

SSWIGS



Students Of Swansea
In Guides & Scouts

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
BRYN ROAD SCOUT AND GUIDE HEADQUARTERS, SWANSEA
11/03/2010, 19:30

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Executive Committee 2009-10 Reports
3. Presentation of the Accounts
4. Elections for Executive Committee 2010-11
5. Members Feedback
6. Announcement of Election Results
7. Forthcoming Events
8. Close



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
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ATTENDEES:

Committee:

Claire Mollart (President); Shaun Harris (Secretary); Dawn Morgan (Treasurer); Bex Maby (Social Secretary); Tom Duncan (Publicity Officer)

Members:

Adam Barnes, Bethan Coombe, Tiffany Golding, Aude Kawai-Thevenin, Sarah Latchem, Jon Lewis, Richard Organ, Madeleine Oughton, Rhiannon Sherratt, Edward Smith, Kate Stacey, Suzie Stephens, Heloise Warner.





Scouting/Guiding Representatives:

Fiona Proudfoot (Guiding Division Commissioner); Ann Gratrix (Scouting Deputy Commissioner)

APOLOGIES:

Emma Dean (SSAGO President), Luke Young (SUSU President), Raechel Matthey (SUSU Societies and Services Officer); Heather Ellingham, Mike Perkins, Keira Thomas, Annabel Warren.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

-  Claire opens the AGM at 19:40, welcoming the members and the committee. A special welcome was made for Ann Gratrix and Fiona Proudfoot, representatives of The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK.
-  Apologies were received from representatives of SSAGO, Swansea University's Student Union and four members of the society.
-  Fiona Proudfoot was presented to the society as Returning Officer for the Executive Committee elections, with Suzie Stephens assisting with the counting of results.
-  EGM minutes from 26/11/2009 (Treasurer Election) were approved. Proposed by Adam Barnes and seconded by Bethan Coombe. EGM minutes from 30/01/2010 (constitution meeting) were approved. Proposed by Richard Organ and seconded by Bethan Coombe.

2. 2009-10 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

President (Claire Mollart):

Well, I certainly misunderstood what the position of SSWIGS president involved when I took up the position last year. I didn't realise that it could feel quite so much like a full-time job! At times it has felt very much like we've been in a one step forward, two steps backwards situation, mostly, I believe, stemming from the problems that arose following last year's committee elections. I apologise for the mistake that was made back then, and I hope that most of you at least, were satisfied with the way the problem was dealt with.

Personally, more important to me was the atmosphere that the AGM problems left in the society. I deeply regret how this affected so many of us. I hope that the new committee can avoid this problem in the future for the benefit of the society and your personal health, enjoyment, and course grades! Again, for all atmosphere and related problems, I extend my most sincere apologies.

Luckily for me, there has been very great support from the vast majority of SSWIGS members. I will forever be grateful for this support as it has kept me strong and enthusiastic, and has always managed to lift my spirits. I can't thank you enough. It is your support that has enabled the society to reach the next level. For example, I mean we now have a constitution which provides solid ground rules for the society for the future. We have improved links with local Scouting and Guiding, finding volunteers for groups who need extra support and helping out at the Guiding Centenary Thinking Day event. The stampede group's fundraising in town also raised the profile of SSWIGS and perhaps improved the reputation of the society locally. The Guiders I spoke to at the Thinking Day celebration were extremely grateful for SSWIGS' support raising money for Parkmill Guide Centre and I'm equally grateful to Kate for providing the opportunity for SSWIGS to help out.

Through regular contact with the Students' Union, we have built up a good rapport with the officers who have granted us lots of money this year and have provided ongoing support for the running of the society. I was very proud and thrilled when Raechel (SUSU Societies and Services Officer 2009/10) told me that SSWIGS are the most open and transparent society this year!

So what have I done this year on the committee? I can provide a pretty full list for anyone who is interested. The major achievements involve running elections, running the amazing trip to Poland, running Fresher's Camp, and playing a key role in the running of Winter Camp. I've arranged transport to events, done the job of Treasurer for the period after Jason stood down, represented SSWIGS at SSAGO reps meetings and SU SGMs/AGM, dealt with kit orders, chaired many meetings, and worked towards a more open, friendly and transparent society.

Of course, when I say this is what I've done this year, much of this list would not have been possible without the great deal of input and support from the committee. I am extremely appreciative of all your support, enthusiasm, and hard work. Well, we did it guys! Thanks!

Secretary (Shaun Harris):

"I have enjoyed my, slightly less than a, year on the SSWIGS committee and its implicit responsibilities. All I have done this year is filling in forms, forms and more forms. Well, actually I have done a little bit more.

