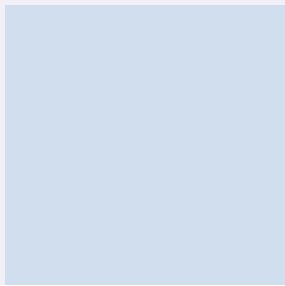
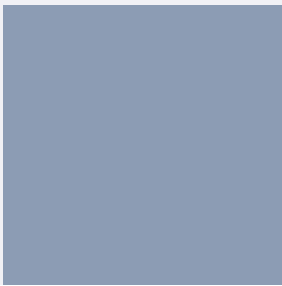
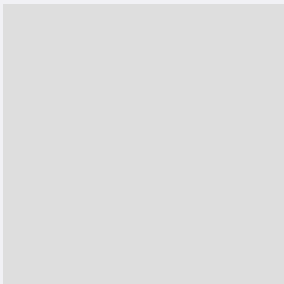
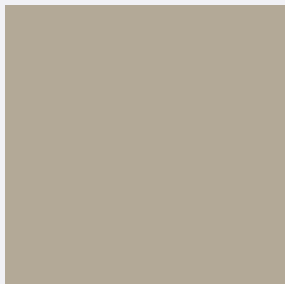
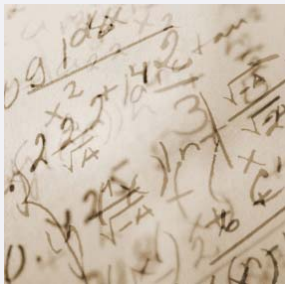


Annual Report 2010



Royal Meteorological Society



The 160th Annual Report of the Royal Meteorological Society for the period 1st January – 31st December 2010

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THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

*Advancing the understanding of weather and climate,
the science and its applications, for the benefit of all*

Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires all charities to explain in their Annual Reports how their activities provide benefit to the wider public, or sections of it, in achieving their aims. The Act lists 12 main charitable purposes that would be regarded as for public benefit. In the Society's case the public benefit of our activities falls into four of these categories:

The advancement of health or the saving of lives

Through our partnership with the General Aviation Safety Committee and the UK Flight Safety Committee, the Society provides support and advice to weather-related safety-critical issues, and holds weather education seminars for private pilots and sailors. The specific purpose of these events is to improve safety and reduce the number of accidents relating to flying and sailing in deteriorating weather conditions, which can sometimes be fatal. The Society also plays an important role in accrediting aviation forecasters in the UK, who do not have traditional qualifications, to ensure that they meet requirements laid down by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). During 2010 the Society also hosted a national science meeting on improving our understanding and prediction of the flood risk from extreme events.

The advancement of education

The Society works with teachers and children at both primary and secondary levels to promote understanding of weather and climate, and runs interactive projects such as its recent work on measuring urban heat islands to both stimulate the interest of children in meteorology and to improve the quality of teaching material and resources in schools. The resources provided by the Society are made freely available. In addition the Society is also freely providing an increasing number of continuing professional development opportunities for teachers who have come to teaching meteorology from a non-meteorological background.

At higher-education levels the Society awards financial support to encourage students to study meteorological sciences, it has an active programme of providing careers advice, and has a 'spotlight on careers' for a range of people who have come into the profession through different career and educational paths. The Society also helps with the development of careers in meteorology through its work on National Occupational Standards and its award of chartered status both for practising meteorologists and for those involved in support roles.

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

The Society publishes five world-leading science journals which are made available free to developing countries through publishing aid programmes, and to each of the WMO Regional Training Centres. The Society also has a comprehensive meetings programme open to all with an interest in weather and climate, which includes free public national meetings and local meetings to encourage a focus on global, national and local issues, and conferences, to bring about the advancement of the science of meteorology. Grants and bursaries are awarded annually to encourage interaction between scientific groups both in the UK and internationally, and to allow attendance at meetings and conferences.

The Society also subsidises an annual Student Conference that brings together those involved in post-graduate studies from across the country, to create a community of young scientists, and to give them experience in active participation in scientific conferences and workshops.

