



The Royal Scottish Society of Arts

Celebrating 200 years of Scotland's Science, Technology and Innovation

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting of the 199th Session held at 7.00pm on Monday 29th June 2020 using Zoom.

The Meeting was chaired by The President, Dr Alison Morrison-Low

The Number of Fellows present was 29

1) Apologies for absence.

Dr Sam Alberti, Dr Tayce Phillipson, Mr Keith Montgomery, Brigadier Ian Gardiner, Mrs Jandy Stevenson and Mr Cospatric d'Inverno.

2) Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 3rd June 2019.

The minutes, copies of which had previously been circulated, were adopted as a correct record of the proceedings, proposed by Professor Stuart Monro and seconded by Dr Beverly Bergman.

3) Annual Report of the Council for the year ended 31st August 2019.

The Report, which had been adopted by Council, was presented by The Treasurer Mr Graham Rule. The Report would be submitted to OSCR and also appear on the RSSA website.

4) President's Report

In presenting her Report, copies of which had previously been circulated to Fellows, Dr Morrison-Low indicated that in the past year, the 199th Session of RSSA, the programme of events had included two summer visits, to the National Museums Scotland Collection Centre in Granton, and to the Museum of Flight at East Fortune, together with a programme of seven lectures, although the last two could not be presented due to the Covid-19 restrictions on public meetings. Hopefully the lectures can just be postponed to a later date. As in previous years the Society's bronze medal and a book token were presented to the students with the top marks in Higher Engineering Science and Advanced Higher Engineering Science, the awards being presented at the annual Science and The Parliament event held in Edinburgh's Dynamic Earth.

Fellows were saddened last November to learn of the untimely death of one of the Society's eminent Honorary fellows, Dr John Brown, OBE, FRSE, 10th Astronomer Royal for Scotland. He was a longstanding supporter of RSSA and will be much missed.

In 2021 the Royal Scottish Society of Arts will be celebrating its bicentenary and a small subcommittee had been working on a series of events to celebrate, "200 years of showcasing Scotland's Science, Technology and Innovation." Details of the proposed events would be announced to Fellows in the course of the forthcoming year.

Concluding her report, the President wished to thank all the Society's Council Members and Office Bearers for their work ensuring the successful operation of the Society. Special thanks also to Peter Stewart for providing everyone with the much appreciated teas and coffees before each meeting and Graham Rule for ensuring all the audio visual facilities were in first class working order for each of the lectures. The President also thanked all the Fellows for their continued support of the Society and its activities and hoped it would not be too long before everyone could emerge from the shadows of Covid-19, and meet again in the Augustine United Church.

The adoption of the Report was proposed by Mr John Lovell and seconded by Professor James Floyd.

5) Election of Office Bearers

At this stage of the meeting the President stepped down from the chair and two motions were proposed by Brigadier Joe d'Inverno, seconded by Dr Beverly Bergman:-

(A)

That the term of office of the incumbent President of the Society be renewed for a further term so as to end on 1st June 2023, or on such earlier date as the President may identify, in order to provide continuity to the planning and delivery of activity to mark the Society's bicentenary in the window 2021 -22.

(B)

That the Council of the Society as constituted as at the date of the AGM continue in appointment, pro tempore, to provide continuity of support to the Society and the President in light of the impact upon the society's activities and Governance, of current and anticipated Covid -19 restrictions; the position to be reviewed at the 2021 AGM.

Both motions were adopted unanimously. The President then resumed chairmanship of the meeting and thanked everyone for their support of the motions.

The composition of the Council was therefore:-

PRESIDENT	Dr Alison Morrison-Low
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Brigadier Joseph d'Inverno Professor James D Floyd
SECRETARY	Mr Peter Jones
TREASURER	Mr Graham Rule
PROGRAMME SECRETARY	Brigadier Ian Gardiner
EXCURSION ORGANISER	Mr Peter Jones
ARCHIVIST	Vacancy
COUNCILLORS	Dr Beverly Bergman Mr Stuart Brown Mr Michael Laver Mr John Lovell Dr Carol Marsh Mr Neil Short Professor Stuart K. Monro Professor Ian Robson

6) A.O.R.B

a) The President intimated that despite the restrictions relating to public meetings as a result of Covid-19, Council was still intending to provide a 2020/2021 programme of lectures. Some might have to be as virtual meetings until it was possible for full face-to-face meetings. Fellows were asked to regularly visit the RSSA website, rssa.org.uk, for the most up to date information.

b) The President indicated that the situation regarding activities and events to celebrate the 200th anniversary in 2021 were currently under review and Fellows would be updated on the position at the first autumn meeting.

c) The Secretary had been advised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, which organised the annual "Science and the Parliament" event that this year's meeting at Dynamic Earth had been cancelled but it was hoped there would still be a slimmed down virtual event. In view of the fact that school examinations were not being held this summer, that pupils were being assessed by their teachers' reports, and that some would not have been able to complete project work, it had been decided not to award any prizes from the learned scientific societies.

There being no further matters the Annual General Meeting was closed at 7.15pm, after which Fellows and their guests were entertained to a most fascinating and illuminating talk by Professor Jim Floyd on, "The Science and History of Amber".

Peter Jones
Secretary