



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 201st Session held at 7.00pm on Monday 6th June 2022 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 22, with 6 Fellows joining via Zoom.

1) Apologies for absence

Brigadier Ian Gardiner, Mr Mike Laver, Mr Gregor Clark, Mrs Alexandra Clark, Mrs Margaret Mitchell, Mrs Maggie Hutton, Mr Andy Hutton, Mrs Val Inglis, Dr John Barrow.

Members were asked to stand for a period of silence in memory of RSSA Fellow Mr John Fleming, a loyal supporter of RSSA who had very recently died.

2) Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 7th June 2021

The Minutes, copies of which had been emailed or posted to Fellows in advance of the meeting, were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings. Their adoption was proposed by Dr Richard Kimberlin and seconded by Mrs Patricia Jones.

3) Annual Report of the Council for the year ended 31st August 2021

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

4) President's Report

A copy of the President's Report for the 201st Session of the Society (2021-2022) had been emailed or posted to all Fellows in advance of the meeting. In her Report the President was pleased record that 200 years on from when the Society had originally been formed for the encouragement of the useful arts in Scotland, it still continued to showcase Scotland's Science Technology and Innovation, through a series of lectures and visits although the latter had not been possible during the past two years due to the Covid pandemic. Without any national school examinations, it had also not been possible to award and medals and prizes. Despite the Covid pandemic, the RSSA had been able to provide a full programme of hybrid meetings, so that Fellows and guests could either attend lectures in person, or via Zoom from their own home. All lectures are now been recorded and are available for viewing by Fellows on request. Special thanks to Graham Rule for so ably handling all the technical aspects associated with the streaming and recording of the lectures.

The President recalled that due to the pandemic restrictions celebratory events that had been planned had had to be postponed but it was hoped they would all be held within the next few months.

However, it had still been possible to design and use a special bicentenary coat of arms, provide all Fellows with a lapel badge depicting the head of Minerva, and a mug bearing the bicentenary coat of arms. The Society had also commissioned from Lochcarron a bespoke RSSA tartan that had been used for a supply of lambs' wool scarves for use by members and also as gifts for others. Ongoing projects include the digitisation of the Society's 19 volumes of *Transactions*, which would be accessible to the public and that it was anticipated would be held by the National Library of Scotland, and the production of booklet at the end of the bicentenary celebrations recording the events and activities during the bicentenary year.

The postponed Bicentenary Seminar would be held on 16th June and would mark the foundation of the Society, changes during the past two hundred years, and prospects for the future.

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 and difficult times.

The adoption of the President's Report was proposed by Professor Beverly Bergman and seconded by Professor Jim Floyd.

5) Treasurer's Update

The Treasurer reported that despite the effects of Covid, the Society's finances had remained in a satisfactory state of affairs with no cause for concern, notwithstanding that in line with the markets in general there had been a small decline in the value of the RSSA investments.

6) Election of Office Bearers

RSSA Council had proposed not to hold any elections at this year's AGM and to extend the period of office for the President and members of Council for a further year as a result of the pandemic, and to ensure continuity of arrangements for the bicentenary activities.

7) A.O.R.B

The President reminded everyone that Fellows and guests attending the Bicentenary Seminar on June 16th were asked to register via Eventbrite, so as to assist with numbers for catering.

The President was also pleased to announce that following the reinstatement of summer visits to places of special scientific interest and the successful visit to the Bayes Centre on May 23rd the next visit would be to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on the afternoon of Monday 5th September.

The President further announced that the next meeting of the Society, the first of the 202nd Session, will be on Monday 26th September when Air Vice Marshall Ross Paterson will speak on "STEM and the RAF in Scotland."

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

The Meeting was closed at 7.16pm.

Following the AGM Council Member Dr Carol Marsh OBE, Head of Digital Systems, Celestia-UK, provided Fellows and guests with a very enjoyable and thought provoking talk on "The Future of Electronics"

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

Peter Jones
Secretary
29th June 2022

The Royal Scottish Society of Arts is Scottish Registered Charity SC015549