The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

The Society is at the heart of the debate on global warming and climate change. It plays a particularly important role in communicating some of the more complicated scientific and technical issues to the public at large and enabling them to understand and engage with what is one of the most important global issues that we face today.

The Society also has several popular publications that promote a public interest in the environment, and the launch of the Society's new subsidiary charity 'theWeather Club' provides a key framework for delivering greater public information, engagement and dialogue on weather and climate.

The Society is working on the development of a quality standard for the provision of weather and climate services. The aim of this standard is to ensure a high quality of meteorological services provided for the protection of life and property, to promote a greater use of high quality services employed in the protection of the environment, and to enhance the economy.

The Society's website has a wide range of information and content that is freely available to all those with an interest and serves all of the categories mentioned above. The Society continues to invest significantly in making its website more accessible and informative, providing a wide range of educational, scientific and professional material. The Society also provides the popular monthly publications *Weather* and *theWeather* free to all respective Society and theWeather Club members.

THE YEAR JANUARY to DECEMBER 2010

A brief review of the highlights

Yet again it has been another busy year for the Society and we are now more than half way through the delivery of our Strategic Plan. It is an enjoyable position to be in to have so many, diverse success stories to talk about from our work over the last twelve months. Just some of the many highlights are described below.

One of the most significant developments undertaken by the Society in 2010 was the launch of theWeather Club. The Club has been established as a charity in its own right, and as a subsidiary of the Society. The Society's other programmes of work, theWeather Club and the Society's trading subsidiary (Weather and Climate Ltd) now form a new Group structure. The aim of theWeather Club is to promote popular interest and enthusiasm in the weather and climate and to help people with an interest to gain a greater understanding of meteorology. The Club has an informative website and new membership magazine, theWeather, with additional, collectable, educational material. The Club was launched in September with a tour around the UK promoting its Great British Weather Experiment. This continues to receive very popular media coverage. At the end of 2010 theWeather Club already had over 500 members, with a significant potential to reach many thousands both in the UK and internationally. The Society is delighted how well this new initiative has been received.

Turning to the Society membership more generally, it has been pleasing to see another small increase in membership numbers on last year and overall an additional net gain of 211 members (an increase of some 7%) since the beginning of the membership development project. Although good news, this still falls well short of our ambitious target of reaching 4,000 Society members, so there is still more to do. However, taking theWeather Club members who are not also Society members and adding them to the current Society membership gives around 3,600 members. This is the highest membership the Society has ever achieved.

The Society has always been proud that its membership includes practitioners, academics and amateur enthusiasts from across our community, and acknowledges in particular the

important role that amateurs have played in the history of the Society and of meteorology. This year there were a number of activities that looked to bring together all those sectors, and the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the British Rainfall Organisation (BRO) was an excellent example of this. The community also gathered to mark the re-dedication of the grave of George James Symons FRS, a twice Past-President of the Society and founder of the BRO, on the appropriately chosen St Swithin's Day. The Society also contributed part of its archive collection to a very popular exhibition on the life and work of Luke Howard, at Bruce Castle Museum in Tottenham.

It has been very pleasing to see the development of the new Local Centres in Yorkshire and the South East. These groups have already exceeded expectations and are running very active and successful programmes in their local regions. Building on this, the Society convened the UK's first amateur observing conference, together with the Climatological Observers Link (COL), the TORnado and storm Research Organisation (TORRO), and the Group for Earth Observation (GEO), at the University of Reading. The meeting helped to celebrate 40 years of COL, and with over 80 attendees reached a very broad audience. Plans are already in place to hold the second meeting in 2013.

Looking at the wider meetings programme, the total number of attendees at the National Meetings (Wednesday and Saturday) in 2010 was 1,069, up by 130 on the previous year, and the highest recorded number of attendees in the electronic record, which goes back to 1999. This is in part because of the significant contribution that the Saturday meeting programme made to total attendance.

