

Edinburgh Geological Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm Wednesday 15th March 2023

Hybrid event held at the Grant Institute and via Zoom.

Present

Mike Browne (Chair) and 38 members in-person, 50 members online.

Apologies

Christian Ranken, Mark Wilkinson, Patrick Condon, Chris Lofthouse, Daryl Sawyer

1. Minutes of AGM held online on 16th March 2022

These can be viewed on the Society's website and were accepted as a true record.

2. President's Report

Mike advised members that the President's report can be viewed online and welcomed any comments from the floor.

Mike took the opportunity to alert fellows to work presently ongoing with Geological Society Publishing House (GSPH) over the future publishing contract for the Scottish Journal of Geology. This discussion was being undertaken with the GSG and was expected to conclude shortly. Under the proposed agreement, which would last for three years, the EGS would see no changes in its charges to the GSPH but there would only be online access to journal (and to *Transactions of EGS 1868-1963* back archives) via the Lyell Collection. This is something which fellows already have access (see link below) but which would become the central access point in the future.

Access to the Lyell Collection - Edinburgh Geological Society (edinburghgeolsoc.org)

3. Treasurer's report

NM updated members on CR's finance report, highlighting the following points around the accounts:

Our membership subscriptions continue to be very positive albeit there is a slight decline on the previous year's figures. There have been two applications for Gift Aid as the previous year's collection was held over until this particular session. The Donations figure of £2,017 includes an additional payment received from Ian Jackson's estate, council is grateful for this. We have also seen a very welcome return to providing Excursions all of which have resulted in a very satisfactory increase to incoming resources. Publication sales have also increased as we return to pre-Covid activities.

Following the easing of COVID 19 restrictions for activities, the welcome return of both Excursions and Lectures can be seen in the increase in associated costs. Our Grants & Awards have also benefited from the greatly reduced COVID restrictions. Taken as a whole, the combined totals for Newsletters, Edinburgh Geologist and Administration remain broadly unchanged as some costs assigned to “Newsletters” has been re-assigned to “Administration”.

The net surplus in funds this year is £3,994. Our overall investment income for the year was £2,721, a slight decline from on our previous year’s total of £2,977.

Stock markets remain volatile, exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and also influenced by inflation concerns and further increases in interest rates in the UK, US and now Europe. This uncertainty, together with the then Prime Minister’s September budget, is reflected in the value of our Rathbones Investment Portfolio as of 30th September (£96,950).

The Grants and Awards figure includes Grants made from the Restricted Clough and Mykura Funds amounting to £1,100 together with Unrestricted Funds Grants of £4,078 – this figure is inclusive of Grants paid during this session that have been carried forward from the previous session.

This slide graphically represents the investment information with the top chart showing the total values of the investment portfolio while the lower chart indicates investment income received in the Unrestricted Fund since 2005.

The final figure of £135,839 includes the Clough and Mykura funds of £38,370, and our net value from 2005 to the present session confirming is showing a welcome upward trajectory and a possible return to pre-pandemic values.

Council thanks CR for all her work during her time as Treasurer. CR has been in post for 7 years and is looking to move on and support a new Treasurer.

4. Election of Council Members

Nominations to Council had been published on the website. The new committee was proposed by Phil Stone and seconded by Bill Coppock. None of the posts had more than one nominee so no vote was required and the list of Council members below was accepted unanimously.

Position	Elected Mar 2022	Proposed Mar 2023
President	Mike Browne (Acting)	Mark Wilkinson**
Vice-President	Angela Mathis	Angela Mathis
Vice-President		Mike Browne
Immediate Past President	Tom Challands	Tom Challands*
Honorary Secretary	Neil Mackenzie	Neil Mackenzie
Assistant Secretary (Annual Report)	Don Cameron	Don Cameron
Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Katie Strang	Katie Strang
Honorary Treasurer	Christian Ranken	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	Euan Mitchell	Euan Mitchell
Lecture Secretary	Graham Leslie	Graham Leslie
Excursions Secretary	Ian Kearsley***	<i>Vacant</i>

Assistant Secretary (Excursion Bookings)	David Graham	David Graham
Chair of Promotion and Coordination Group	Robert Gatliff	Robert Gatliff
Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Katie Strang	Katie Strang
Assistant Secretary (GeoConservation)	Mike Browne	Mike Browne
Assistant Secretary (Clough/Awards)	Graham Leslie	Graham Leslie
Assistant Secretary (Publications)	Patrick Condon***	<i>Vacant</i>
Publications Sales Officer	Don Cameron	Don Cameron
Archivist	Christine Thompson	Christine Thompson
Assistant Lecture Secretary/Fellows Night coordinator	Christopher Lofthouse	Christopher Lofthouse
Ordinary Member	Con Gillen	Con Gillen
Ordinary Member	Daryl Sawyer	Daryl Sawyer
Ordinary Member		Ian Kearsley
Ordinary Member		
Ordinary Member		
Scientific Editor (SJG)	Romesh Palamakumbra/Heather Stewart	Romesh Palamakumbra/Martin Kirkbride/Yves Candela/Iain Neill
SJG (Sec)	?	Heather Stewart
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jessie Craig (Anderson Strathern)	Mrs Jessie Craig (Anderson Strathern)

*President was also Chair of FPC – currently Mike Browne in this role

**Mark Wilkinson – is willing to stand for President in 2023, has been attending Council meetings regularly

***Patrick Condon working overseas presently, unable to fulfil his Publications role

****Ian Kearsley standing down but willing to stay on as Ord Member. Also post-long excursion May 2023 – Anne Burgess said she would like to handover duties.

5. Any Other Business

GL updated that the Clough Medal currently has no nominations. All members are encouraged to think about potential nominees and send ideas to the Secretary (NM).

The Annual General Meeting was closed at 7.30 pm and Robert Gatliff to introduce the evening's speaker, Professor Bruce Levell (Dept of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford), who gave us a lecture entitled "Snowball Earth? The significance of recent work on the Neoproterozoic glacial sediments of the Port Askaig Formation".