"To start with, I attempted to assist the two committees during transition with the election issue after the 2009 AGM, wishing not to make the problem more complicated and awkward than it was and glad the issue was resolved professionally. At the same time I was doing my best to support Claire for the Poland trip, sorting out the insurance details. In Poland I took a diary of each day's adventures, including some of the hilarious and unforgettable moments of the trip. I have written this up and distributed a copy to those who went. I hope everyone finds it appropriate and when read at some future date, it will bring back all those fantastic memories. If anyone is interested in reading it, then it is under the Poland section of the website to download.

"After recovering from the excitement of Poland, I set about my summer drawing up the first (of many) drafts of the constitution. This involved a great deal of understanding and interpretation of the three constitutions we were working from, and resolving the contradictions between them. I also had to work closely with the Students Union, SSAGO and the committee (in very long and boring meetings!) in order to have something that all parties are happy with. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their help and the members for their patience during this process. I hope that what we have approved will prove useful for future committees and will help resolve any issues quickly and efficiently.

"I have also investigated a trip to Cork in Ireland, planned to go ahead this summer. Unfortunately, due to a lack of numbers and ever increasing costs, the trip became unviable. However, I still have all the details which I am willing to pass on to anyone prepared to take on organising a similar trip at a future date.

"Over the autumn, I collated the information for the several issues of SSWIGS News that was sent to members, to keep everyone up to date with the society's events and more. As well as these I have undertaken the basic secretary tasks of filling in forms as accurately as possible (including adding Cardiff SSAGS as a danger on the risk assessments) and taking several committee and general meeting minutes as accurately and as detailed as possible. I have also completed three club reports, for which SSWIGS won the best report at the last rally. As well as this I have written three award nominations for committee members. Unfortunately over the year, and particularly the last few months, I have found it difficult to get involved with the organisation of the socials and in retrospect would ensure greater involvement. Yet, I have managed to attend EVERY SSWIGS event since September including all socials and camps! I have thoroughly enjoyed the last year and thank everyone for having to put up with me this year; I look forward to more years as a SSWIG(S)!"

Treasurer (Dawn Morgan):











"I only took on the role in November following Jason stepping down but have become highly involved with the organisation of SSWIGS and the events. I have met with Raechel (SU Societies and Services Officer) on several occasions to resolve the issues with the accounts and ensure they are more understandable for whoever takes over. As well as this, I have been able to gain funding for transport to rally and have collected monies for events. I also took on a big role in organising Winter Camp, including organising food and the cooking. A few weeks ago I arranged and ran the play-dough evening. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the committee and wish the society the best success for the future."

Social Secretary (Bex Maby):

Over the past year SSWIGS has held a variety of socials. Some have been more relaxed with quiet drinks in JCS, a Christmas Mulled Wine evening and a pub quiz whereas others have been more adventurous such as the climbing social. We've been out and about on several scavenger hunts and incident hikes as well as visits to Winter Wonderland, to the beach to watch the fireworks complete with sparklers, backwoods cooking in the rain and down Wind Street for two pub crawls both of which saw many SSWIGS getting creative with their costumes. Fun has been injected onto the socials through games and challenges; icebreaker games at the start of the year helped introduce the Fresher's to SSWIGS, the play-dough challenge resulted in some interesting models being built and everyone got a little competitive when we went bowling. Some of our socials have been creative; making costumes for rally and the Ready Steady Cake where three interestingly decorated cakes were created! SSWIGS has also kept a strong link with the Cardiff SSAGS having had several joint socials with them we visited them to compete in the World Trade Game, released the inner child by visiting Playzone with them and testing brain power with a pub quiz.

Publicity Officer (Tom Duncan):

I have also had a good year on the SSWIGS committee. So, what have I done?

-  Continually improved the website, made the use of our new blog which can update news straight to Facebook and the website, meaning the SSWIGS news is available in another format for those who can't be bothered to check your email;
-  Created a new leaflet to publicise the society at Fresher's Fayre, as well as updating all of the other publicity material;
-  After a lot of nagging updated the SSWIGS notice board;
-  Helped the society to design a SSWIGS badge;
-  Help organised and attended SSWIGS Fresher's Camp and many socials;
-  Worked with the rest of the committee to write a SSWIGS specific constitution;
-  Took on the role of quartermaster, making a full list of SSWIGS equipment and making sure this list is fully up to date after every event;
-  Continued my role as assistant scout leader here in Swansea and in Suffolk;
-  Helped the local guide association, by attending Christmas events and taking brownies on a trip;
-  Attended campsite service days at both Penmaen and Parc le Breos.