This year the Society opened the call for nominations for its new Vaisala Award for Weather Observing and Instrumentation. The award recognises people or teams from across the whole membership who have made a significant contribution to meteorological instrumentation or observing. The first recipient of the Vaisala Award (for 2010) are the Community Weather Information Network, in Hong Kong, China, for their innovative project to involve the public, schools and businesses in developing community-based observing networks.

The Society was an award winner itself in 2010, with its new Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs) Climate Change journal, a joint venture with Wiley-Blackwell and the Royal Geographical Society. Although, only in its first full year, the journal has already received the R. R. Hawkins Award, the PROSE Award for Excellence in Reference Works and the eProduct/Best Multidiscipline Platform from the American Publishers Awards for professional and scholarly excellence.

A considerable amount of scholarly excellence was on show at this year's Student Conference. The Met Office kindly hosted the conference at its headquarters in Exeter and the Society extended an invitation to the Met Office's Foundation Scientists. Bringing together the young scientists from the Met Office and from the university community made for a very stimulating and engaging conference and helped to form many new collaborative networks. Building on this success, the Society has repeated the invitation to Met Office Foundation Scientists for 2011.

During the year the Society launched its new and updated education portal for schools, the MetLink website. The new website provides a much broader range of curriculum-linked material for teachers and students at both primary and secondary school level. In addition the Society has teamed up with the Met Office to develop a new web portal for meteorological data and observations (Window on Weather), which schools and members of the amateur observing community can submit their observations to. These observations will be used to provide support for the delivery of the public weather service, and create a very valuable national community resource.

The other major development in the education programmes this year was the launch of the Climate4Classrooms website. The project is a partnership with the Royal Geographical Society and the British Council to deliver science and social science content on climate

change to schools in the UK, China, Mexico and Indonesia. As well as delivering high quality, authoritative material to schools in a way teachers can easily understand, the project is also looking to encourage greater inter-cultural dialogue between school communities in the participating countries, and to allow a sharing of education policy material across Government Education Ministries.

As well as working with international governments, the Society is also a regular contributor to UK Government policy and consultations. During the year the Society provided evidence to a number of consultations, including the BBC Trust's review on the BBC's coverage of science, and the Royal Society's study on the Governance of activities associated with Solar Radiation Management (one of the main geoengineering methodologies).

Finally, the Society was very pleased to exceed its Strategic Plan targets of a 20% reduction in carbon emissions one year earlier than planned and this is supported by a new green travel policy and the installation of a smart energy meter. The renovation work on the inside and outside of the headquarters building is now complete and the work to renovate the building windows and replace the secondary double glazing has also helped in reducing energy use.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2011

Early in the year the Society will be launching a new development project to deliver the next evolution of the website. The project will move several elements of the Society's bespoke system onto a single, easily supportable platform, and provide a framework for the development of new ways to deliver content to and enable engagement with the membership. The Society will also launch the next phase of its Climate4Classrooms website in five new countries (Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Cuba and Columbia) and the Window on Weather observations portal, being developed jointly with the Met Office, will go live. In addition to encouraging people to take more weather observations, the Society will also be running a short workshop in the autumn to teach people how to make basic weather forecasts and to develop a greater knowledge of how the weather works.

In the Spring the Society's education programme will be actively supporting the Open Air Laboratory (OPAL) national experiment to observe contrails (for climate model development), measure wind speed and direction and record people's perceptions on how hot or cold they feel in response to weather conditions. The Society will also launch its new vocational qualifications under the Government's Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF), the pilot project to develop a new Chartered Meteorological Technician (CMetTech) will begin in earnest and the work on the development of a new Quality Standard for Weather Service Providers will be completed. The Society will also be working with partner organisations to develop new resources for people who are considering meteorology as a career and for those already in meteorology but who are looking for guidance on their own career development.

In the second half of the year the Society is looking to develop a new newsletter for members which will provide more regular up-to-date information on the work of the Society. In addition the Society is in discussions with the academic and business sectors about the introduction of a new series of Business Briefings on new developments in meteorology that are relevant to the business community. In support of this, and the development of other public resources, the Society will look to make a greater use of Internships.

