

THE ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes

of the sixth Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 1992
at 2.00 p.m. in the rooms of the Royal Society

Present: Professor R.W.J. Keay (chairman)

#*C.R. Argent	Mrs J.R. Lamb
Mrs B. Blackman	Mrs E. Lazarus
Mrs F.E. Chetham	Mr W.M. Malcolm
Miss V. Cockle	Lady Martin
Mrs G.A. Dance	Miss N.P. Morris
Miss J. Davis	Mrs B. Parsons
Mr W.G. Evans	Miss T.A. Prigorowsky
Mrs C. Foreman	Mrs J. Pulford
Mrs B. Graddon	*Mr N.H. Robinson (hon.treasurer)
#*Mr D.J.H. Griffin	*Ms N. Slow (hon.secretary)
*Miss V.G. Hammill	Mr L.P. Townsend
+*Mr D.W. Harlow	Mr P. Wigley
Mrs J. Hutchinson	

*committee member + retired 1992 # elected 1992

Apologies for absence:

Mr J.H. Boreham	Mr G.E. Hemmen
Mr J.J.P. Deverill	Mrs A.D. Hilliker
Miss I. Drake	Mr A.G. Houghton
Mrs M. Earl	Mr N. Le Grand
Mr W.J.G. Forman	Miss J. Morris
Mr G. Fortnam	Mrs J. Witchalls
Mrs M. Fortnam	

The Chairman welcomed new pensioners to the meeting, and Mr W.G. Evans congratulated the Chairman on his appointment to a Visiting Professorship at the University of Essex.

The Chairman congratulated Miss N.P. Morris on her forthcoming 80th birthday and presented her with flowers on behalf of the Association.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the fifth Annual General Meeting on 20 May 1991 were confirmed and signed.

2. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 1992 were laid before the meeting and were accepted. It was agreed that in future the previous year's figures would be included for comparison. Mr N.H. Robinson reported that there were now 39 paying members of the Association. A suggestion by Mr C.R. Argent that consideration be given to the possibility of a life membership subscription had been considered by the Committee and Mr Robinson reported

that, in view of inflation and apparent anomalies in the figures, a life membership payment seemed to offer few positive advantages over an annual fee.

3. Election of Auditor

Mr N.H. Robinson reported that Mr N. Le Grand had indicated his willingness to continue as auditor for a further year to 31 March 1993.

4. Travel and Welfare Fund

Ms N. Slow reported that following discussions at the RSPA Committee meeting in December 1991, Miss S. Orton, the Society's Personnel Officer, had written to say that the Royal Society had agreed that a sum of £200 would be made available to the Association to enable those pensioners unable to use public transport by reason of illness or other disability and living within reasonable commuter distance of London to attend one event at the Royal Society per year, chosen from (a) Anniversary reception, (b) Christmas party, or (c) the Association's AGM. Payments from this fund could also be made for welfare visits which might be necessary from time to time. This sum had already been paid over to the Association. A statement would need to be provided to the Society each January showing payments made in the preceding 12 months, after which a top-up payment would be made if necessary. It was agreed to return the Association's warm thanks to the Society for this generous action.

5. Elections to RSPA Committee

The Chairman reported that Mr N.H. Robinson's 3-year term of office as Hon. Treasurer would end at the AGM but that he was eligible for re-election annually for up to two further years and had indicated his willingness to do so if required. It was agreed that this appointment be continued.

The ordinary members of the Committee served for a two-year term only and were not eligible for re-election except as Officers or after an interval of one year. As Mr D.W. Harlow had now served for two years it was necessary to find a replacement for him and members present nominated Mr C.R. Argent and Mr D.J.H. Griffin. After a ballot Mr Argent was elected and the Chairman stated that he would co-opt Mr Griffin to the Committee also in view of forthcoming necessary changes in the composition of the Committee.

6. Pensions

The discretionary increase of 0.7% in pensions with effect from 1 January 1992 was noted. The Chairman reported that as a result of disquiet arising from the Maxwell affair he had written to the Royal Society Treasurer suggesting that, although there was no doubt that the Society's pension fund was on a sound footing, members of the staff and pensioners might be sent a letter explaining how the funds were managed. This had been agreed and a letter would be sent in due course.

Mrs J. Pulford explained the safeguards built into the pension scheme with which she had been dealing before her recent retirement and the Chairman, a trustee of the pension fund, said he would look to her for advice on the pension fund in future.

There had been no news on revision of the pension booklet.

6K AGM

7. Invitations to Soirees

The Chairman explained that, following the 1991 meeting, he had written to the Executive Secretary to enquire if it would be possible to offer pensioners the choice of an invitation to the summer soirees and the Anniversary Day reception. It had been agreed that invitations to both the exhibitions on soiree days in the summer and Anniversary Day reception would be offered. Those present confirmed that they had received invitations to the exhibition prior to the May soiree.

8. Events

Ms N. Slow reported that since the last meeting most enjoyable visits to the Chelsea Physic Garden (17 July 1991) had been organized by Mrs J.R. Lamb, to the House of Lords (16 October 1991) by Miss T.A. Prigorowsky, and a theatre visit to 'Aspects of Love', also organized by Miss Prigorowsky, on 1 April 1992, those taking part being the guests of the Royal Society at lunch on the last two of these occasions.

Arrangements were being made by Miss V.G. Hammill for a visit to her home at Portchester and to Portchester Castle on 8 July 1992 and Mrs J.R. Lamb had in hand a visit to the Tradescant Museum and Royal Pharmaceutical Society during autumn 1992 and the possibility of a visit to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and Army Museum in 1993. Lady Martin mentioned the possibility of a visit to Fulham Palace, and it was agreed that she and Miss Prigorowsky would look into the organising of a visit there in summer 1993.

The Chairman explained that the expected renovation of John Evelyn's house had not yet started, so it would not be open in the foreseeable future. Mr Malcolm reported that when he last enquired he had been told that the London Air Travel Control Centre was not accepting visits at the present time but he promised to make further enquiries.

It was agreed that the cost of circulating all members of the Association with information on forthcoming events would be met from the general funds of the Association but that subsequent costs (postage, telephone calls, etc.) would be reclaimed from those actually making the visits.

9. News of pensioners

The death of Mrs R. Kaye on 10 October 1991 was noted with regret.

Resulting from a request for information contained in the meeting notice, Ms Slow reported on news of pensioners unable to attend the meeting. News of further problems suffered by Mr N. Le Grand was noted with sympathy and those present signed a card sending him their best wishes.

10. Proposed Newsletter

A proposal for a newsletter to contain news of RSPA members (appointments, visits) and of events etc. put forward by Mr C.R. Argent was considered. It was agreed that this possibility should be explored, and Mr Argent agreed to take this in hand, in consultation with the hon. secretary, but it was pointed out that the preparation and circulation of a newsletter might prove expensive.

6th AGM

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should commence at 2.00 p.m and would be held on Monday, 17 May 1993. A meeting of the Committee would take place on the morning of the day of the Christmas party (18 December 1992).

R.W.J. Keay
17 May 1993

21 May 1992

6.H.A.G.M