

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL**  
**ENGLAND**  
**21/23 JULY 1975**

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held at Westfield College, University of London, England, 21-23 July 1975,

**Monday 21 July**

Thought for the day: "Sir, we would see Jesus" conducted by the Revd H Waite

Council was opened by the World Chairman, Mrs F Mandleberg, who introduced the delegates

<b>Australia:</b>	Mrs Sanders, Miss A Ebbs
<b>England:</b>	Mrs Oakes, Miss C Ford
<b>Guyana:</b>	Mrs Van Cooten, Miss Bernadette Ward
<b>Ireland:</b>	Mrs J Lindsey, Miss Hilary Ward
<b>Japan</b>	Mrs Kawasaki, Miss Y Wakai
<b>Korea:</b>	Mrs Shin-Ja H Bradner
<b>Lesotho:</b>	Miss E Moleko
<b>Liberia:</b>	Mrs L Harmon, Miss Marie Watkins
<b>Newfoundland:</b>	Mrs Yetman
<b>Philippines:</b>	Maria Corayon Sy, Sandwal Pe
<b>Scotland:</b>	Mrs Johnston, Miss Watson
<b>Sierra Leone:</b>	Miss Brainerd, Miss A McFoy
<b>Sri Lanka:</b>	Mrs de Silva
<b>Transkie:</b>	Mrs K Makiwane
<b>USA:</b>	Mrs Floris Bain, Miss Kate Killifer
<b>Wales:</b>	Miss Avril Boraman, Miss D Roberts

**Greetings were received from:**

Her Majesty the Queen Mother, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mrs Ford (wife of the President of the United States), the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Bishop of Grafton, the Bishop of Seoul, the Bishop, Episcopal Church, New York; the Provost of Victoria, the Bishop of Japan; the Lord May of Perth (Western Australia); GFS Japan, Melbourne, Ballarat, Perth, Ireland, Newfoundland, Guyana; Mrs Richard, Mrs Bright-Parker, Mrs Stockdale, Miss Painton Smith.

**Apology:**

Miss Painton Smith

**Minutes:**

Mrs Cheshire (Australia\_ explained that the old Minute book had been accidentally destroyed by fire and the earliest Minutes could not now be found. Those available, however, would be recorded in the new Minute book, which Mrs Cheshire formally handed over to the World Chairman.

It was proposed by Mrs Sanders, seconded by Mrs Bain

*"That the Minutes of the meeting held in Melbourne, Australia, in August 1972, be accepted".*

CARRIED

**Business Arising:**

It was noted by Council that there was no mention in the Minutes of the amount to be paid in dues.

**Chairman's Report:**

Our report, covering the period since we last met in Melbourne, in August 1972, is, perhaps, not quite as exciting as that given by my predecessor, Mrs Cheshire, for she had been able to visit nearly all the countries around the world where GFS is to be found. Her tour was a wonderful tonic to every country and was largely responsible for the enthusiasm which made the Melbourne World Council such a success. At that Council we all became aware of the immense value of being part of a world-wide organisation. We realised the true meaning of a fellowship and to be part of such a gathering was a deeply moving experience.

When you fight a battle, the spearhead goes in first and then comes the task of consolidating the gains and this latter has been how we have seen our role during the period since the last World Council. We have endeavoured to maintain the contacts between countries, by sending out a newsletter, twice a year and while we did not always receive as much information or photographs from other countries as we would have wished for, we tried to pass on as much news as possible. We apologise for failing to send out the promised newsletter this spring, but we can only say that we were in touch with all the countries, searching out information in connection with our present conference.

At the last Council we undertook two world projects – Lesotho and Sri Lanka and the response has been encouraging. Ms Evans will give you the facts and figures when we come to the Treasurer's report. It was the first time that we have supported two world projects. Inevitably the response for Lesotho has been the greater, because never before have we had a project in which it has been possible to identify so clearly with a person. What has made this a rather special project has been Elizabeth herself. We have not been working for a small, rather remote dioceses in another continent, but for someone who right from the beginning, we have all felt that we knew and, to crown it all, Elizabeth is with us this week.

I think it would be fair to say that it took far longer for the Sri Lanka project to get under way, not because there was not a desire to help, but because it was difficulty to get the necessary information to put out to the other countries. However, once we had some more details, response was forthcoming and we are delighted to have a delegate from Sri Lanka with us, who will, no doubt, be able to tell us more.