I hope SSWIGS have another great year next year.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

SSWIGS Mar 2009 – March 2010

Opening Balance £2815.11

SSWIGS Jan 2010 – March 2010

		INCOME	OUTGOING
SOCIALS	Subs	£24.50	
	Hall Hire		£32
	Equipment		£4.51
WINTER CAMP	Members Payment	£208	
	Cost to SSAGS		£208
	Fuel	£60.01	£60.05
KIT		£147.38	147.38
Misc			£3.00
TOTAL		£439.89	£454.94

4. 2010-11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

President:

Candidates: Kate Stacey (Nominated by Heather Ellingham, Seconded by Dawn Morgan)

Dawn Morgan was asked to explain why she has seconded Kate for President explaining that Kate has been involved with the society since its creation and although not a member of the committee for the last three years she has been highly involved, including running the Swansea rally in 2008 and has been invaluable as a minibus driver, ensuring we can go to these fantastic places for camps.

Adam asked Kate: "When the society experiences problems are you willing to 'kick arse'?" to which the response was "Yes, just ask Rich!". Adam followed this up with "Is she into that stuff then Rich?" to which Rich and Kate both responded "yes!"

Secretary:

Candidates: Jon Lewis (Nominated by Kate Stacey, Seconded by Bethan Coombe)

Kate Stacey was asked to explain why she nominated Jon for Secretary:

"Jon has been very committed to the society over the last six months and has attended almost every SSWIGS event throughout the year, which is the more impressive with the lack of Fresher's this year and Jon not being involved in the movements previously. Although he is very quiet he does get stuck in at events."

Beth was asked to add to this:

Jon is very good with numbers. (This was corrected by members, that Jon was running for Secretary and not Treasurer). Jon is good with words.

Adam asked Jon: "As a Welsh speaker, will all the emails be sent in Welsh to cohere with the SU's policy". Jon responded with: "Yes they can be, although Google translator may well be used!"

Shaun asked Jon: "How do you feel about filling in form after form after form throughout the year?" Jon responded with "Yes, I'm sure that you [with reference to Shaun] can teach me how to do them!" Claire added that Jon should just copy and paste this past year's forms!

Shaun asked Jon: "You have been well known for your occasional rants this year, will the society see more of this if you are elected on to the committee?" Jon responded with "Only if they are directed at you [Shaun]".

Treasurer:

Candidates: Edward Smith (Nominated by Tom Duncan, Seconded by Kate Stacey)

Tom Duncan was asked to explain why he nominated Edward for Treasurer:

"Ed has a really good Scouting background, and although only been part of the society for the last couple of months has got highly involved. He is also good with numbers and will thus be suited for the position of Treasurer. He is also an engineer [boos from some members]"

Kate adds that she has pretty much the same opinion but adds: "Ed has said that he can get 'anal' [inducing laughs from the society]" but believes he will do a good job for the society.

Adam asks Ed: "Do you have a good calculator?" to which he responds "yes"

Social Secretary:

Candidates: NONE – Position to be Re-Opened

Publicity Officer:

Candidates: NONE – Position to be Re-Opened

Ballot papers handed out to all full members of the Society for the three positions where members were standing. Suzie Stephens and Sarah Latchem as associate members do not vote. Claire explains the single transferable vote to members.

Claire Mollart, as President, does not initially vote, instead places a casting vote in a sealed envelope in the case of a tie.

Fiona Proudfoot, as Returning Officer collects the ballot papers, and with the help of Suzie Stephens, counts the votes.

Fiona then announces the results:

President:		Secretary		Treasurer	
Kate Stacey	14	Jon Lewis	14	Edward Smith	15
RON	0	RON	0	RON	0
Abstain	1	Abstain	1	Abstain	0

Congratulations to Kate Stacey, Jon Lewis and Edward Smith who are elected to president, secretary and treasurer respectively.

THE POSITIONS OF SOCIAL SECRETARY AND PUBLICITY OFFICER ARE RE-OPENED TO THE FLOOR OF THE AGM

Social Secretary:

Candidates: Rhiannon Sherratt (Nominated by Edward Smith and Bethan Coombe)

Ed is asked as to why he has nominated Rhiannon to which he responds that Rhiannon has the guts to stand. Beth supports the nomination by stating that Rhiannon is pretty awesome at the socials apart from the ones that she is at hockey and would therefore make a great social secretary.

