

Edinburgh Geological Society
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
7.00 pm Wednesday 20th March 2019

Present

Tom Challands (Chair) and 40 members as listed in the attached Attendance Sheet

Apologies

Apologies were received from Bob Gatliff, Anne Burgess and Don Cameron

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting 7th February 2018

The Minutes were accepted as a true record by all present

2. President's Report

This was given by the Vice-President, Tom Challands, who welcomed everyone and gave a review of the Society's activities over the past year.

Firstly, a very special thanks were due to retiring Council Members Andrew Rushworth for chairing the Financial Planning Committee and constructing the EGS Strategic Plan, to Barbara Clarke for her work as Membership Secretary and key member of the Promotion and Coordination Group and to Bruce Mair for taking on the Membership Secretary role and developing many new ideas to simplify procedures.

The lecture programme, organised by Graham Leslie, and the field excursions organised by Ian Kearsley and Alison Tymon, were all well attended and provided a wide range of topics and locations. All the excursions were full or nearly full, but it was important for any cancellations to be notified as soon as possible so that reserves may be informed. A special thanks was given to all the excursion leaders. Council had discussed moving both the time and location of the lectures, but agreed to maintain the current arrangements, and to try out alternative venues and times for trial events.

Both the Public Lecture held in George Square in November 2017 and the Fellows' Night at the Lyell Centre had been successful events.

The Society's publications have continued to be an important part of our activities. EGS has contributed to two new publications by the Lothian and Borders GeoConservation Group which is chaired by Mike Browne: the *Hopetoun Shore* leaflet and the *Around Castle Rock* booklet, and there has been a reprint of the *James Hutton and Siccar Point* leaflet funded by Siccar Point Energy. *The Scottish Journal of Geology*, co-edited by Tom Challands and Maarten Krabbendam, has seen an increased number of submissions and the outlook for the Journal is healthy. A very big thank you is also due to the editors of *The Edinburgh Geologist*, Phil Stone and Bob McIntosh, who have continued to produce this popular journal.

The Clough Medal was won by Professor Bob Holdsworth this year but there had been no nominations for the Clough Memorial Award, and no fieldwork grants from the Clough and Mykura Funds had been applied for. However, six Project Grants were awarded from Unrestricted Reserves, totalling £3295 for projects which further the aims of the Society. It was noted that the next deadline for applications is 31st March 2019.

At the start of 2017-18 the Society had 547 members, and this had increased to 595 by the end of the period. We have an active Council Membership with all members contributing to the successful running of the Society. The Finance and Planning Committee, chaired by Andrew Rushworth, implements strategy, sets outline budgets and reviews grant applications and The Promotion and Coordination Group, chaired by Stuart Monro, develops the Promotion Plan and approves expenditure for the Promotion Coordinator contract. The Website Development Group, chaired by Angus Miller, has overseen a big improvement in our website, which is now very clear and easy to access.

Members were encouraged to contribute views to our Strategy Review which will guide the Society for the next five years; there is a short questionnaire on the website with just four questions – those who respond by 31st March will be entered into a prize draw for a £20 voucher to purchase EGS publications.

The Vice-President also gave a Promotion Report on behalf of Angus Miller, the Promotion Coordinator. Over the past year there have been a large number of events for the general public and members, including the annual Public Lecture and extra introductory excursions and workshops. The website is updated regularly with News items and we can be followed on twitter @edingeolsoc. Upcoming events include Deep Time Walks at the Science Festival on 11th, 13th and 15th April 2019, a History of Geology Group conference on 11-12th July 2019 and a Photography Workshop on Sunday 8th September 2019.

In conclusion, the Vice-President expressed his gratitude for the support of all Council members in the past year because all have contributed to the success of the Society. Particular thanks were due to the membership who support both the lecture and excursion programmes.

3. Treasurer's Report

Christian Ranken explained that this year's Annual Report and Proceedings continued to reflect the transition to a Receipts and Payments accounting method. She took members through the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30th September 2018.