Work has already begun on the development of a new Strategic Plan for the Society. This will be finalised in the autumn and bring together the prioritised programmes of work for the Society over the three years from 2012 to 2014. It will be an important document for shaping the direction of the Society over the next phase of its development and there will be wide consultation across the membership during 2011 on what should be included within this plan.

THE BRITISH WEATHER OF 2010

The coldest year in the UK since 1986, but mostly dry and sunny

Winds from easterly and northerly quarters of the compass blew much more frequently than usual during 2010, resulting in frequent very cold episodes during the opening and closing months of the year. Overall, it was the coldest year since 1986, and only nine years in the last 100 were colder. The absence of westerly winds also meant that the year was generally drier and sunnier than average, especially in western districts. Drought conditions were reported in some areas, notably in northwest England during June, but abundant rainfall in July nipped that particular crisis in the bud. Heavy snowfalls were a feature of the weather at either end of the year: although they were not abnormal when compared with many 20th century snowstorms, we seem to have forgotten what British winters can do thanks to the last two decades of mainly “open” winters.

Temperature

January was the coldest since 1987 and February the coldest since 1996, but overall the winter quarter of 2009 to 2010 had the lowest mean temperature since that of 1978 to 1979. From mid-March until mid-July the weather was frequently warm and settled, and both June and July were the warmest for four years. Late-summer and early-autumn temperatures were near average, but there has been no colder November since 1993, and December was the coldest over England and Wales since 1890, and the coldest in Edinburgh in the entire composite series for the city beginning in 1764. The year's lowest temperature was minus 22.3°C at Altnaharra, Sutherland, on 8 January, and the highest was 31.7°C at Gravesend, Kent, on 9 July.

Rainfall

February was a very wet month in eastern and southern districts, otherwise the first six months of the year were generally dry, and in western districts very dry. There were exceptional contrasts in July, with some very large totals in Scotland, Northern Ireland, northwest England and Wales, whereas East Anglia and southeast England remained dry. The contrasts were reversed in August, with heavy downpours in central and southern districts, and a rainfall deficiency in parts of northern Britain and in Northern Ireland. September, October and November all reported near-normal totals, but the rainfall equivalent of December's snows was quite small, possibly the lowest since 1971.

Sunshine

Sunshine duration was above average during most months of 2010, with both western Scotland and Northern Ireland reporting excesses of at least 25 per cent in spite of a very dull July in these regions. In southeast England the yearly total was less than five per cent above average. April and June were both exceptionally sunny months in most parts of the country.

Regional Breakdown

Difference from the average (1971-2000)	Mean Max (deg C)	Mean Min (deg C)	Rainfall (per cent)	Sunshine (per cent)
<i>Scotland - Highlands and Islands</i>	-0.6	-0.8	89	120
<i>Scotland - Central Belt and east coast</i>	-0.7	-0.6	107	121
<i>Northeast England</i>	-0.4	-0.7	94	119
<i>East Anglia</i>	-0.4	-0.5	98	112
<i>Midlands</i>	-0.4	-0.7	90	111
<i>Southeast England</i>	-0.4	-0.6	97	104
<i>Northwest England and North Wales</i>	-0.5	-1.0	83	116
<i>Southwest England and South Wales</i>	-0.4	-1.0	81	116
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	-0.7	-1.0	90	126
<i>Irish Republic</i>	-0.7	-0.7	91	120

FINANCE

The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2010 are published separately to this Annual Report in line with the requirements of the Charity Commissioners. The Auditor's report as usual appears as the front page to the Accounts and certifies that in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31 December 2010.

During the year the Society launched the Weather Club as a subsidiary company and by the 31 December 2010 had funded the new company with loans totalling £164,000 in 2010. At the end of 2011 the subsidiary company will produce its first set of Accounts which will be consolidated with the Society's Annual Accounts, but for 2010 the Society shows the Weather Club loan as a long-term asset. The Society has committed a further £136,000 in loan funding for the Weather Club provided key business targets are met.

