

GENERAL MEETING

Old Church Rooms on Monday 19th September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Nick Hawkins (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Treasurer), Eric Blackwell, David Cargill, Roy Godier, Cllr Ralph Vaughan, Karen Wright, Cllrs Mike Diment, Rod McKerlich, & 33 members.

Apologies: David Silver [Chairman], Tom Evans [Vice Chairman], Allan Cook, Julie Davies, Terry & Betty Fitzgerald.

Introduction

Vice President David Cargill welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Chairman was away and it had been the intention that Tom Evans, Vice Chairman, would chair the meeting. However he had been called away at short notice to a hospital appointment.

An evening with Jason Mohammad

David Cargill introduced Jason Mohammad. He said Jason was a real Cardiff boy. He was brought up in Ely and went to Glyn Derw High school where he edited the school newspaper. He studied Welsh and Politics at Swansea University and then attended Cardiff University for a postgraduate diploma in broadcast journalism. He joined the BBC in 1997 as a reporter for *BBC Wales Today* before becoming the anchor of *Wales on Saturday*. In 2013, he became the host of *Final Score* on BBC One. He now occupies many sporting slots on both BBC TV and radio and, most recently, was the BBC's anchorman for its coverage of the Rio Olympic Games. He now lives in Radyr with his wife, Nicola, and three children Lili, Max, and Poppy.

Jason's talk was conducted as a Q&A session, of which the first was 'How did you get into broadcasting?'. The answer took Jason back to his roots. His school in Ely was a challenging environment. He had good teachers and he was pushed hard; it instilled a real work ethic in him. Aged nine he became a life-long supporter of Cardiff City football team and started to write weekly reports in his exercise book, which brought some comment from his teachers! He found he had a passion for languages and, around 14-15 he decided he wanted to be a broadcaster. His teachers advised him that, if he wanted to be in the media, he should learn Welsh, which is why he went to Swansea University. There he was again pushed by Prof Hywel Teifi Edwards, Huw Edwards' father. After attending Cardiff University and joining the BBC he eventually had to make a choice between News or Sports journalism, but 'sport is in his bones'. In 2006 he was asked to go to Melbourne to report on the Commonwealth Games. It was a seminal moment. 'Do I want to be a parochial newscaster or do I want to travel the world reporting on sport?' He opted for sport. In 2008 he had his big break. He was in Las Vegas to work on the team reporting on the Joe Calzaghe vs. Bernard Hopkins fight. The lead presenter had to drop out and Jason found himself the front man. He so impressed his superiors that, on return, he was asked by BBC Network to do the commentary on a six nations match from the Millennium Stadium. The rest is history... He commented that 'he had not made a mess of anything yet!'

Then on to Rio. Again, very hard work - what people see on the screen looks easy but is the result of hours of preparation - but very rewarding. You have to have your wits about you; don't think about the 8M people watching; just talk to the chap next door. He was reporting when Adam Peaty won the 100m breaststroke gold in world record time. On one occasion, due to delays elsewhere, he was told just 'to talk' for three minutes. "What about?", he asked, just before being put back on air. "Anything", was the reply. That is where you earn your crust, he said - thinking under pressure and looking calm. But he noted that it was a great way to earn a living, and he loves it.

Jason was asked a number of questions on many topics. He noted that a lot of what is seen on TV is driven by sponsorship. That brings great benefit in terms of funding but the BBC is keen to promote

sports other than the top ones of football, rugby etc. He said the BBC was phenomenal in the scope of what was covered at both the recent European Championship and Rio. "No-one else can do that", he said. At Rio, Team GB introduced people to many different sports. He had to learn all about hockey to comment on one game - not easy. He commented that Clare Balding is amazing at her grasp of virtually any sporting environment.

On a more personal note he said that he had found it extremely difficult to learn Welsh and, whilst he was happy to talk informally to people in Welsh, he would never do a live broadcast in the language. He did not have the necessary confidence. Asked about appearing on Strictly.., he said he would love to do it but his BBC contract would not leave sufficient time. His children were very keen for him to appear, but his wife less so... If he had not become a broadcaster, which is the only thing he has ever wanted to do, he would have liked to have opened a shoe shop!

Do things go wrong? Yes! Apart from suddenly having to extemporise, he noted a recent episode of Crimewatch where, despite having rehearsed a particular item three times, no-one had spotted that he was the spitting image of one of the featured criminals! That went viral on Twitter. He also lost his voice a short time ago and had to undergo a period of speech therapy. The incident taught him a lesson. Your voice is your asset; don't abuse it.

