

ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

RSPA AGM 1995

Minutes

At the ninth Annual General Meeting of the RSPA held in the rooms of the Royal Society at 2.00 p.m. on 15 May 1995:

Present: Mr N.H. Robinson (Chairman)

Mr C.R. Argent (Editor, <i>BTT</i>)	Miss C.A. Johnson
Mrs R.Z. Bulsara	Dr R.W.J. Keay (Pensions' Trustee)
Mrs F.E. Chetham	Mrs J.R. Lamb (Events Secretary)
Mr A.J. Clark	Mrs E.E. Lazarus
Miss V.W. Cockle	Lady Martin
Mrs G.A. Dance	Mr C.M.R. Oak
Miss J. Davis	Mrs J. Parsons
Miss I.R. Drake	Mrs J. Rivett
Mrs C. Foreman	Mrs J.M. Shanahan
Mr D.J.H. Griffin (Hon. Sec. & Acting Hon. Treas.)	Ms N. Slow
Miss V.G. Hammill	Mrs N.P. Tupholme
Mr D.W. Harlow	Mr P. Wigley
Mrs J. Hutchinson	Mrs J. M. Witchalls

Mr R. Rees (Chairman of the Royal Society Staff Association) and Mrs B. de Vere-Lewis (soon to become a member) were present by invitation.

Not attending:

Mrs M.E. Blackman	Mr N.A.W. Le Grand
Mr J.H. Boreham	Mrs D.A.J. Machin
Mr J.J.P. Deverill	Mrs J. Malcolm
Mrs M.S. Earl	Mrs J.C. Middleton-Smith
Mr W.G. Evans	Miss J.I. Morris
Mrs A.F. Forman	Miss T.A. Prigorowsky
Mr G.G.A. Fortnam	Mrs C.J. Pulford
Mrs M.P. Fortnam	Mr H.F.G. Scammell
Mr T. Garrett	Mrs B.C. Seymour
Dr M.B. Goatly	Mrs M. Smith
Mrs B. Graddon	Mr R.G. Theobald
Mr G.E. Hemmen	Mrs L.J. Thomas
Mrs A.D. Hilliker	Mrs U.M.A. Tokle
Mr A.G. Houghton	Mr L.P. Townsend
Mr B. Jones	

The Chairman welcomed new members Ratti Bulsara, Christine Johnson, Maurice Oak and June Rivett; he also welcomed guests Robert Rees and Brenda de Vere-Lewis.

He recalled with regret that Bill Forman had died during the past year (a tribute had appeared in *Beyond The Terrace*). His widow, Mrs Alice Forman, was now a member.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 199⁴ were confirmed.

2. Royal Society private Pension Fund

Arising from minute 3, Mr Parfitt had written to confirm that the income from the Society's trust fund for pensions could be used for special assistance to RS pensioners. Any "deserving cases" could be referred for consideration to the RS

Head of Finance (Mr David Sturt) by the RSPA (any two of the RSPA Officers). A payment had already been made in support of Jim Scammell. Approximately £900 a year was expected to be available from the fund.

The availability of this fund was welcomed and the Committee was asked to consider any further details (it being noted that the summary accounts for this fund could be found in the RS Yearbook).

3. Report by Hon. Secretary

The Hon. Secretary drew attention to the list of members circulated with the AGM papers. There were 12 new members since the last AGM; a 25% increase, bringing the total number to 56. All members' names and addresses and other membership details were now on a computer database.

He reported that there were a few staff members just left or about to leave the Society's employment (to become "deferred" pensioners) whose length of service with the Society was a little less than the 10 years that the present Rules stipulated as making an ex member of staff eligible to join the Association but who were nevertheless keen to join. He invited the AGM to consider amending the relevant Rule to allow the admission of such former members of staff. During the ensuing discussion, some members believed that there should be no minimum period specified, others were of the opinion that three years (the minimum qualification for a Royal Society pension) should be the minimum, but, on a vote, the majority agreed to amend the Rule to make five years the minimum. [Rule 2 will now read: "Deferred pensioners with more than five years service at the Royal Society may also be invited to join..."]

4. Report by Hon. Treasurer (Acting)

Janet Pulford had resigned in August as Hon. Treasurer, having moved to Norfolk, and the Hon. Secretary had been acting in that capacity, as provided for in the Rules. He drew attention to the audited accounts, in which it was apparent that, as in the previous year, expenditure in the 1994-95 had been significantly less than income. In 1992-93 there had been a high expenditure, prompting the AGM to raise the subscription, but examination of previous years and subsequent years now indicated that the high expenditure that year had been unusual. The Committee recommended no change in the subscription (£5) for 1995-96 (this was accepted by the AGM). The Welfare Fund continued to be under-used.

The Chairman on behalf of the AGM thanked Janet Pulford and David Griffin for their work during the year in the Treasurership, and Joyce Davis as honorary auditor.

5. Report by Pensions' Trustee

With reference to minute 10, the Pensions' Trustee reported that he had written to the RS Treasurer requesting copies of the new booklet on Society pensions, and this had now been distributed to pensioners. He had also enquired about when the Trustees would next meet, since they had not met since 1992, and had received an assurance that a meeting would be held when the latest triennial report became available shortly. A recent report by Clerical Medical indicated that the Pension Fund was healthy. The Trustees were reviewing the Fund in the light of the Pensions Bill at present going through Parliament.

