

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009 MINUTES

Minutes of the 98th 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, 30 June 2009, at 6.00pm. 62 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 97th 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.
2. The Chairman invited the Members to note the Auditors report on page 18 of the Annual Report. 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 Colin Allen, FSG, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented the Annual Report of the Trustees. He highlighted the new Open Access area supported by the City Bridge Trust. He also praised the popularity of the lectures programme, the success of the Who do You Think You Are – Live Show and the new titles from the Enterprises Board. He commented on the website and the new exclusive Members Area launched in November which will gradually have more content added. This will open up access to the Library for people from home. He then went on to discuss the Society's future and the current economic climate. He highlighted the Society's progress in appointing a fundraising assistant who is already actively bringing in more funding to the Society, including the Friends Initiative, which would be reported on briefly during the meeting. As this was his first year as Chairman he thanked all concerned for the support he had received in familiarising himself with his duties. He also thanked all the staff for the positive way in which they had responded to necessary cutbacks.

Mrs Carole Thomas, the Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts to the meeting. She reported the unfortunate year-end position of a deficit. She highlighted this had been reported on in previous years and the need to find ways to stop the deficit situation which had only been resolved in previous years by donations and legacies. She explained the difficulty, which the Society had had in appointing a fundraiser in the past but hoped that the way forward, now that the appointment had been made, would be more positive. She acknowledged that fundraising does take time to establish and 2009 would probably still show a deficit with a plan to break even by 2010. She told the meeting of her intention to leave as Treasurer due to travelling plans but finished by encouraging all to donate in any way they can to the Society to provide much needed support for the terrific work being undertaken.

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

Mr Julian Duffas asked if subscription fees had been re-assessed to see if gift aid could be claimed. The Treasurer pointed out that the benefits of membership still exceed allowable limits set so no gift aid could be re-claimed but the Society does claim gift aid (where appropriate) on donations.

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 Dr Colin Chapman, FSG and seconded by Mr Stephen Chastelle and approved with no objections on a show of voting cards.

The Chairman also invited a Member of the Society to propose the resolution to approve the Annual Accounts; this was proposed by Mr Richard Moore and seconded by Dr David Wright and approved with no objections on a show of voting cards.

4. Mr Frank Hardy, FSG proposed the resolution to reappoint the Auditors and authorising the Board of Trustees to fix their remuneration. The resolution was seconded by Mr Eric Probert, FSG and unanimously approved on a show of voting cards.
5. The Chairman announced that during the year Mr Colin Allen, FSG, and Mr Norman Meadows retired by rotation and being eligible offered themselves for re-election. Mrs Diane Waters retired

by rotation and did not offer herself for re-election. Mr Ian Waller retires after his full term, Mr Michael Williamson resigned during the year and Mrs Carole Thomas resigns with effect after this meeting. Thanks were expressed for all the hard work put in by these Trustees and the responsibilities undertaken. Mr Chris Broomfield FSG, Mr Roy Stockdill and Mr William Michael Wood, FSG offered themselves for election. There was no requirement for a vote and the new Trustees were welcomed.

The Chairman noted that, if the amendment to the articles is accepted, there will be one vacancy which can be filled by a member being co-opted during the year.

6. The Chairman referred to the summary of the proposed changes that had been issued to the Members and highlighted the fact that the Memorandum and Articles of Association are the legal foundation of the Society of Genealogists. He informed the Members that, subject to the approval of this meeting, the changes to the Articles would need to be approved subsequently by both the Charity Commission and Companies House as the Society is both a registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. It was noted that the proposed changes being put for approval at this meeting would need a 75% majority of members present in person or by proxy and voting. The changes were shown in a summary document and they consisted of two items; one to add the ability for Members to vote by proxy and one to change the maximum number of Trustees allowed from 16 to 12 (both changes in line with the model documents on the Charity Commission website and consistent with the Society's Strategic Plan). The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions on the special resolution regarding the changes to the Articles of Association, which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. There were no questions only an agreed request for one small typographical error to be amended. A second amendment was proposed but the Members agreed that the wording should remain as presented.

The Chairman then proposed the resolution as set out in the notice of the meeting. 54 Members voted for the changes, 1 Member voted against and 7 abstained. With a majority of more than the required 75% the changes to the articles were approved.

7. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr Colin Allen, FSG announced the award of Certificates of Appreciation to Diane Bouglas, Nicola Convine, Ken Divall, Neil Fludger, Sue Highley, Peter Hoey, Sue Hourizi, Paul Innet, Michael Isherwood, David Lewis, Simon Pugh, Roy Stockdill, Geoff Swinfield, Joan Waddon, Colin Waddon, Ian Waller, Diane Waters and Michael Williamson. Those present received their certificates from the Chairman. Thanks were expressed to all and were to be passed on to those not present. An apology was made by the Chief Executive for the late notice to recipients.
8. 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 Dr David Wright had been elected to join the Fellows. Congratulations were given and the President awarded his certificate.
9. The Chairman announced that the Prince Michael of Kent Award was not being made this year.
10. The Chairman asked for any other competent business or comments.

Dr Michael Isherwood asked if steps would be taken to address the gender imbalance that is now the case on the Board of Trustees. Mr Colin Allen, FSG responded by acknowledging that if women Members do not offer themselves for nomination it would be difficult but he appealed to the Membership to let the Board know of any women who would be interested in helping to resolve this situation.

Mr Julian Duffas stated that he felt that the information on cutbacks this year filtered out and would appreciate more consultation. Mr Colin Allen, FSG responded by stating that clear statements were put out in the journal and on the website as soon as was possible. He acknowledged however that more consultation could be employed and this would be looked at.

Mr Simon Fowler asked if any plans had been made for the Centenary. Mr Colin Allen, FSG was able to report that a meeting of the Centenary Working Party had been held that week and that current plans were for a one day conference with a conference banquet. A separate Centenary

Dinner was envisaged which would probably also be a fundraising event. It is hoped His Royal Highness, Prince Michael of Kent will join the event if available.

Mr Cedric Hoptroft asked if the Society had considered adding a donation to subscriptions that could be gift aided. Mrs Carole Thomas responded that this is being given consideration.

Mrs Elizabeth Silverthorne asked if non-member day fees could be gift aided. Mrs June Perrin responded that it is known that historic houses and museums etc do this and it will be looked into.

Dr David Wright, FSG asked if a history of the Society is to be published for the Centenary. Mr Colin Allen, FSG replied that there were plans for this and Roy Stockdill added that he had written a piece to go in the Genealogists' Magazine about the project.

11. Mr William Michael Wood, FSG then gave a brief presentation on the new 'Friends' Initiative. He explained that its purpose was to encourage donations outside of the Membership fee and highlighted all the items it could support such as building maintenance, indexing, digitisation etc. He stated that information on the Friends Initiative would appear in the next magazine and it would also be put on the website. He encouraged Members to support this great initiative.
12. 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 Elder Watts and Sharon Hintze and the team of volunteers for helping set up the room for the meeting. The meeting was then declared closed at 6.50pm.