

# **Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 24th January 2010**

## **At The Green Man - Great Portland Street, London @ 1.30pm**

**Those present:- John Wassell, Allan Johnson, Stuart Galloway, Jason Wilcox, Peter Antill, Mike Dworetsky, Bill Beadle, Adrian Morris, Barry Keane, Alaric Rosman, Mark Bridger, Jo Pelling, & Tony Basing**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: **Les Bolland, Allen Peppitt, Chris Scally, Ian Griggs, Bernard Wilds, and Mark Rowe.**

Ian Griggs had given his proxy vote to the Secretary in case it was needed.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th January 2009**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been copied to all members in order to save review time at the meeting. They were adopted as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed: Bill Beadle – Seconded: Mike Dworetsky – agreed by all.

### **3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Secretary's Report**

Stuart Galloway welcomed those present on behalf of the Committee. Thanks go to all the Committee and members for support given over the past year, in particular those who had contributed such excellent articles to the Dealey Plaza Echo and to Mark Bridger who had continued to act as the Editor of that very professional journal. Mark Rowe and UK Membership Secretary have both continued to operate as very effective membership secretaries in the USA and UK.

Thanks also go to Allan Johnson who had kept the accounts very ably over the accounting year. Stuart expressed some concern that the Committee had only been able to meet formally on one occasion during the year.

The 2009 Canterbury Seminar held on 18th /19th April had turned out to be very successful with some superb presentations and excellent facilities again offered by Christchurch Canterbury University – thanks go to Tony McCulloch. We were lucky enough to secure the attendance of Gerald McKnight as our guest speaker from the USA. Both Gerald and his wife had enjoyed themselves immensely and are planning to return to our Seminar this year. Our grateful thanks also goes to Mike Dworetsky who once again did a magnificent job in conducting the auction in a very professional way, and in doing so helping to raise £312 for the Group. Thanks go to all the people who also kindly donated items for the auction.

The list of presenters at the Seminar was as follows:-

***John Hovland – Who Gave Inspector Sawyer the Broadcast Description***

***Chris Scally – When Chaney met Curry***

***Russell Kent – The Connally Wrist Fragment***

***Ian Griggs – DPD Patrolman Billy Barnes***

***- William Greer and the Fatal Headshot***

***Gerald McKnight- The Warren Commission Report – A Group Exercise in Omission, Distortion, and Suppression.***

***- The Commission's Smoking Guns***

***Alaric Rosman - A Flamethrower to the Hindenburg – A Demonstration Revealing all on the Magic Bullet***

***Adrian Morris - The Single Bullet & Historical Research***

***Mark de Valk – Dallas 2008: A Personal Film Account***

***Mark Bridger - 1026 North Beckley***

### ***Mike Dworetsky – The Auction***

Unfortunately, because of a rather full program which overran, two of the presentations had to be cancelled but will be part of this year's Seminar. (Bill Beadle & Stuart Galloway)

We also staged two Open Forums at the Seminar, a technique/format that we had not used before. This proved to be quite popular and we intend to incorporate one or two Open Forums into this year's Seminar. We hope to get an input from more delegates, though.

Despite the continuing success of the Seminars at Canterbury, it must be said that we as a Group are struggling somewhat to understand exactly where we go from here – what are our aims and objectives for the future? The committee has discussed the issue and we had a fairly lively debate on the subject at the AGM last year. Chris Robertson has written two papers on the subject and he has been invited to come to Canterbury to talk on the issues.

Les Bolland has retired from his book business and our thanks go to him for all the support that he gave to our Auctions at Canterbury.

Problems with the website occurred during the year. Despite prompt payment of our dues to the web hosting company that supports the site, the company actually turned the site off, claiming that they had not received payment. They had lost our cheque but actually cashed it 5 months later. Anyway, it is now back on stream and our thanks go to Bernard Wilds for his continuing excellent work as our Webmaster.

The Secretary thanked those present for attending and those who had sent apologies for absence.

### **Subsequent Discussion**

Some very useful views were voiced by members at the meeting regarding where the Group goes from here, namely:-

- (i) A book could be made up using the best articles from past Journals.
- (ii) The research has already been done – it is simply a matter of pulling it all together and coordinating the facts.
- (iii) Two books may be appropriate – one on specific subject matter relating to the Assassination but not necessarily directly related – like Ian Grigg's book ("No Case to Answer") and the other on, say, the British Connection. It would be necessary to specify the different facets of the subject that need to be researched, and utilise the skills of those willing to undertake the work.
- (iv) We first need to specify:- the subject matter, the target audience (who would read the book), who would write it, how it would be published, and the cost. Must at least break even. Must be of interest to the younger generation. It would be a labour of love and not an instrument to make money.
- (v) Revitalization of the Group would ensue. Might attract a younger audience. Our age group is now between 50 & 70.
- (vi) If more than one author is involved it does not mean that they should all hold the same views about a subject as long as that subject is well researched and the evidence clearly presented. It would be necessary for the authors to all believe that the assassination was a conspiracy.
- (vii) Don't use the process of arguing against the cases brought by Vince Bugliosi and Dale Myers – the work should be based upon "This is what we think happened."
- (viii) Vital that the subject is kept alive with the 50th Anniversary approaching.
- (ix) A successful book on "Jack the Ripper" was produced where the publisher approached different authorities on the subject but all of whom held different views on the case.
- (x) If the book is to be produced from articles written for the Journal (see (i), then the subject matter must be central to the case rather than on peripheral subjects.
- (xi) DPUK must be in control of the publication at all times. Would it be worth consulting Lancer Publications at this stage? How would we get it into bookshops?
- (xii) Chris Robertson has written two papers on the subject of "Where do we go from here?" and he has been invited to Canterbury to elaborate on his thoughts.
- (xiii) We would aim for authors to give a factual cross-view on the conspiracy, rather than