The Society continues to be in a good financial state with the Reserves being positively affected by investment gains of some £81,000 (2009: £155,000) following the continued recovery in the equity stock-market during the year. The income for the year exceeded the expenditure resulting in a surplus of £64,000 (2009: surplus of £38,000), but after the investment revaluation gains this resulted in a transfer to the Reserves of £144,000 (2009: £193,000). The total Reserves at 31 December 2010 was £1,460,000 (2009: £1,315,000) of which £164,000 is the loan to the Weather Club.

The Society's journals and book publishing contributed £546,000 to our income (2009: £401,000) but for 2010 this included a one-off early contract renewal fee of £70,000. The associated expenditure on the journals was £124,000 (2009: £109,000). The Society's publishers (Wiley-Blackwell) now account for the journals in three currencies, US\$, GBP and Euros, thus reducing our exposure to currency exchange losses. The journals continue to represent a major source of income for the Society.

The Society holds its main conference biennially, the last being at Reading in 2009. This introduces a biennial variation in both the income and expenditure streams for Meetings and explains why those streams were substantially lower in 2010 than in 2009.

The direct income from Membership Fees was slightly higher than in 2009. However, the total Membership Subscription income decreased slightly from £207,000 in 2009 to £195,000 in 2010 mainly due to the reduction in income from Gift Aid, which nevertheless made a contribution of some £33,000 this year. Interest income remained low as a result of the continuing low bank interest rates during the year. The membership development project continued during the year with expenditure of £2,500 and development activity expenditure included £25,000 for the start-up costs of the Weather Club.

During the year Rachael Fordham and Sarah Grintzevitch renewed their contracts with the Society. Dr Liz Bentley was appointed Director of Weather and Climate and Head of the Weather Club and Rachael assisted her on a part-time basis. Sarah began her maternity leave in October. Susan Snellgrove left the Society in December and two part-time staff were recruited in her place, one to assist the Chief Executive's Private Secretary and the other as a general Administrative Assistant. Dr Sylvia Knight resumed her employment after her maternity leave. The Staff costs of £361,000 were some £18,000 higher than in the previous year.

The overhaul and renovation of the windows at headquarters was completed during the first quarter of the year, with the expenditure being capitalised and depreciated over the next 10 years. The enlargement of the meeting room was also completed in the first quarter of 2010, the costs of which again being capitalised and depreciated over 10 years. The building was decorated internally and externally.

The notes in the separate Annual Accounts are self-explanatory and provide more insight into the detailed figures and the way these have been compiled.

