



# **The Royal Scottish Society of Arts**

*Showcasing Scotland's Science, Technology and Innovation*

Annual General Meeting of the 202nd Session (2022-2023)

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 202<sup>nd</sup> Session held at 7.00pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Augustine United Church, 41, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.**

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

The number of Fellows present was 24, with 2 Fellows joining via Zoom.

## 1) Apologies for absence

Professor Sir James Hough, Mr Mike Laver, Brigadier Joe d'Inverno, Mr Andy Hutton, Mrs Maggie Hutton, Professor Stuart Monro, Professor Sam Alberti, Professor Ian Robson, Mr John Lovell, Professor Jim Floyd, Mr Paul Geissler, Mrs Betty Geissler, Mr Andrew Smith, Mr D McCalman, Mr John Barrington, Ms Louise Dalziel, Ms Jean Tennant, Brigadier Ian Gardiner.

## 2) Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 6th June 2022

The minutes, copies of which had been emailed or posted to Fellows in advance of the meeting, were accepted as a fair and accurate record of the proceedings. Their adoption was proposed by Dr Carol Marsh and seconded by Dr Richard Kimberlin.

## 3) Presentation of the Annual report of the Council for the year ended 31st August 2022

A copy of the Report that had been adopted by Council and submitted to OSCR had been emailed or posted to all Fellows in advance of the AGM.

## 4) President's Report

- A full copy of the President's Report, for the 202<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Society, had been emailed or posted to all Fellows in advance of the AGM.
- In her report the President was pleased to report that despite the continuing restrictions that had been imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic the Society had been able to run a complete series of lectures, with attendance by Fellows and guests either in person or via Zoom, as well as two summer visits, and that it had been possible to achieve all that had been planned for the bicentenary activities, albeit over an extended period. It was with great regret, however, that it had not been possible to hold the Bicentenary Lunch planned to take place in the Upper

part of the Signet Library with an invitation to the Society's Patron, H.M The Queen. The delayed bicentenary celebrations moved in to Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee anniversary year, but the two dates when it had been hoped to entertain The Queen turned out to be unsuitable for the royal diary, and then sadly our Royal Patron died.

- In stepping down as President after an extended presidency due to the problems and restrictions presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the activities associated with the Bicentenary, Dr Morrison-Low wished to thank all who had supported her and the Society during what had not been the easiest of times, to the Council and its Office Bearers and to all the Fellows who had helped to make RSSA such a successful society.

## 5) Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer reported that the finances were in a satisfactory state of affairs, the expected deficit of around £4000 being primarily as a result of the funding of the two Bicentenary Travel Scholarships. Despite fluctuations in the market the value of the portfolio of investments was stable and not causing any concern.
- The Treasurer also announced that following consideration by Council the annual subscription that had remained at £15 for very many years would be increased to £25, a figure that was also broadly in line with inflation over the intervening years. The Treasurer indicated that he would be contacting all Fellow requesting them to update their Standing Orders, and also to provide a new Gift Aid mandate as it had become evident that records needed to be updated, especially with regard to Fellows' addresses so as to satisfy HMRC requirements when claiming Gift Aid on subscriptions.

## 6) Election of Council

- The Secretary reminded Fellows that due to Covid-19, and the work associated with the bicentenary activities, the membership of the Council appointed in 2017 had remained unchanged without the usual rotation of members after they had served for a period of three years. To return to some degree of normality and avoid a complete change of the committee, the Council for the 203rd session would comprise the following: - President, Professor Beverly Bergman, Vice Presidents, Brigadier Joe d'Inverno and Dr Carol Marsh, Councillors, Mr Stuart Monro, Professor Stuart Monro, Professor Ian Robson, Dr Patrick Hickey and Miss Sophie Goggins. The positions appointed by Council and which remain unchanged are Secretary Mr Peter Jones, Treasurer, Mr Graham Rule, and Programme Secretary, Brigadier Ian Gardiner. Dr Alison Morrison-Low as well as being the Immediate Past President will also be taking on the position of Archivist.
- Following her appointment as President, Professor Bergman was donned with the Presidential Chain of Office from the outgoing President, Dr Morrison-Low, to

whom Professor Bergman expressed both personally, and on behalf of the Society, very grateful thanks for all that she had achieved in both enhancing and advancing the Society during the past six challenging years of her Presidency.

## 7) A.O.R.B

- Plans were being made for two visits during the summer and Fellows would be advised of the details as soon as they were finalised.
- The first meeting of the 203<sup>rd</sup> session would be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September when the Society would welcome back as the speaker, Professor Declan Diver, Professor of Plasma Physics, University of Glasgow whose subject would be, "Technological advances enabling the development of fusion reactors."
- Fellows were also asked to note that on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.45pm, at the Augustine United Church, there would be an additional meeting at which the two winners of the Bicentenary Travel Scholarship would each give a short presentation on their projects. They would be followed by a guest presentation on "Quantum Computing." The meeting would conclude with seasonal refreshments.
- Finally Fellows were asked to keep up to date on RSSA activities by visiting the Society's website, [www,rssa.org.uk](http://www,rssa.org.uk)

The meeting was closed at 7.14pm

Following the AGM, Council member Dr Patrick Hickey, a mycologist and scientific entrepreneur provided Fellows and guests with a very enjoyable and far-reaching talk entitled, "Through the looking glass: Imaging cells, silicon and space"

This was followed by a buffet reception to which all Fellows and their guests were invited.

Peter Jones  
Secretary  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2023