

# The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

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## DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)



Y DDRAIG GOCH

A DDYRY GYCHWYN

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The Saint David's Society of Minnesota  
and  
The Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association  
Welcome you to St. Paul

For The 56th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, September 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1987

To: Barbara Morgan  
John Griffith

From: Mae Anderson

November 20, 1987

Following are answers to your queries, and also some suggestions which we feel from our experience this year would be helpful for future Gymanfas.

Registration: Some of these items would need to be worked out with Nelson Llewellyn, as they involve national association policies. Registration fee - it should be non-refundable, and this should be put in the first letter that is sent out. Sometimes a reservation must be cancelled for urgent reasons; however, many people just seemed to change their minds, and it is work to cancel, refund, etc., which should at least be compensated by retaining the registration fee.

It would be helpful if there were a late registration fee. This would probably prompt people to get their registrations in earlier. One suggested time for the late fee to begin is after the hotel reservation cut-off date.

It should be on the registration form that the registration fee covers admission to the Gymanfa Ganu sessions on Sunday. This was a query received from many, many people, as there was nothing specified for admission to this event on the form.

The first registration form mailed had space for two registrants and two listings of events for which to register. To save space, probably, the second mailing had space for two registrants but only one listing of events. This was a nightmare for the registration people, since they could not tell which of two registrants wanted what events. If the two were husband and wife, it was not as great



Correspondence

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a concern, but with unrelated registrants, it caused a lot of confusion. Since the registrations are printed and sent by Mr. Llewellyn, you would want to work with him on this.

Also on the registration form, if there are two events which have the same price, they should not follow one another in the listing, as people check the wrong one. We had that problem this year with the hymnals and the noson lawen, both of which were \$4, and both of which were adjacent to each other on the form.

Seminars: These had excellent response. Just to quote a couple letters which were typical of the comments received: "All the seminars were great." ". . .the seminars. . .were outstanding. I especially enjoyed the seminars. There was such variety, and each one was led by knowledgeable and interesting people. . . Any future Gymanfa should definitely provide such a full roster of seminars." "I especially enjoyed the addition of the Welsh seminars. Those I attended were excellent - a great idea." The total cost was probably \$200 or less, which was for items such as projectors and other equipment which some of the leaders needed. The seminar leaders were given one complimentary concert ticket as their compensation. The fact that the attendance at the seminars doubled from the first day to the second indicates that word of mouth promoted these events. Many were highly praised, and David Ponting's portrayal of Dylan Thomas appeared to be a very moving experience for all who saw it.

Schedule of Events: The omission of the name of the headquarters hotel on the first schedule of events was a bit of a problem. It was on the reservation form to return, but once registrants sent their form, it was not on the information they retained.

Financial Information: This will be coming when it is finalized. In no way should you expect each individual event to be self-sustaining, but rather you should look at the overall cost of the weekend.

Room Reservations: Saturday night is the heaviest night. Here are the numbers of rooms (not people) for the two hotels combined for each night (the third hotel was not used):  
Wednesday: 50 (principally the people from Wales), Thursday: 236,  
Friday: 303, Saturday: 320, Sunday: 281, Monday: 22, Tuesday: 14.

Marketplace: The floor plan is included. The tea room did not make a lot of money, though it was profitable. The Welsh cakes were used for other functions besides being for sale in the tea room.

Hotel: A pre-convention meeting with the hotel was very helpful. We had one on the Monday prior to the Gymanfa weekend. If there are bus loads of persons coming, the hotel likes to have a list of all the persons on that bus. They then file their registrations together and can process them in a group when they arrive, eliminating long lines and a lot of searching for individual names in their larger files.

Prince of Wales: If you wish to include anything from him, allow lots of time for a reply to be returned to you. We first had a response from his secretary asking what we wanted him to say (!), perhaps indicating the secretary is not familiar with things Welsh, and then there was quite a delay before a letter arrived, including the loss in transit of his first reply. Think in terms of months, not weeks.

Restaurants: It is most helpful to have full information for the registrants about moderately priced restaurants in the hotel area. This can be a special problem in downtown areas which are shut down on holiday weekends. Breakfasts were a special problem. The restaurants in the area that are open for the weekend appreciate prior notification of the event so that they can plan their food stock and serving people needs accordingly.

Tee Shirts: The man who did the tee shirts figures he just broke even. He sold 50. They cost \$4.25 each and he sold them for \$7.95. He suggests that you eliminate any size small in adult. He sold none. Instead, he suggests that you get children's sizes for people who want to take some home to their grandchildren. He recommends in the adult getting 30% medium, 40% large, 30% extra large.

Enclosed sheet re Patricia Schultz: She contacted us about being the vocalist for the concert. She is excellent, but we could not use her because we had already decided upon Jan Kimes locally. If you do not have all of your entertainment set, you might wish to consider her.

Gwyndaf Roberts address is: [REDACTED] Milton Place  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 732-3015

Best wishes for an enjoyable year; hope you have as much fun working as a committee as we did.