

S4C Authority Bulletin May 2001

Condolence

Members were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr Dafydd Rowlands, Chief Bard.

Meeting with the BBC

It was confirmed that the meeting with the Broadcasting Council for Wales would now take place on Thursday evening, 26 July 2001 at the BBC offices. A discussion took place about what issues should be raised with the Broadcasting Council at that meeting.

Meeting with the Secretary of State for Wales

The Chair reported that she had met with Mr Paul Murphy, MP, and Mr David Hanson, MP, on 5 April. The meeting proved very worthwhile, where the opportunity was taken to explain how the developments concerning the new Communications Act would affect S4C.

Effects of the Foot and Mouth Disease

Further discussions took place on the effects of the Foot and Mouth Disease on S4C's programme service. Specifically, it was reported that, arrangements had been made to broadcast *Gwyl yr Urdd* (Urdd Festival) during the week that had originally been earmarked for the Urdd Eisteddfod. It was also confirmed that the Agricultural Show at Builth Wells would not be held this year. Officers were currently discussing ideas as to what could be broadcast instead. Consideration was also being given as to what attention could be given to other agricultural shows taking place in the various Welsh counties during the year.

The Celtic Film Festival

The Chief Executive was congratulated on his appointment as Chair of the Festival. IN addition, Members were pleased to note that: HTV's *Pen Tenny* had been awarded the prize for the best drama series; Boomerang's *Bicini* was awarded the prize for the best children's/youth programme and *Solomon and Gaenor* won the 'Spirit of the Festival' prize.

ITC Annual Report

Attention was drawn to the ITC report and specific reference was made to the comments within it relating to the new Communications Act.

Sir Christopher Bland

It was noted that Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, had been appointed BT Chairman.

Annual Report 2000

Authority Members considered the draft text for the Programmes Report and the details regarding the performance of S4C programmes during 2000. The remaining text would be put before the Authority at its next meeting. It was reported that the intended date for publishing the Annual Report was 27 June 2001.

Promoting Digital/Analogue Switch-Off

The latest developments regarding promoting digital and analogue switch-off were discussed, especially the Government's wish to improve the terrestrial digital network and the rôle it hoped that the terrestrial broadcasters would play in accomplishing this.

Digital College

The plans and short-term needs of this service were discussed. It was noted that the Digital College would report to S4C with details of a full business plan by October 2001.

Sponsorship

The Authority considered the following requests for sponsorship:

- (a) Cardiff Communications Conference – A request for S4C to contribute £2,000 to sponsor this conference was received from its organisers. The organisers were also seeking a similar contribution from the other broadcasters in Wales. The day's programme was outlined and attention was drawn to the fact that prominent speakers had been attracted to take part. It was noted that the conference would be a public forum. It was agreed that a contribution of £2,000 should be made towards the Cardiff Communications Conference.
- (b) Mid-Wales Opera – Consideration was given to a request for S4C sponsorship towards holding 'A Feast of Opera', to include two new productions, at Newtown. Following this, the company would take one of the productions on tour and would visit a number of places throughout Wales. It was agreed that £5,000 sponsorship should be given to the Mid-Wales Opera.
- (c) Evening Dinner Reception at Cambridge RTS Convention – It was reported that S4C had sponsored a reception at this Conference in recent years. It had been a successful event and had attracted a high profile for S4C. A request for S4C to sponsor a similar event at this year's Convention had been received. That sponsorship in the sum of £4,000 should be given for this event.

Compliance

- (a) Episode of *Clipsen* that was broadcast at 8.00 pm on 23 November 2000
- (i) The Compliance Group drew the Authority's attention to an episode of the *Clipsen* series that was broadcast at 8.00 pm on 23 November 2000. It requested that the Authority considered whether an item in this programme was suitable for broadcast at that time of night. This item made fun of S4C programmes by referring to, and showing the covers of, (fake) pornographic videos. The Authority watched the item in question and discussed the views of the Compliance Group and those of the production company on the matter.
- (ii) **Agreed:** That despite the light nature of the item, and fully realising it was a joke, the contents were not suitable for broadcasting during family viewing hours and *Zeitgeist*, the production company, had infringed S4C's compliance guidelines.
- (b) **Ethnic Minorities** – Attention was drawn to the monitoring work being undertaken to collect information on ethnic minority representation on the screen. Reference was also made to the fact that S4C had received a copy of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 after the Monitoring Unit had commenced this work. The Act had public service implications for S4C. This was a matter to which S4C officers would be paying attention during the coming months.

Corporate Plan Review 2001-2003

Authority Members considered the progress made against the targets in the corporate plan during the first quarter of this year. It was noted that, to date, a substantial number of targets are being met.

Other Matters

The following were also considered or discussed:

- The Chief Executive's Report – Matters for information
- Complaints Report
- Minutes of Compliance Group's meeting held on 16 February 2001.
- Viewers Hotline Report
- Research Report
- Financial Report
- Programme Service Report
- Report of the Managing Director of S4C Masnachol.