The Society incurred a deficit in 2017-18 of £1,529, having budgeted for a deficit of £3,333 in line with Council's policy of funding the cost of the Promotion Coordinator's contract from Reserves. The reduced deficit this year was due mainly to increased subscription receipts due to the Society's promotion initiative led by Angus Miller, and to lower than expected expenditure on excursions and grants, events and initiatives. Also, Bob Gatliff's perseverance with HMRC has paid off and this year we received £2,622 representing two years of Gift Aid refunds. Sales of publications are always a key source of revenue, and although sales are down on our previous year we should note that that year was a "bumper" year for publication sales. The deficit on receipts and payments was more than offset by gains in the value of the Society's investments, so that total Reserves increased from £132,084 to £133,394.

The Council's policy is that it should maintain a minimum level of Unrestricted Reserves of £35,000 to guard against financial risks. The current level of Unrestricted Reserves comfortably exceeds that at £93,084. Indeed Council has determined that it can readily continue to fund the Promotion Coordinator costs from its Reserves for the time being. Other initiatives may be similarly funded in the future, although Council's overall Strategy requires it to keep the level of its Reserves under regular review.

Within the total funds of £133,394 are two Restricted Funds, the Clough and Mykura Funds. These Funds make up the remaining £40,310 of the Reserves, having increased by £1,717 during the year. No grants were awarded from either Fund during the year.

A number of Grants were approved during the year, to a total of £3,295. These included funds for St Andrews University Geobus, Northwest Highlands Geopark, Lothian and Borders GeoConservation Group, the Scottish Geodiversity Forum and to Dr James Darling of Portsmouth University for Studies of the early evolution of the Earth's crust and to Stacy Philips of the Open University for the Development of Educational Resources on the Geoheritage of Northwest Scotland. An additional £400 was awarded to Laura Gellatly for the Science prize and to Hannah Watkins for the Clough Memorial Award in 2016/17 year, and encashed in this particular year.

The Treasurer concluded by saying that our finances are healthy, with a positive trend in the Society's net assets from 2005 to the present.

4. Election of Council Members

Nominations to Council had been published on the website. None of the posts had more than one nominee so no vote was required and the list of Council members below was accepted unanimously. There were six new members of Council: Daryl Sawyer, Christine Kuhn, Beverly Bergman, Rachel Walcott, Romesh Palamakumbara and Heather Stewart, the last two replacing Maarten Krabbendam as SJG Science Editors. Positions will be filled from within the new Council. Special thanks were given to departing Council members: Bruce Mair, Barbara Clarke, Andrew Rushworth and Anastasia Polymeni.

President	Robert Gatliff
Vice-President	Tom Challands
Vice-President	Emrys Phillips
Immediate Past President	Stuart Monro
Honorary Secretary	Neil Mackenzie
Assistant Secretary (Annual Report)	Don Cameron
Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Richard Buxton
Honorary Treasurer	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Lectures Secretary	Graham Leslie
Excursions Secretary	Ian Kearsley
Assistant Secretary (Excursions Bookings)	Alison Tymon
Assistant Secretary (Planning & Finance)	<i>Vacant</i>
Assistant Secretary (GeoConservation)	Mike Browne
Assistant Secretary (Clough Awards)	Graham Leslie
Assistant Secretary (Publications)	<i>Vacant</i>
Assistant Lecture Secretary (Fellows Night Coordinator)	Christopher Lofthouse
Publication Sales Officer	Don Cameron
Archivist	Christine Thompson
Ordinary Member	Con Gillen
Ordinary Member	Daryl Sawyer
Ordinary Member	Christine Kuhn
Ordinary Member	David Stephenson
Ordinary Member	Beverly Bergman
Ordinary Member	Rachel Walcott
Scientific Editor	Romesh Palamakumbra/Heather Stewart
Scientific Editor	Tom Challands
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jessie Craig (Anderson Strathern)

5. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting was closed at 7.30 pm and Graham Leslie introduced the evening's speaker, Brighid O' Dochartaigh, Hydrogeologist from the British Geological Survey, who gave a lecture entitled "**Scotland's Goundwater, Aquifers and Hydrogeology – a history and current understanding**".