

ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 2002

MINUTES

At the sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the RSPA held at the Royal Society on Monday 13 May 2002:

Present: David Griffin (Chairman) (*Pensions Trustee*)

Chris Argent (<i>Editor, BTT</i>)	Don Harlow
Frank Atack	Marjorie Harris (<i>Committee Member</i>)
Ratti Bulsara	George Hemmen
Diana Chapman	Joan Hurrell
Frances Chetham	Jenny Hutchinson
Janet Clifford	Christine Johnson (<i>Joint Events Secretary</i>)
Vera Cockle (<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>)	Jeannie Lamb
Gladys Dance	Erica Lazarus (<i>Joint Events Secretary</i>)
Brenda de Vere-Lewis (<i>Hon. Secretary</i>)	Jennifer Malcolm
John Deverill	Maurice Oak
Iris Drake	Nadia Slow
Sheila Edwards	Nancy Tupholme
Terry Garrett	Jackie Witchalls

Unable to attend: 51 members

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Frank Atack, Diana Chapman and Janet Clifford, all who were attending their first RSPA AGM.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2001 were confirmed and signed with the following amendment to Minute 3, line two: final balance of £966.31 amended to read £467.27.

2. *Excellence in Science*

With reference to the last paragraph of minute 2 of the 2001 AGM, no action had been taken regarding the suggestion that members should indicate which RS publications they wished to receive, as it had been considered more appropriate to await the outcome of discussions regarding RS overall support for the RSPA (see also minute 9 below). It was now apparent, however, that a number of members who had previously received *RS News* had now been dropped from the circulation

list of its successor, *Excellence in Science*, although some members including Nancy Tupholme, Terry Garrett and Jeannie Lamb, were receiving the new magazine. Some members were concerned that their failure to receive *Excellence in Science* meant that they no longer had access to information regarding the election of new Fellows, but the Chairman pointed out that anyone who was connected to the internet could obtain the information quite easily from the relevant website. George Hemmen said that there were also other things circulated by the Society such as meeting notices, which some members received, and others did not. It was agreed that the Editor of *BTT* should include in the next issue an article explaining what information was available about Royal Society activities on the internet, including relevant website addresses, and also provide a slip inviting members to indicate what they currently received, and whether or not this was still required, and what they would like to receive. On the basis of the response the matter could then be taken up with the Executive Secretary. It was not considered appropriate, however, to press for the free receipt of publications such as the Royal Society's Year Book.

2. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that during the past year the following had joined the RSPA: Frank Attack, Diana Chapman and Vivien Hobbs (deferred pensioner). Sheila Derrick had not, however, responded to an invitation to join and Henry Varley's and Claire Burden's membership had now lapsed following a failure to pay subscriptions for 2001/2002/ and 2000/2001. She had been asked to contact John Torpey regarding membership and this was in hand. A book token had been sent to John Deverill on the occasion of his 80th birthday on 24 February, and flowers/plants had been sent to Peter Warren and Margaret Earl who had both been ill during the year. As an exception, a floral tribute had also been sent on the occasion of the late Francesca Marcantonio's funeral in view of her close association with many RSPA members. The Secretary said that Alan Clark, Allan Houghton, Vivien Hobbs and Ursula Togle had extended specific greetings to RSPA members. She concluded by drawing attention to continuing problems relating to communication with the Royal Society.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the balance in hand as at 31 March 2002 was £555.98 and balance in the Welfare Fund £165.05.

4. Pensions Trustee's Report

David Griffin, Pensions Trustee, drew attention to the article he had written for *BTT24*, December 2001, in which the present arrangements governing the operation of the pension Fund were summarized, including the role of the pensioner-nominated Trustee and including recent changes to the Plan adopted by the Trustees at recent meetings (none of which would affect current pensions), such as an increase in pension contributions of staff and employer to take account of longer

life expectancy and lower returns on investments. The Trustees were next due to meet in June 2002. Current pensioners who had personal queries needed to contact David Sturt, at the Royal Society, and his details were contained in *BTT*. Both Chris Argent and Sheila Edwards commented that the response times to enquiries, were longer than those previously stipulated..

