



# The Royal Scottish Society of Arts

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

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 200<sup>th</sup> Session held at 7.00pm on Monday 7th June 2021 using Zoom**

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

**The number of Fellows Present was 30**

## **1) Apologies for absence**

Professor Sam Alberti, Dr David Hughson, Professor Sir James Hough, Mr Monty d'Inverno, Mrs Patricia Jones, Mrs Margaret Mitchell, Lt Col Keith Montgomery, Mrs Jandy Stevenson.

## **2) Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 29th June 2020**

The minutes, copies of which had been posted to Fellows in advance of the meeting were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings. Their adoption was proposed by Professor Stuart Monro, and seconded by Mr Graham Rule.

## **3) Annual Report of the Council for the year ended 31st August 2020**

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

## **4) President's Report**

A copy of the President's Report for the 200<sup>th</sup> Session of the Society (2020-2021) had been posted to all Fellows in advance of the meeting. In her Report the President was pleased record that despite the restrictions imposed on public meetings by the Covid pandemic, RSSA had been able to provide a full programme of lectures as virtual meetings, using Zoom. An innovation for the Bicentenary series of lectures was that they had all been recorded and were now archived and available for viewing on request.

The President reported that a small sub-committee had been established to plan a series of events and activities for the Bicentenary year. These included:-

- A special Bicentenary coat of arms
- A celebratory mug, with the Bicentenary coat of arms, that as from 14<sup>th</sup> June would be sent to all Fellows.
- A lapel badge with Minerva's head in gold on red that had been sent to all Fellows with the copy of the Annual Report.

- The design, by Lochcarron, of a bespoke RSSA tartan in the colours of the Bicentenary coat of arms that would be used for a supply of lambs wool scarves for use by members and also as gifts for others.
- Digitisation of the Society's 19 volumes of Transactions, which would be accessible to the public and that it was anticipated would be maintained by the National Library of Scotland.
- The launching, in the autumn of 2021 of a Bicentenary Travel Scholarship, worth £2500, for which applications would be invited from undergraduates at Scottish universities.
- A Bicentenary Lunch, deferred until late June/early July 2022 in the upper part of the Signet Library, to which the Society's Patron would be invited. On the same day the lower part of the Library would be used to mount an exhibition showcasing various examples of Scotland's Science, Technology and Innovation.
- A Civic Reception
- The photographing of the Society's Charter that would subsequently be housed in a new, bespoke conservation-approved box.
- A day seminar aimed primarily for senior school scholars, at the end of their summer term in 2022, at which invited speakers would discuss their perception of the future in their own specialized areas of science and technology.
- A seminar towards the early part of autumn 2021 that will mark the foundation of the Society, changes during the past two hundred years and prospects for the future.
- The production of booklet at the end of the Bicentenary celebrations recording the events and activities during the Bicentenary year.

The 200<sup>th</sup> session of lectures had been provided by a distinguished number of speakers talking on a wide range of very topical and cutting edge subjects, ranging from "The Physics of Covid" to "The Dark Side of the Universe."

In conclusion the President wished to thank all the Office Bearers and Members of Council for working to maintain the business and profile of the Society during the pandemic and its accompanying restrictions, and also to all the Fellows and their guests for their continued support of RSSA through these strange times.

### **5) Treasurer's Update**

The Treasurer reported that despite the effects of Covid, the Society's finances had remained stable with receipts and payments balanced out and little changed overall from last year. Whilst there had been savings on such things as hire of the Augustine United Church and the entertainment of speakers after the lectures, speakers had been offered a small gift – some had asked for this to be donated to a charity of their choice. Investments had held fast with the Investec portfolio now valued at £181,523 and CCL, £28,000. There had, however been additional expenditure on the lapel badges and mugs and it was anticipated there would be further expenditure associated with the Bicentenary celebrations, some of which would be held in the next financial year. The current account is currently showing a balance of £24,000, which is at a higher level than usual, but being kept at this level in anticipation of increased expenditure associated with the Bicentenary events and activities. In conclusion the Treasurer was able to report a satisfactory state of affairs with no cause for concern.

### **6) Election of Office Bearers**

No elections were necessary this year as at last year's AGM it had been agreed to extend the period of office for the President and members of Council as a result of the pandemic and to ensure continuity of arrangements for Bicentenary activities.

## **7) A.O.R.B**

The President indicated that Subject to Government Guidelines, the Society is hoping that sometime in September 2021 it will be possible to visit the research facilities at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, following the lecture from the Regius Keeper Mr Simon Milne in February 2020.

The President further announced that the next meeting of the Society, the first of the 201<sup>st</sup> Session, will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September when Dr Howard Dryden, Founder of Dryden Aqua Ltd and a marine biologist from Edinburgh will speak on, "Marine Productivity and Biodiversity in Relation to Climate Change."

Finally Fellows were asked to watch the RSSA website for the latest details of forthcoming events and activities.

The Meeting was closed at 7.16pm.

**Following the AGM Fellows and guests were entertained to a lively, illuminating and informative lecture by Professor Ian Robson entitled "The Pluto Story: demise of a planet".**

Peter Jones  
Secretary  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2021