All those who attended the last Council were very much aware of their good fortune in being able to take part in such an occasion, and of the value, both to them personally and to the GFS in their respective countries, when they went home full of new ideas and awareness of the world fellowship to which we belong. We were also acutely aware that those who had the greatest need of this experience were those who had the least likelihood of being able to meet the ever-growing expense of travel and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those countries, UAS, Australia and Ireland, who responded so generously to my appeal to them to help with aid towards the fares of those who would not have been able to be with us now without their help.

Perhaps I may also be allowed to mention our own GFS members, who by giving one penny for each year of their age, paid for Elizabeth's fare. Our TF, while deciding that a penny for years would be embarrassing for those who, by their actions appear no more than fifty, but who are, in fact, well over their allotted span of threescore years and ten, compromised by giving a coin for every year of their membership and this has raised more than enough to bring Kolaka to England. I would like to say how much pleasure it has given us to be able to do this for the Transkei, for I feel that they set us an example, both in their delightfully honest reports, their emphasis on the responsibilities of GFS members in the community and every year we in London receive a donation from them to help with the Society's expenses.

While serving as your World Chairman, I have been privileged to visit Ireland and while there, attended the opening of the new Oak House – a wonderful occasion. I have also visited Scotland, attending the Service and meeting many of their older members. Dame Marion has also visited Ireland, attending a Leaders' Training Weekend – something which Ireland does so well.

We now look forward to the days ahead, here in Westfield, which are the culmination of our time in office, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to have this privilege.

It was proposed by Mrs Sanders, seconded by Mrs Van Cooten  
*"That the Chairman's report be accepted."* CARRIED

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Mr Evans said how gratified he was to occupy the post of World Treasurer, a unique position for one of his sex – he now felt himself to be fully a member of GFS.

He referred the meeting to his written report. He was conscious of the mundane character of finance, in comparison with the Westminster Abbey service, and of how little a bare recital of figures could convey the time spent of GFS. Money had come in from all directions, in many cases small sums from those who were obviously making a real sacrifice.

Mr Evans then described how he had attended a GFS centenary service in a region where membership was not large, but there was still a great love of the Society. Members of the congregations comprised four generations and the spirit of fellowship had been very strong. It was regions such as this that would benefit from the increased field staff, so that branches might be started or revived.

World Council dues had been fixed at the last World Council AT 50P PER 500 MEMBERS. The Travel Fund for overseas delegates totalled £1712.65. The Townsend Fellowship had subscribed £572 to date for Koleka Makiwana. The fund for Elizabeth Moleko stood at £538.09.

It was proposed by Mrs Buchanan (Ireland), seconded by Mrs Harman  
*"That the Treasurer's report be accepted."* CARRIED.

A vote of thanks to the Treasurer was proposed by Mrs Bain, seconded by Mrs Yetman and agreed.

#### **Reports:**

The following reports were given:

Australia:	Mrs Sanders and Miss Ebbs
England	Mrs Oakes and Miss Ford
Wales	Miss Boraman and Miss D Roberts
Guyana	Mrs Van Cooten
Ireland	Miss H Johnston
Japan	Miss Y Wakai
Korea	Mrs Bradner
Lesotho	Miss E Molego
Liberia	Mrs Harman
Newfoundland	Mrs Yetman
New Zealand	written report from Mrs Madgwick
Philippines	Miss M Corazon d Sy and Miss H Sandowal Pe
Scotland	Mrs Johnston
Sierra Leone	Miss Brainard
Sri Lanka	Mrs d Silva
Transkei	Mrs Makiwana
USA	Mrs Bain

#### **Resolutions:**

##### **GFS Prayer**

At the last Council it had been resolved that the wording of the GFS Prayer be considered at the next meeting of Council.

Speaking to this, Mrs Sanders (Australia) was in favour of an identical prayer for all member countries. It would, she considered, form a worldwide link, especially in these days of increased travel.

Mrs Johnston (Scotland) was in favour of each country retaining its own form of the prayer. The prayer of the host country to be used at World Councils. Delegates from Newfoundland and UA agreed with this.

The prayers of England and Wales, Australia and New Zealand, Ireland and the United States were read out. It was noted that all the prayers were similar, but that Scotland's prayer underlined the need to "seek first the Kingdom of Heaven" and the importance of this was emphasised by the Scottish delegates.

Mr Waite said that the Chaplain's conference had looked into this matter very carefully and had reflected upon the theological climate and the aspirations of each prayer. The conclusion had been reached that it would be a pity to lose the national individuality. The conference had strongly recommended retention of national prayers.