generating a work which is overdramatic or sensational and designed for a high sale factor.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Allan Johnson tabled copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2009 – a copy is attached to these minutes. The year had begun with £994 in the bank and had ended with £823, a very satisfactory state of affairs considering our expenditure on the Journal. Postage costs to the USA have gone up significantly recently. Another very successful auction at Canterbury had realised £311. Membership subscriptions had amounted to £622, with £77 in donations. As in previous years, the US subscriptions in dollars are not shown in the UK accounts. Allan explained that as at 31st December he was holding \$430 and Mark Rowe was holding \$140. A discussion ensued as to how this money could be utilised and it was agreed that Allan should continue to hold the dollars, to be spent at the committee's discretion – probably to help pay towards an overseas speaker's expenses. \$800 had been previously paid to Gerald McKnight towards his air fare to the UK for the last Canterbury Seminar. Allan confirmed that we move into 2010 in a financially viable and healthy position. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Barry Keane and seconded by Mike Dworetsky – agreed by all.

It was also agreed that Membership Subscriptions be held at their existing levels in 2011.

#### **6. Membership Secretary's Report**

35 people had re-joined the Group in 2009 but rather worryingly 17 people had not – some had simply forgotten it turns out (despite two reminders). However, 4 new members had joined during the same period (39 members in total, excluding life members). The UK Membership Secretary also reported that as at today's date 16 renewals had been received for 2010 but more are expected in February. One new member has already joined this year.

Barry Keane reported that he has produced the Membership Cards – the design of the cards includes the Skip Rydberg drawings produced for the Warren Commission Report.

#### **7. Journal Editor/Librarian's Report**

Mark Bridger reported that three full Journals had again been produced in 2009, the standard of the articles being varied and to a very high standard. However, he is always looking for new contributors/articles. It is vital that the production of the Journal is maintained as the principal output of the Group whilst providing a powerful tool within the research community. Whilst the Journal and the regular Canterbury Seminar are excellent in their own way, Mark felt that we should be holding more meetings for members, with invited speakers. Perhaps these should be scheduled outside London, but past experience has shown that those members who bother to turn up to such meetings remain much the same group, regardless of where in the UK the sessions are held. It was considered a good idea to advertise DPUK in the journal of The Whitechapel Society 1888 and vice versa. (Mark and Adrian will arrange this).

Mark reminded the meeting that the Library is being moved to Canterbury under the auspices of the Department of History and American Studies at Canterbury Christchurch University. A sticker will be placed in each book indicating its source. Any doubles will be auctioned at the Seminar.

#### **8. Election of Management Committee.**

Bill Beadle thanked the committee for the work that they had undertaken in 2009 and proposed that each person be re-elected to the post that they held last year. This motion was seconded by Alaric Rosman and agreed by all present.

The 2010 Committee is therefore constituted as follows:-

**Chairman: John Wassell UK Membership Secretary: Francesca**

**Vice-Chairman: Barry Keane US Membership Secretary: Mark Rowe**

**Hon. Secretary: Stuart Galloway Journal Editor: Mark Bridger**

**Hon. Treasurer: Allan Johnson President & Committee Member: Ian Griggs**

The meeting was also pleased that Bernard Wilds is willing to continue as our Webmaster.

### **9. The Club Website**

Covered under Item 4 of the Agenda – Secretary’s Report.

However, our Webmaster, Bernard Wilds would always welcome inputs from members to go on the site.

### **10. Update on Arrangements for the Canterbury Seminar – 17th/18th April 2010**

Response to the initial e-mails has been very positive. Over 30 people have expressed an interest in attending. Invites have been sent to a number of potential speakers and many have responded positively. The speaker from the USA is to be Nancy Weiford but we are also very pleased that Gerald McKnight is coming to the event again this year. It is planned to hold one or two Open Forums following the success of the format last year. Subjects to be decided. Some changes in the order of play will be incorporated. It is hoped that a Saturday lunch can be arranged at the University with an evening meal at The Chaucer and a buffet lunch in the Powell Building on the Sunday lunchtime. The Friday night meal will again be at Pinocchio’s.

### **11. Annual Achievement Award**

Various names had been put forward as to who should receive this award. After an open vote by Group members Stuart Galloway just pipped Alaric Rosman into first place, but only by one vote. The Award will be made at Canterbury in April.

### **12. Date of the Next AGM**

**This was set as Sunday 23rd January 2011**

The meeting was declared closed at 3.15pm