrid or via Zoom will also need to be decided.

Sue Hamer thanked everyone for attending. There would be a short ‘comfort’ break before Richard Marks talk.

Meeting closed at 14.33 GMT.



SM Hamer
Chairman
19 April 2023