

THE ROYAL SOCIETY'S PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

of the fifth Annual General Meeting held on 20 May 1991 at 2.00 pm in the rooms  
of the Royal Society

Present: \*Dr R.W.J.Keay Chairman                      \*Miss Gillian Hammill  
†\*Mrs Jean Lamb Hon.Secretary                      Mrs Jenny Hutchinson  
\*Mr N.H.Robinson Hon.Treasurer                      Mrs Erica Lazarus  
\*Mr D.W.Harlow    Mr W.M.Malcolm  
†\*Miss Tania Prigorowsky                              Miss Nancy Morris  
Miss Joyce Davis    \*Miss Nadia Slow  
Mr J.J.P.Deverill    Mr R.Theobald  
Mr W.G.Evans    Mr P.Wigley  
Mrs Betty Graddon

\*Committee members    †retired 1991    \*elected 1991

Apologies:                      Mr J.H.Boreham                      Mr G.E.Hemmen  
    Mrs Gladys Dance                      Mrs Annette Hilliker  
    Mrs Margaret Earl                      Mr A.G.Houghton  
    Mrs Carrie Foreman                      Mr N.Le Grand  
    Mr W.J.G.Forman                      Lady Martin  
    Mr G.Fortnam                              Miss Jean Morris  
    Mrs Margaret Fortnam                      Mr L.P.Townsend

1. Minutes

The minutes of the fourth Annual General Meeting were confirmed.

2. Treasurer's Report

The accounts laid before the members had been audited by Mr N.Le Grand. Expenses were slightly higher than last year. The visits to Lord's Cricket Ground and to the theatre had not been self-supporting and the Treasurer hoped that this would not happen again. However, as there was £139.47 in hand there was no need to raise the subscription this year. The accounts were adopted by the members and the Chairman thanked Mr Robinson.

3. Election of Auditor

Mr Le Grand was willing to audit the accounts again next year and this was agreed to by the members.

4. Committee members

Chairman - Dr R.W.J.Keay's maximum term of office had now expired but no nominations for a successor had been received. Dr Keay handed the meeting over to the Secretary who referred to her letter of 25 November 1990 to the membership in which she said that, because no nominations had been received and, having obtained Dr Keay's approval at the Committee Meeting held on 5 November 1990, would they in this particular instance agree to overriding the Rule of the R.S.P.A. (para. 4 of the Constitution) and ask Dr Keay to serve a further 2-year term of office. Of the 30 members to whom she wrote, the 28 who replied were whole-hearted in approval. Many expressed their thanks for the work which the Chairman had done to better their pensions and several extended their thanks to the other Committee members as well.

Mrs Lamb then asked Dr Keay formally if he would serve a further two years in the Chair and to this he agreed.

Hon.Secretary - Mrs Lamb's term of office also expires now and Miss Nadia Slow was elected to serve as her successor. The Chairman warmly thanked Mrs Lamb for the work she had done whilst Secretary and drew attention to the

way in which she had kept in touch with pensioners on special occasions and those who were sick.

Hon.Treasurer - Mr Robinson continues in office until next year.

Committee members - Miss Tania Prigorowsky now retires and Mr D.W.Harlow continues in office until next year.

Miss Gillian Hammill was elected to serve on the Committee in place of Miss Prigorowsky.

Mr W.G.Evans suggested that an asterisk be placed against the names of Committee members under the headings 'Present' and 'Apologies'.

## 5. Pensions

It was noted that the Trustees of the Royal Society's Pension Fund had granted a 6.9% increase to pensions in January 1991. Miss Hammill asked whether, as the Royal Society staff had not been paying any contributions because of the accumulation of money in the Fund, the pensioners would in some way also benefit. The Chairman replied that the new arrangements for discretionary increases to pensions were very satisfactory and that pensioners of many years standing had had larger increases to bring their pensions up to a present day level.

No recent news was available regarding the revision of the Pension Booklet.

The Trustees had agreed that the Rules of the Pension Scheme should be modified so that the spouse of a deceased pensioner who had married after retirement will, in future, receive the same pension as a spouse married before retirement. Dr Keay, one of the Trustees, had conveyed the thanks of the R.S.P.A. to the other Trustees for the improvement made to their pensions.

