

# ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting 2005

### MINUTES

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At the 19th Annual General Meeting of the RSPA held at the Royal Society on Monday 16 May 2005:

Present: George Hemmen - Chairman

Ratti Bulsara	Christine Johnson ( <i>Joint Events Secretary</i> )
Christine Brock	Jeannie Lamb
Diana Chapman	Erica Lazarus ( <i>Joint Events Secretary</i> )
Francis Chetham	Jennifer Malcolm
Vera Cockle ( <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> )	Len Mole ( <i>Pensions Trustee</i> )
Brenda de Vere-Lewis ( <i>Hon. Secretary</i> )	Maurice Oak
John Deverill	Nigel Parfitt
Sheila Edwards	Jenny Shanahan ( <i>Committee Member</i> )
Terry Garrett	Nadia Slow
Sandra Goodall	Marjorie Smith
Don Harlow	Nancy Tupholme

Karen O'Connell (Head of Human Resources) and Katherine Hardaker, (Chairman, Royal Society Staff Association) attended by invitation for item 11

Unable to attend: 51 members.

#### 1. **Introductory Remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Sandra Goodall, a new member.

The Chairman then drew members' attention to two important matters that would be discussed later at the meeting i.e. the election of an honorary secretary and the continuation of Chris Argent as editor of *Beyond the Terrace (BTT)*. The Editor had held this position for 13 years and he thought members might wish for a change. The Chairman asked members to think about these two items.

#### 2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2004 were confirmed.

#### 3. **Matter arising – Royal Society Publications**

With reference to minute 3, John Deverill asked if a paper version of *Excellence in Science* was still being produced. He was assured that it was, although he would need to collect a copy from the Royal Society.

#### 4. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that membership of the RSPA now stood at 74. There had been one new member during the year (Sandra Goodall), but there had been either a negative response or no response to invitations sent to John Taylor, Ann Burrows, Phyllis Charles and Richard Theobald. A reply was still awaited to a recent invitation sent to Beata Seymour.

There had been two deaths during the year i.e. Frank Atack on 11 September 2004 and Jean Morris on 13 April. Members of the RSPA had attended both funerals. With reference to the sending of flowers at funerals, it was agreed that RSPA funds could be used for this purpose if there were instances when the Royal Society was not intending to do so.

Wine and a card had been sent to Geoff Fortnam, who had celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 9 June 2004, and flowers and card to Gladys Dance who was 90 on 22 January. Flowers had been sent to Iris Drake following a wrist fracture, and a token to Geoff Fortnam after his recent 4<sup>th</sup> hip replacement operation.

Jenny Hutchinson and Norman Robinson regretted that immobility problems now prevented their attendance at RSPA events.

The Secretary drew attention to the fact that subscriptions had not been received from Gerry Evans for two years, and that all attempts to contact him by 'phone and letter had failed. It was suggested that the Secretary should ask the Head of Human Resources to confirm if the address currently held for Gerry was still correct.

#### 5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the income and expenditure account for 2004/05 and reported balances as at 31 March 2005 of £845.82 in the RSPA account and £170 in the Welfare Fund. The Royal Society topped up the latter fund to £200 each year. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for keeping the Association's financial affairs in such good order. Whilst the balance in funds remained healthy, the Secretary warned that there would be a number of celebratory birthdays during the coming year.

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

The Pensions Trustee reported that the next Trustees meeting would be held on 16 June. He understood that the RS scheme now had a moratorium on any further additions to its membership. He assured members, however, that those currently in receipt of a Clerical and Medical Pension were in no jeopardy. He then drew attention to an anomaly in the RS scheme that had affected him and which other members might experience, viz. those retiring before State pensionable age and who were covered by the Clerical and Medical arrangement of a 4% annual increase in their pensions, might find that on reaching State pensionable the increase would be slightly less than 4%. The explanation for this as provided to him by Clerical and Medical would form the basis of a report, which he had prepared for the next issue of *BTT*.