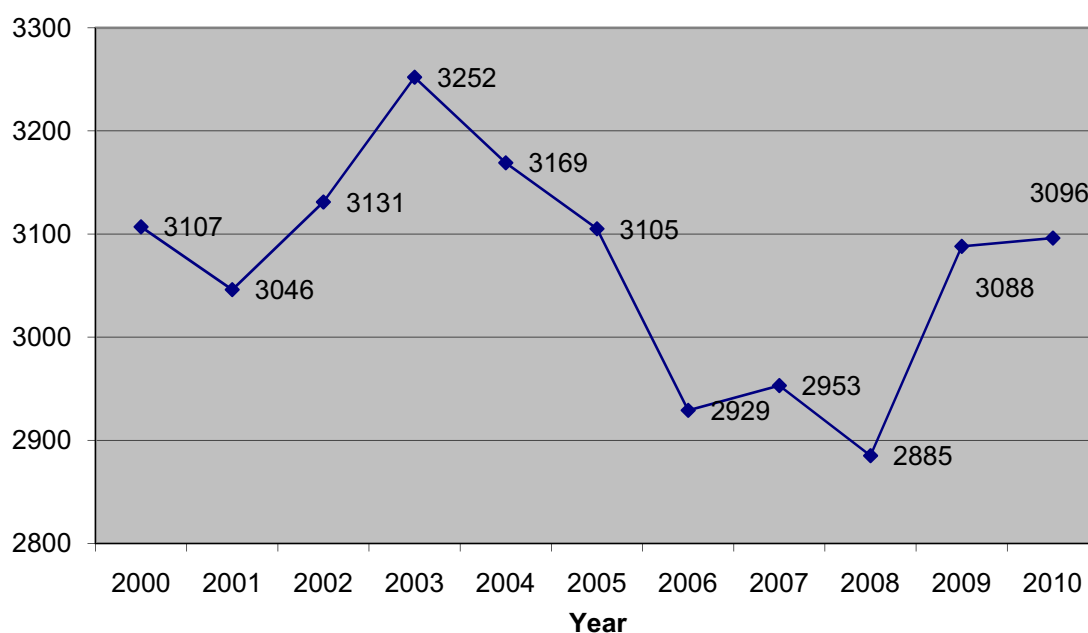
MEMBERSHIP

The following table shows the Society's Membership at 31st December 2010 with comparative figures for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Grade of Membership	2007	2008	2009	2010
Honorary Fellowship	20	20	20	20
Life Fellow	42	43	41	36
Fellow	1795	1747	1704	1672
Associate Fellow	852	788	997	1086
Associate Fellow (student)	174	214	248	215
Corporate Member	70	73	78	67
TOTAL	2950	2885	3088	3096

This following graph shows how membership of the Society has varied over the past years. The Society is delighted to have returned membership levels to those of the early part of the decade.

Total Membership



The Society learned with regret of the deaths in 2010 of the following Members:

Ivan Alexander, John Barnett, Christopher Bell, David Bennetts, Peter Brodhurst, John Kyle Cook, Brian Cosgrove Stanley Cowan, George Cowling, Laurence Draper, Terence Evans, Aubrey Russell Houghton, Charles Richard Hughes, Eric Reeday Illingworth, Oscar Graham Jones, David Jones, Jean Ludlam, Andrew Morse, Robert James Murgatroyd, Keri Nicholas, Raymond Edward Pattison, William Roach, Cynthia Phoebe Rowan, Frederick Sanders, Joanne Simpson, Brian Leslie Sperring, John Stewart, Audrey Strange, Basil William Thompson, Harry Turner, Ronald Walker, Aksel Christopher Wiin-Nielsen and Willys Wuest.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Society is delighted to have made the following Awards for the year 2010:

<i>Award</i>	<i>Recipient</i>
The Symons Gold Medal	Prof John Mitchell OBE FRS FRMetS CMet, Met Office
Buchan Prize	Dr Nigel Wood FRMetS, Met Office
The Hugh Robert Mill Award	Jim Wilson, NCAR, USA
L F Richardson Prize	Dr Neill Bowler, Met Office
Adrian Gill Prize	Prof Joanna Haigh FRMetS, Imperial College
The Michael Hunt Award	BBC English Regions
IBM Award for Meteorological Innovation that Matters	The TAMSAT Group, University of Reading
Vaisala Award for Observing and Instrumentation	Community Weather Information Network, Hong Kong, China
The Outstanding Service Award	Dr Julian Mayes FRMetS, MeteoGroup UK
The Gordon Manley Weather Prize	Brian Booth
International Journal of Climatology Editor's Award (sponsored by Wiley-Blackwell)	No award made this year
Quarterly Journal Editor's Award	No award made this year
Atmospheric Science Letters Editor's Award	No award made this year
Meteorological Applications Editor's Award	No award made this year
James Paton Memorial Prize	Dr Charlie Davison, Medical Anthropologist
Jehuda Neumann Memorial Prize	Prof Eric Mills, Dalhousie University and University of King's College, Halifax, Canada

The Society also appointed the following new Honorary Fellows, the highest award of membership made by the Society, in recognition of a distinguished career and long standing contribution to Meteorology:

- Sir David Attenborough CBE FRS (UK)
- Dr David Burridge CBE (UK)
- Prof Georgiy Golitsyn (Russia)
- Prof Lord Julian Hunt FRS FRMetS (UK)
- Prof John Zillman AO FAA FTSE (Australia)

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME BOARD

The Strategic Programme Board met twice this year to look at each strategic project to ensure that it is meeting its objectives and delivering the desired outcomes to time and to budget. The Board also looks at new development and partnership opportunities and at its autumn meeting put these together to form the development budget for the coming year. Each of the initiatives included in the budget is reviewed to understand the contribution it will make towards delivering the Society's Strategic Plan. This year the Board re-organised its programme report to more directly align with the Strategic Plan deliverables.