5. ***Beyond the Terrace***

With reference to the suggestion made in minute 5 of the minutes of the 2001 AGM that *BTT* should include the staff names and email addresses of relevant RS staff members, Chris Argent, editor of *BTT*, said he was not sure which names RSPA members would regard as relevant. Possibly names such as David Sturt, as the person RSPA members needed to contact with Pension enquiries should be given. It was agreed to leave to the editor's discretion which other names to list. The Editor also referred to difficulties regarding the printing of *BTT* since Frank Attack's retirement, and said that the RS had invoiced him for the bulk mailing back to him of the newsletter. He concluded by seeking contributions for future issues and said that reminiscences of times past would be particularly welcomed.

6 **Joint Events Secretaries Report**

Christine Johnson, Joint Events Secretary with Erica Lazarus, reported on a very enjoyable visit, including a back stage tour, of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 19 October 2001 and which had been preceded by lunch at the Royal Society. Twenty-five had attended the tour and twenty-one for lunch. The RSPA Christmas lunch had been held on 11 December 2001, and twenty came to that and enjoyed Gerry Watts excellent cuisine. A possible visit to the Royal Geographical Society during Spring 2002 had now been postponed until 2004 as the Society's Map Room and Library was currently closed as part of a major re-building programme, but instead a visit to the Chelsea Physic Garden had been arranged for 3 July. A maximum of twenty had been set for one guide. Regarding an Autumn event, Christine said she was considering the Mansion House. Those present expressed the hope that a Christmas lunch would again be organised. Christine said that she was indebted to Lady Martin who had supplied a number of suggestions for possible future visits.

7. **Elections**

It was noted that David Griffin had now completed his fifth and final term of office and that the Committee had proposed George Hemmen as new Chairman. There being no other nominations George was duly declared elected. The Secretary, on behalf of the RSPA, thanked David for all he had done for the Association during his term as Chairman and made a small presentation to him. In turn David thanked all the officers, both past and present, who had worked with him viz. Sheila Edwards and Brenda de Vere Lewis, past and current secretary, Erica Lazarus and Vera Cockle, past and current Treasurer, Jeannie Lamb and Christine Johnson/Erica Lazarus, past and current Events Secretaries and Chris Argent, Editor of *BTT*.

8 Royal Society financial support for the RSPA

The Chairman said that he and the Secretary had met with the Executive Secretary (Stephen Cox) immediately after last year's AGM to discuss changes in the way the Royal Society provided financial support for the RSPA. Whilst the Society would no longer provide any free lunches for the RSPA, it had agreed to match the RSPA subscription £1 for £1, to provide free of charge with tea and coffee, rooms for the RSPA Committee meetings and AGM, to cover the printing costs of *BTT* and meeting papers, and to invite those members of pensionable age to social events such as the Anniversary Reception.

9 News of Members

The Secretary said that items of news which been received from members would appear in the next issue of *BTT*.

10 Reports from the RS Human Resources Office and the RS Staff Association

- (a) The Secretary said that the Acting Head of Human Resources, Catherine Davies, had been invited to attend the AGM, but was unable to be present.
- (b) Froniga Lambert, Chair of the RSSA was welcomed to the AGM. She said that she was in her second year of office. Referring to the RSSA subscription, she said an annual subscription was no longer levied, but that members had agreed that £1 should be deducted from their salaries each month this being matched by an equivalent amount from the Royal Society. This arrangement was not only of advantage to those on short-term contracts, but enabled the cost of all RSSA events, of which there was about one per month, to be subsidised. Forthcoming major events included the May Ball, a barbecue, Christmas Party and Christmas Fayre. The RSSA's nominated charities this year were The MS Society and Big Issue, and Froniga said that any ideas for joint funding raising activities between the RSSA and the RSPA would be welcomed. Erica Lazarus suggested that possibly there could be a RSPA stall at the Christmas Fayre or perhaps members could contribute to RSSA stalls. Froniga said that it was hoped to revive *On the Terrace*, the RSSA newsletter. RSPA members who wished to contact the RSSA could do so electronically on RSSA@royalsoc.ac.uk.

11 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held on Monday, 12 May 2003 at 2 pm at the Royal Society, to be preceded by lunch.


11 May 2003