

# **S4C Authority Bulletin**

## **- July 2001**

### **Members of the Authority**

It was reported that there was no further news regarding the appointment of two new Authority Members. The Secretary would contact the National Assembly and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in the next week to establish progress.

### **BAFTA Cymru Awards Ceremony**

Congratulations were extended to everyone connected with S4C commissions that had either been nominated for or, indeed, won awards on the night. It was good to see the awards that *Solomon and Gaenor* had won, including the award for best film.

### **The Communications Act**

It was reported that there would not be full legislation for the new communications system in this session of Parliament; there would, however, be a paving Bill. It was agreed that it would be important for S4C to try to ensure that the Bill contained that which it wished to see in the final Act. Reference was made to the fact that there had already been communication between the Chair and Kim Howells, MP, the new Minister at the DCMS responsible for broadcasting, film and tourism. Dr Howells had phoned prior to the Queen's Speech to give an indication of the content in relation to broadcasting. In addition, arrangements had been made for Kim Howells to visit S4C on 10 July 2001 in order that S4C's position could be discussed in more detail.

### **Launch of Annual Report 2001**

It was reported that the Annual Report had been launched the previous day. The document had been produced internally and it was agreed that it was colourful and full of information. Some sections had been expanded on compared to those of the previous year. For example, there was more information on activities behind programmes, particularly commercial activities. With regard to the media attention given to the Annual Report it was thought that this had, on the whole, been fairly balanced.

### **Honours List**

- (a) Authority Members warmly congratulated the Chair on being awarded a CBE. The whole Authority agreed that this was excellent news and highly deserved.
- (b) It was also noted with pleasure that Roy Noble, a regular contribution to S4C programmes, had received an OBE.

## **Strategy Review**

Reference was made to the Authority's wish at the last meeting to hold a strategy discussion this month. It was noted that the intended Management Team 'away day' had to be postponed because of work pressures related to the commissioning process. Despite this, it was thought that it would still be beneficial to have a preliminary discussion on S4C's future strategy. A lengthy and wide-ranging discussion was held but no firm conclusions were reached. However, the Authority's comments would be valuable as a basis for Management Team's discussions. In addition, it was thought that there may be further issues for discussion following the meeting with Kim Howells, MP.

## **Sponsorship**

Authority Members discussed the details of three sponsorship applications. It was agreed to award the following:

- (i) £5,000 towards the British Animation Awards 2002
- (ii) £5,000 towards the Young Farmers' Association drama festival
- (iii) £15,000 towards the opening reception of the Edinburgh Television Festival.

## **Rugby**

Authority Members congratulated S4C's officers on their excellent achievement of winning broadcasting rights to the Lions Tour. In recognising these congratulations, the Director of Programmes said that, without doubt, it was Gareth Davies who deserved the praise; his contribution during discussions had been invaluable and he had done an excellent job.

## **Programme Service**

A report was received on the programme service. However, discussion focussed on progress made on the commissioning process. It was noted that commissions would be published on 26 July.

## ***Gôl***

Discussion was held on the situation following the BBC's announcement that it no longer intended to produce *Gôl*. Reference was made to the fact that it was the BBC that owned the rights to the League of Wales matches and no one else would be able to broadcast these games. However, there was a discussion to be had for the future regarding S4C's responsibility as a public broadcaster to broadcast Welsh football matches.

## **Audit Committee Chairmanship**

The Chair reported that Ms Janet Lewis-Jones had offered to stand down as chair of the Audit Committee. The reason for this was that Ms Lewis-Jones' term on the S4C Authority would come to an end in January 2001 and she believed it would be of benefit to the new chair that she be available to offer advice and information. S4C's Chair had, therefore, invited Mr Huw Wynne-Griffith to chair the Audit Committee in view of his specialism in this field. Mr Wynne-Griffith had accepted the invitation and would start on this work in July.

## **Presentation by the Director of Channel Management**

A presentation was received from the Director of Channel Management. It was explained that his department was responsible for Presentation; the Web/Internet; Teletext and the Library. Specific attention was given to the work of the presentation unit. An example was shown of the schedule for one night's viewing and Authority Members were able to see the great amount of detailed work behind each schedule. Mention was also made of the problems that the department had to deal with when clashes arose between S4C and Channel 4 programmes, such as when the cricket over-ran into early evening when *Heno* should be broadcast. Reference was also made to the things that could go wrong, for example, losing advertisements, losing trails, giving the wrong link or running late – the aim was to offer a service of the highest possible standard, where the department's activities were invisible. The Director of Channel Management was thanked for his presentation which had given a clearer picture of the responsibilities of this fairly new department.

## **Other Matters**

In addition, the following matters were discussed or noted:

- Financial report
- Quarterly report of the Managing Director of S4C Masnachol
- Research report
- Chief Executive's report – Matters for information
- Complaints report
- Report and minutes of the Compliance Group meeting held on 15 June 2001
- Report of the Viewers' Hotline.