

# ROYAL SOCIETY PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting 2007

### MINUTES

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At the 21st Annual General Meeting of the RSPA held at the Royal Society on Monday 14 May 2007:

Present: George Hemmen - Chairman

Ratti Bulsara	Jeannie Lamb ( <i>Committee Member</i> )
Vera Cockle	Erica Lazarus ( <i>Joint Events Secretary</i> )
Brenda de Vere-Lewis ( <i>Hon. Secretary</i> )	Jennifer Malcolm
John Deverill	Len Mole ( <i>Pensions Trustee</i> )
Sandra Goodall	Maurice Oak
Don Harlow	Nigel Parfitt ( <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> )
Marjorie Harris	Beata Seymour
Joan Hurrell	Nadia Slow
Christine Johnson ( <i>Joint Events Secretary</i> )	Peter Warren

Unable to attend: 52 members.

#### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2006 were confirmed with the following amendment: minute 6, line 3 – change ‘to’ to ‘the’

#### 2. Hon. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the current membership of the Association was 71. There had been one new member during the year, viz. Keith Root who had worked at the Royal Society from 2000-2007 in Science Policy. Shirley Wickham's (formerly Lattey) membership had been re-instated following the receipt of her subscription but there had been no response from either Dick Stillwell or Kate Kaye to whom invitations to join the RSPA had been sent. Brenda Carruthers had resigned.

Allan Houghton had died on 9 August 2006 and Nadia Slow, Peter Warren and Brenda de Vere-Lewis represented the RSPA at his funeral. Richard Theobald, a former member of the Association had also attended. Gerry Evans had died on 24 April 2007 and David Griffin, Chris Argent, Bruce Goatly, and Brenda de Vere-Lewis had attended his funeral. Letters of condolence had been sent to Margaret Houghton (widow) and Imogen Evans (daughter).

Flowers or a book token had been sent to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays of Leslie Townsend, 17 March and Annette Hilliker, 19 March, and the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jean Martin on 15 March. All had sent appreciative letters. Flowercards had been sent to Claire Burden following hip surgery, and to Nancy Tupholme who had had a small stroke, and flowers were to be sent shortly to Jenny Hutchinson who was unwell.

#### 3. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer presented the income and expenditure account for 2006/07, and

said that the auditor, David Sturt, had not made any changes to the unaudited accounts already received by members. 2006/2007 had not been an expensive year, and the Christmas Lunch had broken even because of an anonymous donation towards its cost. £488.63 had been carried forward to 2007/2008 compared with £510.44 that had been carried forward from 2005 to 2006. The decision last year to raise members' subscriptions had been right. All subscriptions had eventually been received in 2006 with the exception of those for which there was an agreement to waive. Estimates that he had prepared for the coming year suggested that the balance was likely to be slightly down again, but the balance would probably rise in 2008/2009 when the Association would benefit from the Royal Society's matching of the increased subscription. He considered that the financial slide had been halted, but that the situation needed to be kept under review.

The Chairman thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his report.

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

The Pensions Trustee reported that of the current pensioners, 59 were in receipt of annuities and 21 were paid directly from the pension fund. In connection with the negotiations about the possible transfer of the Society's scheme to the Universities Superannuation Scheme, it had finally been decided that the scheme should remain with Clerical and Medical.

The Pensions Trustee said that there were 158 deferred pensioners, which seemed to indicate a large turnover of staff within the Society, and that 89 current staff were contributing to the scheme. The administration of the scheme was now being outsourced to Barnett Waddingham<sup>1</sup>. The Trustees would next meet on 21 June.

Peter Warren asked if Barnett Waddingham would report directly to the Trustees. The Pensions Trustee thought that they would but he agreed to check this point. He said that both Barnett Waddingham and the Royal Society would be represented at the Trustees' Meeting.

Nadia Slow referred to a letter that she, and some other pensioners had recently received from Clerical and Medical and which referred to a Lifetime Allowance. She had queried this with Clerical and Medical who had told her to disregard this. The Honorary Treasurer said he did not think the wording needed to give rise for concern, and Peter Warren pointed out that it related to the way tax was expressed.

#### **5. *Beyond the Terrace***

In the absence of the Editor it was noted that *BTT39* was likely to be circulated in either June or July. There was unanimous appreciation for all the work that the Editor undertook. Len Mole said that he might write something about the 40th Anniversary of Aldabra.

#### **6. Joint Events Secretaries Report**

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

12 October 2006 – 12 members had visited Bloomberg's and had been interested to see the way a 21st century organization worked.

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<sup>1</sup> Any pension enquiries should be sent directly to Barnett Waddingham, quoting the Royal Society as the reference to: Barnett-Waddingham, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BW. Tel. 020-7776:2200 email: royalsociety@barnett-waddingham.co.uk

12 December – 21 members and guests had attended a special Christmas lunch at the Royal Society

11 April 2007 - members and guests had visited the Royal Geographical Society where they had been shown maps and documents relating to joint expeditions between the RGS and the RS

Christine said that a visit to No. 10 Downing Street was being arranged for 5 October. This would be strictly limited to 20 RSPA members only who would be required to produce a passport, driving licence or some of other form of identity containing a photograph. There was a possibility that the visit could be cancelled because of parliamentary business but Christine suggested that members could still meet for lunch at the Royal Society and possibly take a boat trip to Greenwich. Christine said that a suitable date would be sought for a Christmas lunch. Thought was also being given for possible events in 2008 and members suggested the Stock Exchange, the Maritime Museum and the Docklands Museum.

## **7. Elections**

Noted that the Chairman had completed four years in office, but was eligible for re-election for a fifth and final year. The Secretary proposed that George be elected for a further year, and this was seconded by Erica Lazarus and approved by all present. The Committee's recommendation that Joan Hurrell be appointed as Committee Member in place of Jeannie Lamb whose two year term had now ended, was also endorsed. The Chairman thanked Jeannie for her services to the Committee.

## **8. News of Members**

The Secretary said that 20 members had sent in items of news and that she was passing these to the Editor of *BTT*.

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

**a. Human Resources** – The Chairman welcomed Marie Cook, who was representing Karen O'Connell, Head of Human Resources. Marie reported the following structural changes which had now taken place at the Society:

- Finance and Administrative Services Sections now merged with Richard Barker as new section head. Arising from this re-structuring was the creation of three other new posts as follows: Head of Investments, Manager, Budgeting, Planning and Reporting and a Finance Analyst. As a result of this re-structuring Aaron Obelley was leaving the Society at the end of May, and David Sturt on 29 June. With regard to Administrative Services, the Facilities Manager was Linda Alexander, and Nick Watts managed the conference team.
- Pension administration has been outsourced to Barnett Waddingham to whom any enquiries should now be sent using the Royal Society as the reference.

Marie said that Karen O'Connell would be going on Maternity Leave in August and she suggested that she (Marie) be the point of contact with the RSPA. In response to questions raised at the meeting, Marie confirmed that RS staff now numbered 135, and that the average length of service was three to four years. Recruitment was sometimes undertaken on the Society's website, but for some positions headhunters were used.

- b. **Royal Society Staff Association** – The Chairman said that no one was available from the RSSA to speak to members, and that the RSPA Committee at its meeting in the morning had decided that there now seemed no purpose in maintaining the contact with the RSSA.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held on Monday, 12 May 2008 at 2 pm at the Royal Society, to be preceded by lunch. Peter Warren extended a vote of thanks to the RSPA Officers and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

  
12 May 2008