

Edinburgh Geological Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm Wednesday 24th June 2020

Online using Zoom

Present

Bob Gatliff (Chair) and 38 members

Apologies

Apologies were received from David Manning and Graham Leslie.

1. Minutes of AGM held on 20th March 2019

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

2. Annual Report

This had been sent to all members and is also available on the Society's website.

3. President's Report

Bob Gatliff welcomed everyone to the meeting. He had circulated the President's Report to members in March 2020 at the start of the covid-19 pandemic in which he gave a full review of the Society's activities over the past year, and it is available to view on the Society's website.

He wished to highlight several points:

- Christian Ranken had produced an excellent summary of our accounts in the Annual Report, and overall our finances remain quite healthy in spite of the recent fall in the stock market. Between 30th September 2019 and the present our Unrestricted Funds have fallen from £72,395 to £62,122 and our Restricted Funds from £33,454 to £28,707. We had received a £10,000 legacy from Ian Hogarth, past President of the Society in February of this year, and we had donated £5,000 to the Charles Lyell notebook collection and £5,000 to set up the new Scottish Geology Trust.

We know that our annual income will reduce due to lower interest rates and decreased dividend income, and also our annual Gift Aid income will be halved because for the last three years we have “back-claimed” Gift Aid for two years each year, and are now up-to-date.

This year we have awarded more small grants to students and other researchers for analyses and field work, and we wish to increase this expenditure and also to organise more events. Council proposes an increase in membership rates (item 6) which will help to build up a fund to celebrate James Hutton’s 300th anniversary of his birth in 2026.

- *The Edinburgh Geologist* and the autumn billet will be posted out to all members in late August.
- The Society has cancelled all field trips this summer but we will look at the possibility of a programme of excursions in the autumn if these can be run safely. It is proposed to run the Scottish Geology Festival in September/October when the new Scottish Geology Trust will be officially launched. The SGT will be coordinating up to a hundred events across Scotland, and EGS will run events in our area, either virtually or physically.
- A full programme of on-line lectures are being prepared, and we are negotiating access to other geological society lectures.
- The Clough Medal will be awarded this year to Dr Tony Spencer. This is in recognition of his huge contribution to the international understanding of ancient glaciations, laying the foundations of the “Snowball Earth” model, and his encouragement of PhD students in this field while pursuing his own long career in the oil industry. Some excellent grant applications have been received and awards made this year, but some grants have been deferred due to a cancellation of field work and meetings.
- Many thanks are due to Angus Miller who, while continuing his important role as Promotion and Coordination Secretary, had also taken on the task of temporary Membership Secretary and overhauled the system.
- The President paid tribute to Alison Tymon, Beverly Bergman, David Stephenson and Maarten Krabbendam who leave Council after contributing for many years. He welcomed David Graham, who has taken on the Assistant Excursion role, and Euan Mitchell, an Edinburgh geologist recently returned from academic research in the United States.
- It was with pleasure that Tom Challands was inaugurated as our new President. Tom is a palaeontologist at present on a 3-month fellowship in Australia, and one of the editors of the *Scottish Journal of Geology*. Tom thanked Bob very much for all his work as President over several years. There was a challenging year ahead but he looked forward to taking on this role and working with Council and members of the Society.

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

Position	Elected 2019	Elected 2020
President *	Robert Gatliff	Tom Challands
Vice-President	Tom Challands	Emrys Phillips
Vice-President	Emrys Phillips	
Immediate Past President	Stuart Monro	Robert Gatliff*
Honorary Secretary	Neil Mackenzie	Neil Mackenzie
Assistant Secretary (Annual Report)	Don Cameron	Don Cameron
Assistant Secretary (Minutes)	Richard Buxton	Richard Buxton
Honorary Treasurer	Christian Ranken	Christian Ranken
Membership Secretary	Christine Kuhn	Angus Miller (Acting)
Lectures Secretary	Graham Leslie	Graham Leslie
Excursions Secretary	Ian Kearsley	Ian Kearsley
Assistant Secretary (Excursion Bookings)	Alison Tymon	David Graham
Chair of Promotion and Coordination Group	Stuart Monro	Robert Gatliff
Assistant Secretary (GeoConservation)	Mike Browne	Mike Browne
Assistant Secretary (Clough Awards)	Graham Leslie	Graham Leslie
Assistant Secretary (Publications)	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Assistant Lecture Secretary (Fellows Night Coordinator)	Christopher Lofthouse	Christopher Lofthouse
Publication Sales Officer	Don Cameron	Don Cameron
Archivist	Christine Thompson	Christine Thompson
Ordinary Member	Con Gillen	Con Gillen
Ordinary Member	Daryl Sawyer	Daryl Sawyer
Ordinary Member	David Stephenson	Stuart Monro
Ordinary Member	Beverly Bergman	Euan Mitchell
Ordinary Member	Rachel Walcott	Rachel Walcott
Ordinary Member	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Scientific Editor	Maarten Krabbendam	Romesh Palamakumbra/Heather Stewart
Scientific Editor	Tom Challands	Tom Challands
Independent Examiner	J Cordery (Gibson McKerrell Brown)	Mrs Jessie Craig (Anderson Strathearn)

* To also be Chair of FPC

5. New Distinguished Fellow

It was with great pleasure that the President conferred the title of Distinguished Fellow on Dr Phil Stone. Phil has just stepped down as editor of *The Edinburgh Geologist*, having edited twenty-two editions of this excellent and popular journal.

6. Proposed changes to membership categories and subscriptions for 2020-21

The President explained the proposed new changes:

Ordinary Fellow £25 pa (Currently £20 pa)

Family Fellow £12.50 for extra member at the same address (Currently £10)

Senior Fellow £12.50 but we encourage members aged over 60 to revert to or stay as Ordinary Fellows (Currently £10 pa)

Associate membership for the Geological Society of Glasgow members. It is proposed to scrap this rate: all EGS and GSG lectures and day excursions are open to members of both Societies anyway. Discussions with GSG are in progress.

Junior Associate – no charge, but they do not get printed copies of newsletters, *The Edinburgh Geologist* or the *Scottish Journal of Geology*.

Council has decided to implement a web-based membership scheme for next year. This will make it easier to administer both membership and payments, and recover Gift Aid. We will also be able to take online bookings and payments for excursions and other events.

The new system will be run using WebCollect, and we will encourage members to pay their subscriptions by direct debit. Further information will be sent to all members in August; members who currently pay by standing order will be asked to cancel their standing order and set up a new direct debit payment before 1st October.

Members **agreed** to these proposed changes.

7. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting was closed at 7.30 pm and Tom Challands introduced the evening's speaker, Dr David Webster of the Geological Society of Glasgow, who gave us a lecture entitled a "**Virtual Field Trip of Islay**".