

# ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting 2004

### MINUTES

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At the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the RSPA held at the Royal Society on Monday 17 May 2004:

Present: Chris Argent (*Editor, BTT*) – in the Chair

Frank Atack	Christine Johnson ( <i>Joint Events Secretary</i> )
Ratti Bulsara	Jeannie Lamb
Choong-kar Chan	Jennifer Malcolm
Diana Chapman	Maurice Oak
Alan Clark	Tania Prigorowsky
Janet Clifford	June Rivett
Vera Cockle ( <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> )	Jenny Shanahan ( <i>Committee Member</i> )
Brenda de Vere-Lewis ( <i>Hon. Secretary</i> )	Nadia Slow
Terry Garrett	Marjorie Smith
Jenny Hutchinson	Nancy Tupholme

Karen O'Connell (Head of Human Resources) attended by invitation for item 10(a).

Unable to attend: 54 members.

It was reported that the Chairman, George Hemmen, had been admitted to hospital on 17 May, and that he had asked Chris Argent to take the Chair for the AGM. Those present expressed their sympathy and appreciation of George's work for the Association.

#### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2003 were confirmed with the following amendment: second line 2002 amended to read 2003.

#### 2. Matter arising – Royal Society Publications

With reference to minute 8, the Secretary said that three members who did not have access to the Internet had requested paper copies of *Excellence in Science*, and their names had been passed to the Royal Society.

#### 3. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that there were 75 members of the Association but that there

had been no new members during the year. Carrie Foreman, who had worked at the Royal Society between 1934 and 1973 had died on 14 August 2003 aged 90 and members had been notified via the group system. The wreath sent by the Royal Society included the RSPA's name and Diana Chapman and Tania Prigorowsky had represented the RSPA at the funeral. An appreciative letter had been received from Pat and Ron Foreman (son) in respect of this representation and in response to a letter of condolence sent by the Chairman.

Flowers and a card had been sent to Tania Prigorowsky who had celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 13 May, and plans were in hand to send a card and wine to Geoff Fortnam who would be 80 on 9 June. During the year flowers had also been sent to Lady Martin, Ursula Tokle, and Jeannie Lamb, all of whom had undergone surgery, and a Boots token to Geoff Fortnam following a recent hip replacement operation.

The Secretary concluded her report by passing on specific greetings from Gladys Dance and Peter Warren, neither of whom could be present.

#### 4. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the income and expenditure account for 2003/04 and reported the balances as at 31 March 2004 of £868.96 in the RSPA account and £102.01 in the Welfare Fund. The latter fund was topped up to £200 each year by the Royal Society. She said that it was from this fund that assistance was given towards the cost of taxi fares for members having difficulty in using public transport to the Royal Society for the AGM or other events. Traditionally the maximum amount offered had been £10, but this seemed insufficient in some cases. It was accordingly agreed in future to consider claims for any reasonable expenses. With reference to the inability of small number of members to pay their subscriptions (minute 3 of 12 May 2003 referred), Chris Argent reported that after further discussion by the RSPA committee it had been agreed that no further action was required at this stage

#### 5. **Pensions Trustee's Report**

Because of the unavoidable absence of Len Mole, Pensions Trustee, the Secretary read the report which he had provided. The Pensions Trustee had attended his first Trustees meeting on 11 December 2003 when at that time membership (current RS staff) was 80. Seventy-one pensioners and spouses were in receipt of pensions, of which 62 with start dates prior to 2001 were paid from annuities and the 9 starting after date being paid direct from the Fund. The Trustees had been advised that the Society was considering the future of the Plan and he expected proposals with regard to this to be included on the agenda for the next Trustees' meeting in June 2004. Such proposals would not affect current pensions in any way.

#### 6. ***Beyond the Terrace***

Chris Argent, in his capacity as editor of *BTT* said that he hoped to continue to issue

three editions each year. David Griffin considered that some of the cautionary articles taken from internet sites were legends, and he proposed to write further about this in the next issue.

The Editor said that when the RSPA Committee had met on 1 December 2003 it had been agreed that he should look further into bringing together in a separate booklet all the obituaries which had been prepared on deceased members. He had done the preparatory work, which covered fifteen pages, but thought it would be more interesting if photographs could be included as well. Those present considered the proposed booklet to be a good idea.

#### 7. **Joint Events Secretaries Report**

Christine Johnson, Joint Events Secretary reported on events as follows:

30 October 2003 – 23 members and guests enjoyed a conducted tour of the Society of Apothecaries by the Clerk, Colonel Stringer. She extended thanks to Peter Warren for setting up this outing.

11 December 2003 a Christmas lunch had been held at the Royal Society. Difficulties had arisen initially with the new caterers regarding the charge of this but with the assistance of Stephen Cox, Executive Secretary, the situation had been resolved. Provisional arrangements had been made for lunch this year on 14 December.

6 April 2004 twenty-five members and guests were given a guided tour of the new facilities at the Royal Society, and a report about this will appear in due course in *BTT*.

With regard to the future, Christine said it was still hoped to arrange a visit to Clarence House and to the Royal Geographical Society. She would, however, welcome other ideas for possible visits. Marjorie Smith suggested Bletchley Park which could be reached by public transport, and she agreed to pass further details to Christine. Nancy Tupholme mentioned Lacock Abbey, but this would require the hiring of a coach which could be difficult in view of the numbers involved.

Alan Clark thanked Christine for her work in arranging recent events.

#### 8. **Elections**

Chris Argent reported that in the absence of any other nominations Brenda de Vere-Lewis and Vera Cockle had been re-elected as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively for a fifth and final year. The Chairman who was now entering his third year of office was entitled to be re-elected at the next AGM for a further year and had indicated that he was willing to continue. Jenny Shanahan had completed her first year in office and had another year to serve. Chris Argent said a new Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Committee Member would

need to be elected at the AGM in 2005 and asked all present to consider possible candidates.

9. **News of Members**

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

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

- (a) Karen O'Connell, Head of Human Resources, was welcomed to the meeting. She said that Royal Society staff was now getting used to the new layout of the Society's premises, which enabled people to work together more easily. Three retirements were expected in late June/early July, i.e. John Taylor, Ling Thompson and Anne Burrowes and the date of the joint retirement party would be announced shortly. Karen reported that staff no longer had to request to work beyond their 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays, but had instead to indicate their intention to stay on. At 65 it was now possible to request to work part-time until 70. She said that the workforce now numbered 125. She also reported that the Society's website was being re-designed.

The Secretary referred to Karen's request at the AGM in 2003 (minute 11(a), second paragraph) regarding the placement of members' details on the Royal Society's intranet, and reported that neither Bon Parsons nor Jane Lewis wished their details to be made available in this way.

- (b) The Secretary reported that Jon Hunt had replaced Matthew Llewellyn as Chairman of the Royal Society Staff Association, but that he was unable to talk to members. He had reported, however, that the Annual Ball would be held on 25 June and that a date for the Christmas Fayre had yet to be decided.

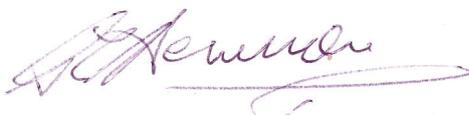
11 **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held on Monday, 16 May 2005 at 2 pm at the Royal Society, to be preceded by lunch.

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AGM.Min.04. BdeVL

2 July 2004

  
16 May 2005