Mr Evans asked about pensioners receiving a breakdown of their pensions from Mr N.Parfitt as had been mentioned at last year's A.G.M. It was agreed that Mr Parfitt should be written to and the Chairman asked if Miss Joyce Davis would draft an appropriate letter.

## 6. The Royal Society's Staff Association

Mr L.Mole was invited by the Secretary to attend today's meeting but he did not arrive. No member of the R.S.P.A. had as yet been invited to a meeting of the R.S.S.A. even though a reciprocal arrangement had been agreed upon.

## 7. Events

On 5 November 1990 Mr J.J.P.Deverill had organized a delightful visit to the London Library for ten pensioners and Ms Sheila Edwards, Librarian of the Royal Society. Beforehand, 11 pensioners, Ms Edwards and Mr D.Matthews, Librarian of the London Library, enjoyed lunch as guests of the Royal Society in its Restaurant. As Mr W.J.G. ('Bill') Forman was 80 years of age on that day, he and his wife had been invited to celebrate the occasion by coming to lunch but they had declined. A birthday card was sent from his fellow pensioners.

Miss Prigorowsky kindly arranged a visit for the afternoon of 21 February 1991 to the Whitehall Theatre. Earlier 17 pensioners and their friends lunched at the Royal Society and 16 of that number went on to the matinee. On this occasion Dr & Mrs Peter Warren were invited to be the pensioners' guests at lunch so that they could express their gratitude for the generous hospitality of the Society in giving them up to three lunches a year. Mrs Warren joined the theatre party.

A visit to Chelsea Physic Garden has been organized by Mrs Lamb for 17 July 1991 including a picnic. She will be sending details to interested members next month.

Later in the year Mrs Lamb hopes to be able to plan a visit for pensioners to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and, if the enlarged restaurant in the National Army Museum is finished, to have lunch there.

Miss Prigorowsky suggested a possible visit to the House of Lords and Dr Keay offered to approach Lord Porter with a view to his arranging such a visit for the pensioners in the autumn.

Mr W.M.Malcolm had contact with an Air Controller at West Drayton and would ask him if a visit could be made there by pensioners.

Mr Deverill expressed disappointment at not being invited to the Society's Soirees but to the Anniversary Day reception instead. As the opinion of the members was divided Dr Keay said that he would approach the Society and ask if it would be possible for pensioners to choose to which event they be invited.

8. News of pensioners

Members had been sad to hear of the death of Mr W.J.('Billy') Cracknell on 28 September 1990, known to many for so long. His funeral was at Tunbridge Wells and the R.S.P.A. was represented by Miss Nadia Slow, Mr W.G.Evans and Mr D.W.Harlow. His widow is still ill and remains in hospital. A second death during that year was on 30 December namely, the widow of Mr J.Dock.

The following news had been received by the Secretary of those unable to attend the meeting:

Mrs Carrie Foreman has recovered from her road accident but now has arthritis and finds walking very difficult. Mrs Margaret Earl, now 75 years of age, still enjoys looking after the boys at Eton College during both term and vacation times. She hopes to continue her job for as long as possible. Mrs Annette Hilliker plays golf and is now Secretary of the Ladies Probus in Bude.

Mr A.Houghton remains busy with his allotment, is interested in local history and attends bookfairs. News from Mrs R.Kaye's home help indicates that she is reasonably well. Miss Jean Morris has now worked for two years in Harrow at a part-time job. Mr L.Townsend plays with a local orchestra and chamber ensemble. Mr N.Le Grand was diagnosed as having severe eye infection last December, lost the sight of an eye and had to have surgery. The latest report is that he has regained 70% of his vision.

9. Royal Society staff retirements in 1991

Miss Vera Cockle will be retiring next month. Those who hope to take early retirement are Miss Iris Drake, Mrs Mary Blackman, Mr C.Argent, Mr R.Gadd and Mr D.Griffin.

10. Next meetings

The next Committee Meeting would be held in the morning of the day of the Society's Christmas lunch, and the A.G.M. for 1992 would be held in May. The newly elected Hon.Secretary, Miss Slow, was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

Jean Lamb  
June 1991

R.W.J. Keay  
18/E/92

5th AGM