

# ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

RSPA AGM 1997

## Minutes

At the eleventh Annual General Meeting of the RSPA held in the rooms of the Royal Society at 2.00 p.m. on 12 May 1997:

**Present:** Mr N.H. Robinson (Chairman)

Mr C.R. Argent (Editor, <i>BTT</i> )	Mr D.W. Harlow
Mrs M.E. Blackman	Mrs J. Hutchinson
Mrs R.Z. Bulsara	Miss C.A. Johnson
Mrs F.E. Chetham	Dr R.W.J. Keay (Pensions' Trustee)
Mr A.J. Clark	Mrs J.R. Lamb (Events Secretary)
Miss W.A. Clifford	Mrs E.E. Lazarus (Hon. Treasurer.)
Miss V.W. Cockle	Mrs J. Malcolm
Mrs G.A. Dance	Mr C.M.R. Oak
Miss J. Davis	Ms N. Slow
Miss I.R. Drake	Mr R.G. Theobald
Mrs S.M. Edwards	Mrs U.M.A. Tokle
Mr T. Garrett	Mrs N.P. Tupholme
Mr D.J.H. Griffin (Hon. Secretary)	Mr P. Wigley

Mr K.A. Wylde (Chairman of the Royal Society Staff Association) was present by invitation.

### Not attending:

Mr J.H. Boreham	Mrs A.D. Hilliker	Mr C.D. Purdon
Miss C.H. Burden	Mr A.G. Houghton	Mrs J. Rivett
Mr C.K. Chan	Mr B. Jones	Mr H.F.G. Scammell
Mrs B.M. de Vere-Lewis	Mrs E. Le Grand	Mrs B.C. Seymour
Mr J.J.P. Deverill	Mrs D.A.J. Machin	Mrs J.M. Shanahan
Mrs M.S. Earl	Lady Martin	Mrs M. Smith
Mr W.G. Evans	Mrs J.C. Middleton-Smith	Mrs L.J. Thomas
Mrs C. Foreman	Mr L.U. Mole	Mrs M.L. Thompson
Mrs A.F. Forman	Miss J.I. Morris	Mr L.P. Townsend
Mr G.G.A. Fortnam	Mr N.B. Parfitt	Miss E.P. Wilson
Mrs M.P. Fortnam	Mrs J. Parsons	Mrs K.E.H. Wilson
Dr M.B. Goatly	Mr M.E.E. Power	Mrs J.M. Witchalls
Miss V.G. Hammill	Miss T.A. Prigorowsky	
Mr G.E. Hemmen	Mrs C.J. Pulford	

The Chairman welcomed Terry Garrett as a member attending for the first time, and Keith Wylde representing the RS Staff Association.

He recalled with regret the death in January of Betty Graddon, widow of Jock.

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 1996 were confirmed.

### 2. Report by Hon. Secretary

The membership list circulated with the agenda was noted; there were now 67 members, 3 having joined since the last AGM (Choong-Kar Chan, Nigel Parfitt and Ling Thompson). Three members (Margaret Earl, Joyce Davis and Jean Martin) had reached their 80th birthdays during the year and been sent flowers on behalf of the Association.

### 3. Report by Hon. Treasurer

The Hon. Treasurer drew attention to the balance of over £500 in the audited accounts circulated with the papers. This balance had been growing over the past few years and the Association should consider the use to which it should be put. No change was proposed in the annual subscription of £5 (half this for relic spouses).

The Chairman reported that a grant had been made from the RS private pension fund to assist in the payment of surgery for John Boreham. He recalled that the fund had been used the previous year in the purchase of a wheelchair for Jim Scammell. Any member wishing to make a claim on the fund should contact a member of the Committee. It was noted that these and other sources of assistance for members fell within one of the objectives of the Association: "...to lend a helping hand [to colleagues] when appropriate."

The Chairman on behalf of the AGM thanked Erica Lazarus and Joyce Davis (the auditor).

### 4. Elections

#### (a) Honorary Auditor

Joyce Davis agreed to act as Honorary Auditor for 1997/98.

#### (b) Chairman and Honorary Secretary

It was recalled that nominations for Chairman and Hon. Secretary had been invited at the last AGM and by letter to all members. The only nominations received were those made by the Committee: David Griffin and Sheila Edwards respectively. They were therefore declared elected, both until the AGM in the year 2000. The AGM expressed thanks to the outgoing Chairman and Hon. Secretary for their service to the Association (see also minute 10).

#### (c) Committee vacancies

Alan Clark was retiring from the Committee after completing the maximum two years on it. Len Mole had been nominated as his replacement and, in the absence of any other nominations, was declared elected as a member until the 1999 AGM. The Chairman thanked Alan Clark for his service on the Committee.

