

**Minutes of
the Irish Labour History Society
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 5th September 2020
Held online Via Webex**

Attendance:

Pat Bolger, Pat Carroll, Shay Cody, Dónal Denham, John Feely, Rayner Lysaght, Peter Rigney, Mícheál MacDonncha, Bill McCamley, Helen McGinley, Jack McGinley, Tony McMullan, Kieran McNulty, Pádraig Mannion, Mike Mecham, Seamus Moriarty, Yvonne O'Callaghan, Ed Penrose, Jim Quinn, Fionnuala Richardson, Eoin Ronayne, Eddie Soye, Matt Staunton, Lynda Walker

Apologies: Liam Cahill, Catriona Crowe, Liam Healy, Pádraig Yeates

1. President's Address:

The President of the Society, Jack McGinley, began his address by welcoming everyone to the unusual setting of an online AGM. Jack thanked Matt Staunton of Fórsa for accommodating the Society by administering the meeting through Webex.

The President began by reflecting on the success of the March 2019 AGM in Limerick, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in the re-scheduling of today's AGM. He noted the impact of the pandemic on global society over the past six months or so. The President then summarised the work of the committee and activities of the Society since the previous AGM. This included the annual conference in October on 60 Years of ICTU, the publication of Saothar 45 along with a newsletter to mark the 30th anniversary of the ILHS taking over Beggars Bush. Other publications are also planned.

He noted that he was stepping down as President following this AGM and highlighted some of the main activities, decisions taken and achievements of the Society since he took over as President in 2014. The publication of the excellent Saothar 41 (1916 special) and the address by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins to the Society were noted as two highlights.

Jack also noted some of the recent donations to the Society collections in Beggars Bush, including a large deposit from the family of Donal Foley (late of Irish Times) and the Automobile Association.

He concluded his formal address by thanking the Officers, Committee members, stalwarts and supporters of the Society over the past six years. He wished the incoming President Shay Cody well in the role, promising that he will continue to be an active members and support the Society.

(Jack's address is available at [Presidents address 2020 final.pdf \(irishlabourhistorysociety.com\)](https://www.irishlabourhistorysociety.com/Presidents%20address%202020%20final.pdf))

Vice-President Fionnuala Richardson paid tribute to Jack and all of his work immediately following his address.

2. Minutes of AGM of 13th April 2019

The draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society had been circulated to members in advance and were agreed by consent.

3. Annual Report

The Annual Report was circulated in advance to members. The Secretary of the Society, Kevin Murphy, went through the various areas of activity documented in the report.

The report as presented was approved by the meeting, following a proposal from Matt Staunton which was seconded by Pádraig Mannion.

4. Financial Report

The Treasurer of the Society, Ed Penrose, went through the financial report documents line by line. It included a summary of the various ILHS accounts at the end of 2019, the main income and expenditure items (including overall totals) for 2019 and the report from the auditors. A small surplus of income over expenditure was recorded for the financial year ending 31st December 2019. The auditors report had been circulated to trustees in advance also.

The financial report as presented was proposed by Matt Staunton, seconded by Eoin Ronayne and approved by the meeting.

5. Elections

The outgoing President of the Society, Jack McGinley, read out the list of nominations for the Officer and Committee positions for the forthcoming year. This list, including proposers and seconders, had been circulated in advance. Changes included the nomination of Shay Cody as President, and nominations that Dónal Denham and Bill McCamley would join the committee.

All nominations were agreed by the meeting by acclaim.

6. Motions: Three motions were before the meeting.

- i. Motion on annual membership fees (proposed by Jack McGinley and seconded by Ed Penrose) This motion empowered the committee from time to time to review the annual membership fees. The motion was carried.
- ii. Motion (proposed by Trustee Pat Bolger and Vice-President Fionnuala Richardson) that the ILHS seek updated guidance from the Charities Regulator on the work of the Trustees. This was accepted, following a small amendment from Yvonne O'Callaghan.
- iii. Motion (proposed by Ed Penrose, seconded by Francis Devine) that the ILHS initiate the John Swift Award to be awarded occasionally to a member of the Society for exceptional service. The motion suggested that the award should only be contemplated on the occasion of the retirement from office of the President and that scrolls for the year should be on display in the foyer of Beggars Bush. Ed Penrose explained this motion and the purpose of the award.

All three motions were accepted and agreed by the meeting.

7. Any Other Business

The poor internet quality in Beggars Bush at times during the meeting was noted and would be a matter for the incoming committee.

Jack McGinley informed the meeting, that following on from the motion passed earlier, that Dr Helga Woggon is to be awarded the inaugural John Swift Award in recognition of her service to the Society over many years. The full announcement and a copy of the scroll to be put on display in Beggars Bush will also published on the ILHS website.

The incoming President Shay Cody thanked the Society for the honour of being elected as President. He thanked Jack for his stellar work on behalf of the Society and noted that he was a hard act to follow. Shay also thanked Matt Staunton for his work in organising and hosting the first ever online AGM through Webex. Shay added that he looked forward to working on future projects, including possible joint initiatives with cultural institutions, possible oral history projects and a range of events depending on the public health guidelines in place. The AGM then concluded.