The Chairman stressed the importance of maintaining complete national autonomy in World GFS. The prayer, she considered, should be left free to develop in each country. Countries would also find difficulty in changing over now.

Australia then withdrew the resolution.

#### **Frequency of Councils:**

The Chairman spoke to this resolution which had been put forward by England. In view of inflation and the ever-rising cost of travel and accommodation, it had been suggested that World Council should be held every five years with a mid-term conference for young members every third year.

In the ensuing discussion, although the financial aspect of three yearly meetings was given due regard, it was pointed out that the richer countries could help those less prosperous, not only by providing fares, but also in subsidising host countries. It was felt that a longer interval would weaken the links which are so vital, and which are so greatly strengthened by interchange of ideas and problems. The present Council, being that of the centenary year, was necessarily a very full one, but future Councils might reduce the numbers attending and the expenses involved. It was, however, suggested that it would be a pity if more money were spent on fares and accommodation for Councils than on projects. It was resolved to hold World Council every three years, combined with a seminar for young people.

#### **Continuing Project – Training Leaders:**

England and Wales put forward a resolution that the training of young leaders should be a continuing project and that a world fund should be set up for this purpose, supported by the member GFS countries and that this should be in addition to any current project set up triennially, as at present. This was unanimously AGREED.

There was discussion on the way in which this training could best be carried out. Most delegates agreed that training should take place in the country concerned, so that the particular needs of each country could be met. It was thought that this was more important than the possible advantages gained by foreign travel.

#### **Next World Project:**

A proposal was put forward by England, that the next project should be the Gambia, where GFS work had just begun and where there was a great need for leadership training. The Liberian delegate pointed out that such training could be provided in Liberia, to the benefit of both countries.

Mrs Partridge (Observer, England) strongly urged that India should be considered as a world project, as the needs of women and girls in that sub-continent are acute.

After a full discussion, it was proposed by England, seconded by Guyana

*"That the next World Project be 'Leadership Training' in the Gambia and other West African countries with GFS connections".* CARRIED with a large majority.

#### **Tuesday 22 July**

Thought for the day: "This is the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" conducted by The Revd Canon Frank Gouge.

I was proposed by Australia, seconded by USA

*"That Wales be accepted as a member country of the World Council"* CARRIED

As a query had been made as to the number of World Councils held to date, the following was recorded:

1956 Switzerland; 1957 USA; 1959 Australia; 1962 Ireland; 1965 Japan; 1969 Postal Council chaired by USA. 1972 Australia; 1975 England and Wales.

It was therefore proposed by England and Wales, seconded by Australia  
*"That the present Council be deemed the eighth"* CARRIED.

It was agreed that, if and when a Council was held by post because of unavoidable circumstances, this should be deemed to have been a Council and be duly reckoned as such, this to have retrospective effect.

### **Wednesday 23 July**

Thought for the day: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" conducted by The Revd C Southerton.

There was further discussion on the subject of training, including a suggestion from the Korean delegate that a permanent training school for GFS leaders should be established. The majority opinion was, however, that such a school would not justify the expense involved and that local and inter-branch training projects were of more value than set courses. It was agreed that postal interchange of ideas and information between countries was of great value.

The question of setting up a resource centre was discussed, and it was proposed by England, seconded by Scotland

*"That the incoming Executive of World Council explores the possibilities of setting up a resource centre for training, at the next World Council and that all countries be asked to contribute"*. CARRIED

Mrs Buchanan, President of the Irish GFS, spoke on the need to provide more explicit help and support in dealing with problems of youth in the modern world. Purity is inherent in the GFS ethos, not only in its narrower sense, but in regard to all aspects of life. The great aim to be instilled was that of singleness of purpose – that of following our Lord Jesus Christ "more abundantly". Lack of informed direction may result in loss of dignity and reverence for life, but GFS, in increasing its emphasis on purity of action and intention, may give a lead to young women all over the world.

### **Election of New World Chairman**

It was proposed by Guyana, seconded by England and Wales  
*"That the next World Chairman be Mrs Floris Bain (USA)"* CARRIED

### **Date and Place of World Council 1981**

The following countries offered to host World Council 1981 – Ireland, The Philippines, The Transkei. A secret ballot was held and as a result, the country selected for the 1981 World Council was The Transkei.

### **Dues**

It was proposed by Australia, seconded by USA  
*"That the amount should be £1 per 500 members."* CARRIED

### **Travel Fund**

It was decided to start a travel fund, to which all countries can contribute.

This concluded the business of the Council.

Signed: Floris Bain 7/17/78