Below is a brief outline of just some of those programme initiatives in greater detail:

- **Publishing Contract** - the society has a publishing contract with Wiley-Blackwell which was originally negotiated with the aim of stabilizing revenue, freeing-up internal resources, keeping pace with technical developments in publishing and increasing circulation of journals. These aims have been achieved and, with careful management of revenue and costs, net income from publishing has increased. In 2010 the Society took the decision to renew its contract with Wiley-Blackwell, following a detailed benefits and value-for-money review, which was overseen by the Strategic Programme Board. As part of this new agreement the production and distribution of the Society's house journal *Weather* has been moved back to the UK and journals are now available free to over 70 of the least developed countries through the Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE). The Society has also recently made the journals available to African centres as part of its support to the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) project.
- **theWeather Club** - a major topic of discussion this year was the business case for the formation of the new subsidiary charity theWeather Club. This initiative has been driven, in part, by a desire to provide a forum for engaging with the general public on weather and climate in a more effective way. It was decided that theWeather Club should be capitalised through a loan from the Society. Dr Liz Bentley, the Society's Director of Weather and Climate has taken on the role of Head of theWeather Club. The Board agreed that theWeather Club should be launched in September 2010, producing a popular quarterly magazine, a website with user-generated content and supporting educational material and fact sheets. In addition the Society also formed a new trading subsidiary, Weather and Climate Ltd. At present this is a dormant company but will be used for the development of the Society's commercial trading activities.
- **Programme Update** - a major activity for the Strategic Programme Board is to scrutinize the financial state of the various projects that are running (publishing, theWeather Club etc.) and much of the autumn meeting was taken up with that. One noteworthy topic of discussion was the possibility of appointing a Development Manager for the society. This role would coordinate fundraising activities and could, eventually, be cost neutral. Because of financial constraints in 2010 it was not possible to pursue this and a number of possible solutions were discussed, including a greater use of Internships. It was decided to come back to this issue in 12 months time. Other initiatives discussed were the upgrading of the Society's instrument set and some internal rearrangement of staff duties between the Society and theWeather Club. From the broad range of activities, a budget for strategic projects in 2011 was produced for the Council's autumn meeting.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The primary role of the House Committee is to review and develop the key functions that underpin the general activities of the Society. The Committee meets three times a year and is chaired by the General Secretary.

Membership development (and the work of the Project Board)

The Membership Development Project aims to increase membership of the Society by 50% over three years. The project board has the primary responsibility for ensuring the success of the project, but the House Committee provides advice and support. The project was prompted by a decrease in membership of 20% over a ten-year period after reaching its peak of 3,691 members in 1997. As of the end of December 2010 there are 3,096 full-paid members including 384 new members who have joined in 2010.

The renewals process was enhanced in 2010/11 with the Chief Executive sending a personal letter to each individual who had joined in the last year. Also members who did not renew their membership by February 2011 were contacted to remind them about their subscription. Once again the Society engaged Hall Associates to carry out a contact programme for recently lapsed members to encourage them to re-join the Society.

Consideration has been given to a variety of initiatives associated with membership development. These have included membership drives at key organisations, companies and universities, and enhanced communication with the amateur community. In addition a contact programme was established with a number of users and providers of meteorological services to assess how the Society could retain and grow its Corporate Membership. The future of Schools Membership is also being reviewed.

Investments and financial management

The House Committee kept under review the Society's investments. The Society's investments are doing well against comparison benchmarks. In general shares dipped mid-year and have now picked up again. The in-year expenditure on 'business-as-usual' activities was monitored with a view to delivering financial balance. Also the proposed budget for 2011 for these activities was scrutinised before recommending a further year of balanced budget to Council.

Work to the HQ building

The Fellow's Room in the HQ building has been enlarged. This enables Council and some large committees to hold their meetings on the Society's premises. In addition the room can be set up to make best use of video conferencing and thereby reduce travel costs and increase participation. There has been an internal decoration of the HQ building. The restoration of windows is complete and work on the steps at the front of the building is under way.