## 7. *Beyond the Terrace*

In the absence of the Editor (Chris Argent), the Chairman passed around a draft, prepared by the Editor of the obituary booklet that had been discussed last year (minute 6, second paragraph referred) The meeting approved a suggestion by Chris that that entries relating to Sir David Martin, Igor Kaye and Jock Graddon be included if possible. Members not wishing to receive a copy of the completed booklet should notify the Secretary.

The Chairman also referred to the Editor's suggestion that members might write an account of their employment history prior to joining the Royal Society, and encouraged all members to contribute. Two articles had already been submitted.

In connection with the Editor's suggestion that he should stand down, those present all expressed the hope that he would continue.

## 8. **Joint Events Secretaries Report**

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

27 September 2004 – twenty-three pensioners and guests had visited Clarence House. This had been preceded by lunch at the Royal Society.

14 December 2004 - a Christmas lunch had been held at the Royal Society for which the price had been maintained at a reasonable level. Provisional arrangements had been made for lunch this year on 13 December.

7 April 2005- twenty-two members and guests visited the Museum and Priory of the Order of St John, and this too had been preceded by lunch at the Royal Society.

Christine reported that John Deverill had kindly invited members to his home at Alton in either July or August. Nearby places of interest that could be visited from there were Jane Austen's House at Chawton, and the Gilbert White Museum. For the future, consideration was being given to visits to the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the Foundling Hospital. The Chairman said that in connection with the former, one of the In-Pensioners had been a member of the Royal Society Antarctic Expedition of 1957/58.

## 9. **Elections**

The Chairman drew attention the serious situation that had arisen with regard to the election of new Honorary Secretary, the present incumbent having completed her fifth and final year in office, and was thus ineligible for re-election under the terms of the current rules of the Association. He pointed out that the Association depended almost entirely on its Secretary. Much effort had been expended on trying to identify a replacement, but without success. The Chairman's view was, however, that at this stage it would be inappropriate to change the rules just to overcome this problem. There being no nominations, however, the Chairman said that the Secretary would be willing to continue in that capacity. The RSPA rules permitted the co-option of up to two additional members to assist with the business of the Committee, and it was agreed that Brenda should be co-opted onto the

Committee to act as Secretary of the Association. The Chairman said that he would welcome any suggestions regarding the secretaryship prior to the next committee meeting on 30 November, and he expressed appreciation for the work currently undertaken by the Secretary.

With reference to other vacancies:

- a. Those present approved the committee's recommendation that Nigel Parfitt be appointed as Honorary Treasurer. The Chairman thanked the outgoing Honorary Treasurer for her work and a bouquet was presented to her.
- b. The new Honorary Treasurer stated that, following a request from the Committee, he had obtained David Sturt's agreement to be Honorary Auditor if so requested. David Sturt's appointment as Honorary Auditor was approved.
- c. Approval was given for the appointment of Jeannie Lamb as a Committee Member to replace Jenny Shanahan who had completed her two-year term.

#### 10. News of Members

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

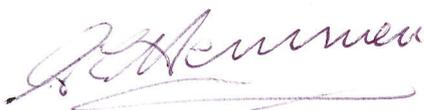
#### 11. Reports from the RS Human Resources Office and the RS Staff Association

a. **Human Resources** – Karen O'Connell, head of Human Resources was welcomed to the meeting. She reported that staff numbered about 120 at the Society and that there was an approximate 10% turnover. Among the staff leaving was Karen Peters, Librarian, who would be replaced by Keith Moore, a former RS employee. Jeannie Lamb said that when she joined the Society in 1945 its staff had numbered 9, and that for many years it had been 12. Karen said that as from 8 July she would be taking maternity leave, but she would advise the Secretary of her replacement.

b. Royal Society Staff Association – Katherine Hardaker, current Chairman of the RSSA was also welcomed. She said that there were currently 30/40 members of the RSSA. The current RSSA charities were Water Aid and the NSPCC and £900 had been raised for the Tsunami appeal. It was hoped to hold the Summer Ball in September and other social activities included whisky tasting and a quiz. *On the Terrace*, the Association's newsletter had not been produced for some time, but the Chairman asked if, when the next one was available, a copy could be sent to the Editor of *BTT*.

#### 12 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held on Monday, 15 May 2006 at 2 pm at the Royal Society, to be preceded by lunch.

  
15 May 2006