

S4C Authority Bulletin - December 2003

The following is a summary of the main points raised during discussions at the meeting of the S4C Authority held on Friday, 19 December 2003.

Animation

At the beginning of the meeting a short presentation was given by Chris Grace, former Director of Animation at S4C. This was an opportunity to look back over 21 years of animation in Wales and at the highlights of the output commissioned by Chris Grace during this period. At the end of the presentation, the Authority took the opportunity to extend its sincere gratitude to Chris Grace for his huge and innovative contribution and to wish him well for the future.

TAC and the Code of Practice on Programme Commissioning

It was reported that officers intended to submit a document to Ofcom before the end of the year so as to fulfil the statutory requirements.

Meetings with the BBC

- (a) The Chair said that a kind letter had been received from Karl Davies, writing at the request of the Broadcasting Council, to convey their thanks to the Authority for the welcome they had received on the occasion of the meeting of 13 November.
- (b) The Director of Programmes reported that she had met some 30 members of staff at the BBC who were responsible for contributing towards the ten hours of programming for S4C. It was reported that this had been a very successful event.

ITC/Ofcom Consultation – Carlton/Granada Merger

The ITC/Ofcom had now agreed that there would be no problem with Carlton/Granada continuing to sell advertising space on behalf of S4C.

Sub-titling

Reference was made to the fact that the sub-titling department intends to experiment with different on-screen methods of advertising the sub-titling service, using different logos, words etc. A report will be submitted to the Authority in due course.

S4C Relationship with Ofcom

It was reported that officials were in the process of collecting the information that had been requested in relation to establishing quotas. It was agreed that it would be important, when agreeing on quotas, to establish the principle that the additional hours broadcast by S4C on its digital service had a different status to those currently broadcast on analogue.

BAFTA Children's Awards

Reference was made to the fact that Chris Grace, former Director of Animation at S4C, had received a Special BAFTA Award at the BAFTA Children's Awards ceremony held in London on 30 November.

Shakespeare for Schools

Further to the initiative whereby schools staged plays based on the scripts of the Animated Tales of Shakespeare, it was reported that Ysgol Rhydfelen was one of four schools invited to perform at the Gala Night held in London.

Online Open Meeting

The Chair reported that she had held an online open meeting on 4 December at the Tinopolis studios, following her appearance on *Wedi 7*. Although the meeting had been quite successful, it was felt that it required further development. The concept of the online meeting was fairly innovative when it was first introduced some five years ago, but there was now a need to move on and to make best use of the technical developments that had taken place in the meantime.

Commission for Racial Equality

The Chair reported on a meeting she had attended of the Commission in Wales. She said that it was good to see that the Commission was anxious to develop a relationship with the Welsh-speaking community.

S4C Charity Appeal

The Chair reported that a special edition of *Twrio* would be held on 20 December to raise funds for the S4C charity appeal. Amongst the items for which viewers could bid was an original oil painting donated by Kyffin Williams for the occasion. This event would conclude the appeal for 2003, and at the end of the programme the Chair would present a cheque to Ty Hafan/Ty Gobaith. Cefin Campbell, chair of the S4C Charity Appeal reported that interviews would be held to select the next S4C charity in early January.

Ofcom

Members were reminded that Ofcom would officially come into existence on 29 December 2003.

S4C Review

Members considered the latest draft of the paper on the internal review. A range of views were expressed and it was agreed that a further draft would be prepared reflecting the additional points that had been made during this discussion.

2004-06 Corporate Plan

Members considered the proposed Corporate Plan for the period 2004-06. As the external review process of S4C was unlikely to be completed before Easter, it was recommended that the preferred option was to update the present Plan rather than produce a wholly new strategy. Members' attention was drawn to a number of changes that had been made to the 2004-06 Plan as compared to the Plan for 2003-05 and Members were asked to make decisions on a number of quantitative targets. These targets were agreed and Members approved the remainder of the Corporate Plan for 2004-06 as presented.

Other Matters

The following matters were also discussed/noted:

- Reports of the Chief Executive – matters for information
- Report of the Director of Programmes
- Financial Report
- Complaints Report
- Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Compliance Group held on 5 December 2003
- Report on the Viewers Hotline
- Research Report
- Report of the Managing Director of S4C Masnachol