The final question related to who had impressed him the most. He mentioned George Best but said Sir Alex Ferguson, despite his gruff demeanour, was actually the nicest man he had ever met on TV.

At the close of the session, David Cargill thanked Jason for giving such a personal and inspiring talk. He noted that, as Jason did not drink, he had said he did not want the usually offered bottle of whisky. However, if the Association could afford it, a new Maserati would be very welcome. The Secretary duly presented him with a model of a Maserati!

Minutes of the previous General Meeting on 1st February 2016

The minutes were approved and there were no 'matters arising' outside of the agenda.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that there had been little activity on the account since the last meeting. A cheque for £8750 had been given to Velindre Hospital in respect of monies raised over the past year. This was in addition to the money Velindre had received from various events. There had been a small charge for the water system for the hanging baskets in Station Road. The Accounts stood at: C/Ac £2,511; COIF, £3,780; Reserve, £1; Total, £6,292. A healthy position. There were no questions.

General R&M Matters

The following items were noted:

NatWest bank site. This had been mentioned at the last meeting. The planning permission for the development of the site had been passed and all the modifications asked for by both the RMA and Cllr McKerlich dutifully ignored by the Planners. The Co-op had applied for a liquor licence so it is confirmed that they will be taking over the premises and it is understood it will open in February 2017.

Social Media. It was noted that that the R&M Hub (Facebook page) now has nearly 1000 'likes' (40% growth over last year) and Twitter has 400 'Followers' (100% growth over the last year). The two accounts are linked so that Facebook posts are tweeted. The impact is that, due to tweeting and re-tweeting (notably by schools), around 1700 people normally see the posts. In a month, 20K-50K people see the posts put out on the network.

R&M Website. The Home Page has recently been reworked to aid navigation, particularly to areas which might otherwise be difficult to find. Feedback to the change was invited.

May Festival. David Cargill noted that the first main meeting of the Festival Committee would be held on Tuesday 27th September at 7.30pm - All welcome.

Cllr Rod McKerlich mentioned that he sent out a monthly report. People should contact him if they did not already receive a copy. He also noted that Cardiff Council is setting up a consultation prior

to changing Radyr Primary from 1.5 to two-form entry; if this is agreed there will be three-form entry between Bryn Deri and Radyr Primary i.e. 90 places which roughly matches the potential pupils in the catchment areas.

Entertainment

Eric Blackwell reported that the Association's Film Club was about to start its new season on **Thursday 22nd September** with a great comedy, ***Eddie the Eagle***. Tickets were still available through the usual outlets, and on the door. As the Association had won its bid for new equipment from the British Film Institute, films would now be shown in proper 'cinema quality'. He said he was building a mailing list as the first stage in forming a local community run Film Club. The Club will be developed to include everyone who is interested in Film, whether as a Film Buff or someone who enjoys a night out at the cinema. People should contact him to be put on the list.

Tickets were now available (again from the usual outlets) for the Lighthouse performance of ***Shirley Valentine*** in Morganstown Village Hall on **8th December**.

Cllr Mike Diment reported on the forthcoming WWI weekend. The R&M WWI Committee had organised a 'replica lunch', for which invites had already been issued. On **Thursday 13th October at 7.30pm** and **Friday 14th October at 3pm**, the film ***DEATH ON THE SOMME*** will be shown on the big screen in the Old Church Rooms, in association with the Imperial War Museum. This is a newly restored black and white film of that conflict and entry is free. And, on **Saturday 15th October at 7.30pm** in Christ Church, Radyr, the Radyr & Morganstown Choral Society, orchestra and soloists will be performing a concert titled ***DEATH ON THE HILLS***. This is a programme of choral and instrumental music by Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Respighi, Rutter and Hubert Parry to Commemorate the Great War. Tickets £5 from ener-chi, Station Road, Radyr, or members of the Choral Society.

Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, Friday, 2nd December

The Secretary reported that he was now seeking stallholders for the event. Anyone interested should contact him. There is still no charge for the stalls.

Any Other Business

Nothing raised.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, 21st November commencing at 19.30 in the OCR. The speakers will be Kwai Lee and Wayne Duffin of Chase de Vere, who will be talking about Investment Planning.