

**Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of
Esperanto-Asocio de Britio
May 12th, 2013
King's Theatre, Ramsgate**

1: John Wells opened the meeting with a commemoration of the members who have passed away since the previous AGM. A few moments' silence was observed in respect of those known to have passed away and John Wells made mention of the death of Ernle Money, a former barrister and Member of Parliament who championed Esperanto.

2: Apologies were received from Michael Seaton, Edmund Grimley Evans, Derek Tatton and Angela Tellier. 26 members, 3 supporters, and 2 observers were present.

3: The minutes of the previous AGM from Edinburgh were received and approved subject to minor change, with two abstentions.

4: The Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending October 31st 2012 and published in Update was received. John Wells summarised it paragraph by paragraph. It was unanimously approved.

5: Clare Hunter read through a simplified version of the accounts, which were accepted unanimously. John Wells expressed his thanks to Clare Hunter for her proficient management, recording and explanation, and spontaneous applause broke for her. She in turn presented her thanks to Joyce Bunting for continuing to assist with our investment portfolio and to Viv O'Dunne for so efficiently managing the accounts on a day-to-day basis.

6: The decision on whether to re-appoint the independent examiner was held. Helen Fantom proposed that the management team stay with Dains LLP, seconded by Joyce Bunting. This proposal was carried unanimously.

7: The issue to keep subscription rates unchanged was discussed. Clare Hunter informed that the supporters now had to choose between two tiers, following discussion at the 2012 AGM that the cost of printing and posting Update was greater than the cost of joining up. Supporters who are happy to receive an electronic version of Update can continue to pay £10, but those who wish to receive a paper copy now have to pay £15. Bill Walker queried why subscription rates were held to a vote but supporter rates weren't; Clare Hunter responded that by constitution subscription rates for membership had to be put to a vote. There were two abstentions to the motion to keep subscription rates the same; everyone else approved.

8: Viv O'Dunne and Bill Walker were nominated and approved as vote-counters.

9: Other business

9.1: Arnold Pitt asked whether there were any plans made for a congress in 2014. Tim Owen announced that work had started already and invited Jack Warren to make a short presentation, who proceeded to invite the members to visit Sheffield over Easter weekend.

9.2: Paul Gubbins announced that there will be a three-day programme in conjunction with the University of Liverpool, financed by the Buchanan foundation. He informed that there

would be three strands; a language strand, hosted by Wim Jansen; a literature strand, which he would host; and language seminars in Esperanto itself, guided by Angela Tellier.

9.3: Arturo Prent asked whether there had been any update on Wedgwood Memorial College. Tim Owen informed that the group which had submitted several business plans to run services from the College via a Community Asset Transfer had run several courses in different locations to demonstrate that money that could have come to Barlaston had headed elsewhere. They were adopting the approach of running a "virtual college", registered as a cooperative benefit society. He confirmed that there would be no scope for this group to buy the College simply because the asking price was in the millions.

10: The results for the election of the Management Committee were:

<i>Name</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Edmund Grimley Evans	53	1	5
Paul Gubbins	56	2	1
Clare Hunter	58	0	1
Tim Owen	57	0	2
Ed Robertson	56	0	3
Michael Seaton	50	2	7

Edmund Grimley Evans, Paul Gubbins, Clare Hunter, Tim Owen, Ed Robertson and Michael Seaton were duly elected. Paul Gubbins became the new president of the Association and was invited by John Wells to present himself, which he duly did. John Wells then wished him well for the future, and Tim Owen, on behalf of the trustees who have served under John Wells, thanked him, presenting him with a card, present and cake, which was cut and shared among the attendees.