Claire asks Rhiannon as to whether she is still intending to stand as hockey captain and whether it would affect her position if elected for both positions. Rhiannon responds that she would be able to do both and would make attendance at SSWIGS socials more likely as she would not put hockey fitness training on the same day as SSWIGS.

Shaun asks Rhiannon as to why she had not stood when the nomination period initially opened. Rhiannon responded that she had only decided to run on the day of the AGM due to applying for hockey captain.

Bex asked Rhiannon as to how many weeks it will be before she gets some injury. Rhiannon responds that she has not been injured since before Christmas and wishes to keep it this way.

Adam asks Rhiannon: "What is your most embarrassing moment at university?" This is answered by that most happen when drunk although walked into Walkabout and...

Ed questions Rhiannon upon her views of mascot mutilation. Rhiannon answers that the whole of Derek needs to be at all SSWIGS meetings and events.

Bex asks Rhiannon as to whether she can sew to mend Derek when needed to. Rhiannon says that she can sew and has put many badges safely on to her camp blanket.

Adam asks Rhiannon (making it absolutely clear that he has a sensible question for a change) as to whether she has many ideas for socials. Tiff shouts for a joint Aikido social, but Rhiannon responds that she would consider the last couple of year's ideas and induce more variety and new ideas.

Publicity Officer:

Candidates: Shaun Harris (Nominated by Jon Lewis and Bex Maby)

Jon stated that Shaun has been on the committee in a couple of positions previously and such experience would be incredibly useful for the society over the next year. Bex added to this that Shaun is willing to stand and will make a whole committee.

Suzie stated that this would mean that she would be living with three members of the committee in the same house and expressed concern of having three members of the committee within her house. Shaun replied that having been in a similar position a couple of years ago, that it would be manageable for both the house and the committee.

Adam asked Shaun how he would back up the website. Shaun responded that he would use a range of methods to ensure the website is backed up.

Rich asked Shaun about what experience he has in publicity. Shaun responded that he does not have any but is taking on the role as much for the challenge and to enhance skills. Shaun also said he can help the committee in this role by adding his experience on two past committees. But other than the website, some publicity materials don't necessarily require experience such as the notice-board and articles for the Waterfront.






Ballot papers handed out to all full members of the Society for the two re-opens positions. Claire Mollart, as President, again does not initially vote, instead places a casting vote in a sealed envelope in the case of a tie.

Fiona Proudfoot, as Returning Officer collects the ballot papers, and with the help of Suzie Stephens, counts the votes.

Fiona then announces the results:

Social Secretary:		Publicity Officer:	
Rhiannon Sherratt	15	Shaun Harris	8
Abstain	0	Abstain	7

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

-  Next weekend (19th-21st March) 12 SSWIGS will be going up to North Wales for Bangor's ball. The minibus is yet to be confirmed but we hope to be able to leave around 15:00. If any of those on the minibus cannot make leave until later then they must let Claire know as soon as possible.
-  May Day Bank Holiday weekend (30th April – 2nd May) is the provisional date for Easter Camp. This is most likely to be held in Carmarthenshire. Keep an eye on your emails for more details which will follow shortly.
-  Summer Rally will be held in Little Abington, Cambridge on the 2nd -4th July. The theme is Medieval. Members must take note that with most members away from Swansea, they will be responsible for making their own transport arrangements.
-  Rich asks whether SSWIGS will be attending the Pub Scouts festival (now known as A Cool Festival). This is to be held 4th-6th June in Coventry. Rich will provide details to SSWIGS which will be passed on to members.
-  Next week's social (Thursday 18th March) shall be a cocktails and mocktails evening held at Dawn's house. More details will follow early next week.

6. CLOSE



Before closing the meeting Claire gives thanks for the members for their support and enthusiasm throughout the year. Claire gives special thanks to the drivers (Kate, Rich, Rhiannon, Dawn, Rebecca and Heloise) who have enabled us to attend rallies in Southampton and Leeds, Fresher's Camp and Winter Camp, Ball next week and various socials throughout the year.



Claire individually thanked the committee for keeping her in line during her year as president. Claire individually thanked each committee. In response, Tom and Dawn thanked Claire on behalf of the committee.



Thanks were also given to Ann Gratrix and Fiona Proudfoot for attendance and to Fiona for performing the role of returning officer for the society at the AGM.



Ann Gratrix, on behalf of the Scout Association thanked SSWIGS and the committee for the invite to the meeting. She also thanked various members who assist and run groups and events in the local community. Ann also thanked Shaun for keeping her updated on SSWIGS events and looks forward to working with Jon over the following year. Fiona reiterates the thanks on behalf of Girlguiding UK.

MEETING CLOSED: 20:34