The Chairman on behalf of the AGM thanked Ronald Keay for his vigilance in the activities of the Trustees.

6. Report by Editor of *BTT*

The Editor drew attention to the latest issue of *Beyond The Terrace*, laid around the table. The next copy deadline was 1 October. The Chairman congratulated the Editor on continuing to produce such an informative and interesting publication.

7. Report by Events Secretary

The Events Secretary reported that there had been the following events in the past year: visit to the Old India Office and Durbar Court (29 September); a Christmas get-together at Erica Lazarus's home (16 December); visit to H.Q.S. Wellington (3 April). Among proposed visits were the Wellcome Foundation, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Ishmaili Centre, the Royal College of Music and the British Library of Sound Archives, the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. It was agreed that the Events Secretary should proceed with the arrangements for one of them in the autumn, taking into account the opinions expressed at the meeting. The Committee was expected to consider how best to cope with arrangements for visits where a maximum number was specified by the body being visited.

The Chairman complimented the Events Secretary on the excellent events arranged and expressed good wishes on her convalescence from her recent hospitalization.

8. Elections

The following were elected by the AGM:

- (a) Erica Lazarus to be Hon. Treasurer (for three years, 1995-98. with eligibility for election annually after this for a further two years, to 2000);
- (b) Joyce Davis as Hon. Auditor for the year 1995-96;
- (c) Alan Clark as a Committee member (for two years, 1995-97).

9. News of members

The Hon. Secretary summarized the news of members as returned by them on the forms for the AGM. The returns would form the basis for a piece in the next issue of *BTT*. During the year, flowers had been sent to Gladys Dance on the occasion of her 80th birthday (January) (she became the sixth octogenarian in the Association) and to Jeannie Lamb in hospital for surgery.

10. Report on RS Staff Association

Robert Rees reported on the activities of the RSSA. The Association had been involved in close discussion with RS senior management relevant to the implementation of the new staff structure. There had been a few social events, including a Christmas Fair. He would let the Hon. Secretary have notice of any events open to RSPA members.

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next AGM on Monday, 13 May 1996.

May 1995

4th AGM

N.H. Palmer

DJHG

13 May 1996

ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Rules (revised 1994 and 1995)

1. Title

The Association shall be called: "The Royal Society Pensioners' Association".

2. Membership

Membership shall be open to all pensioners and retired staff of the Royal Society or of services provided at the Royal Society. Deferred pensioners with more than 5 years service at the Royal Society may also be invited to join on the understanding that they would not benefit from any hospitality provided by the Society.

3. Objects

The objects of the Association are:

- (a) To keep colleagues in touch with one another and to lend a helping hand when appropriate.
- (b) To administer an annual Welfare Grant from the Royal Society to enable visits to colleagues and to assist them by the provision of transport to attend the Association's Annual General Meeting, the Society's Anniversary celebrations or the Christmas luncheon.
- (c) To recommend to the Royal Society any extraordinary capital expenditure for the benefit of individual pensioners from the income of the Society's private Pension Fund.
- (d) To meet at least once a year at the Society or elsewhere.
- (e) To arrange cultural or social occasions from time to time.
- (f) To monitor the levels of pensions, and to make representations to the Trustees when considered necessary.
- (g) To publish a newsletter *Beyond The Terrace*, normally biannually.

4. Constitution

The business of the Association shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a Chairman and four other members including an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer, which posts may, if the Annual General Meeting so agrees, be held by the same person. The Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall each be appointed for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election annually for up to two further years. Other members of the Committee shall each be appointed for a term of two years and shall not normally be eligible for re-election except as Officers or after an interval of one year. The Committee may coopt up to two other persons to assist in its business. Nominations for Officers and other Committee members shall be delivered to the Honorary Secretary not less than seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall appoint an Honorary Editor of *Beyond The Terrace* and an Events Secretary, and is authorized to nominate a member of the Association for appointment as a Trustee of the Royal Society's Pension Fund. The Honorary Editor, the Events Secretary and the Trustee shall be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

5. **Annual General Meeting**

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in May or June of each year and at least three weeks' notice of time, date and place shall be given. At this meeting necessary elections of Officers, Committee and Honorary Auditor shall take place. The Honorary Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting on the written request of not less than six members or of the Committee, giving members at least three weeks' notice.

6. **Subscriptions**

Members shall pay an annual subscription to be determined by a two-thirds majority of members attending the Annual General Meeting.

7. **Accounts**

An annual Income and Expenditure Account and Welfare Fund Account for the year ending 31 March, showing corresponding figures for the previous year, shall be prepared for auditing and presentation to the Annual General Meeting for approval. When prepared, the Welfare Fund Account shall be presented to the Royal Society's Personnel Officer for reimbursement of monies expended in that year. Normally expenditure not exceeding #50 may be authorized by the Chairman or Honorary Secretary but, in their absence, by any two members of the Committee.

8. **Alterations to rules**

No variations to the above shall be made other than by members at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

Approved by the Annual General Meeting on 16 May 1994 (with a subsequent amendment to Rule 2 at the AGM on 15 May 1995.