### 5. Report by Pensions' Trustee

Ronald Keay drew attention to the letter of 28 April 1997 from the Royal Society Head of Finance (Mr D. Sturt) to all active and pensioner members of the Royal Society pension and life assurance plan. In it, the RS Council's proposals for the appointment of Trustees of scheme in line with the Pensions Act 1995 were set out, and objections to them were invited. The proposals included the appointment of one Trustee to be proposed by at least five Pensioner Scheme Members (PSMs), comprising former employees drawing a pension from annuities purchased from the Fund, and then elected by ballot of the PSMs. The present section of the RSPA Rules which stated "The Committee...is authorized to nominate a member of the Association for appointment as a Trustee of the Royal Society's Pension Fund." would obviously have to be amended to be in accord with Council's proposal concerning the "Pensioners'" Trustee, and the Committee that morning had agreed with Dr Keay's proposal that, following the Society's informing all PSMs that nominations for a PSM Trustee were invited, the RSPA put forward a nomination signed by at least five PSMs, and that the Society need only ballot all PSMs if other nominations were put forward, bearing in mind that the totality of PSMs and the membership of the RSPA were not coincident. The Society

should inform all PSMs of the Trustee eventually appointed. The AGM expressed general agreement to this proposed procedure. Dr Keay then withdrew so that the AGM could discuss proposed nominees as Trustee, pointing out that a three-year appointment would take him beyond his 80th birthday.

The Chairman proposed that Dr Keay be nominated to continue as Trustee, pointing out the strong representation of the pensioners that he had made as Trustee, and this was supported *nem. con.* Dr Keay returned and it was agreed that there be no objection to the proposals as set out in Mr Sturt's letter, bearing in mind that these would accord with the proposals now being made in the RSPA's procedures.

It was noted that the revision of the booklet had yet to be issued. It was hoped that it could be accompanied by a covering letter to PSMs pointing out which parts applied to them, since naturally the text would be aligned towards currently contributing members of the scheme. It was also hoped that deferred pensioners could be given the opportunity of receiving it.

Concerning the deferred pensioners (i.e., those members of the scheme who had contributions in the scheme but would not receive a pension until retirement age), it was noted that the Society, as empowered by the new regulations of the Act, had decided not to consult them. It was, however, understood that the Society was increasing its efforts to keep in touch with such members of the scheme, and that any such member was entitled to write in to the Society to ascertain the state of his or her pension.

Dr Keay said that he would write to the RS Treasurer, incorporating the points made by the AGM. The Chairman on behalf of the Association thanked Dr Keay for all his efforts in relation to the Pension Fund.

#### 6. Report by Editor of *BTT*

Since the last AGM, two issues of *Beyond The Terrace* had appeared: November 1996 and May 1997 (laid around the table). It was to be hoped that more members would submit solutions to the crossword in the current issue than for the one set the previous year (one member sent in the solution, but was ineligible for the prize).

The Chairman thanked the Editor, Chris Argent, for the compilation and production of the usual high standard of publication, and "Archaic" for the compilation of the crossword. The Hon. Secretary asked that members consider setting out their reminiscences of their life at the Royal Society, on the lines of the article by the late Neville Le Grand several issues back.

#### 7. Report by Events Secretary

The Events Secretary reported that, since the last AGM, visits had been arranged to the Royal Institution and the Royal Academy, with lunch at the Royal Society before each visit and with tea at the Royal Overseas League after the latter. In addition to planning similar visits for the coming year and beyond, she suggested that from time to time just a lunch at the Royal Society be arranged, and this suggestion was warmly welcomed by the AGM. The Treasurer suggested that if a visit was arranged to a location outside London, such as Wisley, consideration be given to having a coach from central London that could be paid for out of general RSPA funds, and this was agreed.

The Chairman thanked Jeannie Lamb for continuing to arrange such enjoyable events, which provided the mainstay of keeping members in touch with one another between AGMs.

## 8. News of members

The Hon. Secretary summarized the news of members who could not be present as given on their return forms. All members had been invited to give news of themselves on the return forms, and this would be summarized in the next issue of *BTT*.

## 9. Report on other RS matters

Keith Wylde reported on the activities of the Royal Society Staff Association. It had been in discussion with management concerning the new staff appraisal and assessment system. An issue of *On The Terrace* had appeared. The Christmas Fair had raised more than £700 for charity. Father Christmas had been played by the Chairman. Many social events had been arranged, such as mixed football, softball, wine tasting, a quiz and a phantasy football competition. The RSPA Chairman congratulated the RSSA on having such a full programme of activities and hoped that RSPA members could be informed of any events in which they might be eligible to participate.

## 10. Outgoing Chairman

David Griffin proposed a vote of thanks for Norman Robinson as the outgoing Chairman. He had been on the Committee since 1988, first as an ordinary member, then as Hon. Treasurer and latterly as Chairman, in which office he had supervised the activities of the Association in a relaxed and tactful manner, which had done much towards the smooth running of RSPA affairs. The vote of thanks was carried with acclaim, *nem. con.*

## 11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next AGM on Monday, 18 May 1998 at 2.00 p.m. (noting that no room was available for the preceding Monday, which would have been the date corresponding to the dates of AGMs in the past few years).

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May 1997

DJHG