Some other activities

The following is a selection the other activities carried out or overseen by the House Committee.

- **Corporate Responsibility Programme** - the Society has already exceeded the targets set as part of its Strategic Plan to reduce carbon emissions by 20%. Also processes have been put in place to continually record and monitor the Society's emissions on an ongoing basis. These include a smart energy meter and a green travel plan.
- **Risk Register** - the Society's Risk Register was kept under regular review. At present there are no risks in terms of probability and impact that are causing serious concern, though earlier there was concern that a major, sustained crash in equity value would result in a significant loss of Capital Reserve. A mitigation plan is in place for such an event.
- **Health & Safety** - implementation of the actions from the annual Health & Safety audit was monitored. The last audit identified only a few small issues that have been addressed.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

This year the Society exhibited a number of its archive holdings at events around the UK. In particular:

- In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the British Rainfall Organisation (BRO) the Society held a public meeting in London on the work of the BRO and the important national and international legacy of its rainfall recording. At the meeting the Society exhibited its records and medals associated with the BRO and with its founder George James Symons FRS.
- The Society became aware of the poor state of the grave of George Symons and his family at Kensal Green Cemetery in London. The Society restored the grave with the kind support and donation of slate by Mark Weir, the owner of the Honister Slate Mine in Cumbria. Cannon Paul Williams, the vicar of Tewksbury Abbey (which was centrally involved in providing support during the flooding on 2007), kindly led the re-dedication service which was held very appropriately on St Swithin's Day. The Deputy Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds, and Barry Smith (from the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery) joined several of the membership and senior Officers of the Society for the rededication ceremony.
- The Society's portrait of Luke Howard, the Luke Howard medal and a collection of original Luke Howard water colours were loaned to the Bruce Castle Museum in Tottenham, for the Luke Howard exhibition. An original barometeorograph belonging to Luke Howard has been kindly donated to the Society by a member of the Luke Howard family, and this has been deposited with the Society's collection in the National Meteorological Archive.

EDUCATION

Sylvia Knight returned to replace Rachael Fordham as Head of Education from May 2010. Ross Reynolds and John Clayton retired from the Education Committee after many years of stalwart service. Catherine Muller also left the Committee, and has been replaced by Martin Lawrence, a secondary science teacher.

The MetLink website was extensively redeveloped as a weather and climate educational resource site and launched in early 2010. Since then, new materials have been added and the site continuously updated.

The Climate4Classrooms project, a collaboration between the Society, the British Council and the Royal Geographical Society, has been extended and new online climate change teaching resources are being developed for Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Columbia and Cuba. The site was re-launched in December 2010 and continues to be updated.

The Society has been actively involved in developing the OPAL (OPen Air Laboratories) climate survey, which will be active from March to June 2011, inviting anyone interested to take part in a number of activities observing and measuring the weather. OPAL is a lottery funded project with many partners collaborating under the co-ordination of Imperial College. In conjunction with this, a weather roadshow in a specially-equipped trailer will tour England from March onwards, and members of the Society's headquarters team will be present at all appearances to help demonstrate experiments, and talk about weather and climate to the general public.

Three teachers were awarded internships in 2010 and produced excellent resources focussing on extreme weather, climate and climate change. The scheme will be promoted again in

2011. In association with this, Sylvia Knight has begun working with various education departments, to identify the best way to improve the meteorological skills of trainee geography teachers. Sylvia has produced a 'geography in the news' article for the Royal Geographical Society and a set of meteorological questions for the Geographical Association's 'worldwide' quiz. The Institute of Physics will feature meteorology as its monthly topic for its 16 to 19 year old members early in 2011. Sylvia has also been working with the Geographical Association to identify ways to collaboratively promote and develop weather and climate teaching resources.

The Society continues to loan instruments to schools, exhibitions and members, and to provide speakers to schools through our Ambassador scheme. This is now administrated through the nationwide Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) ambassador scheme, such that our ambassadors are trained and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checked before undertaking any school event. The demand for ambassadors continues to exceed the availability of early career meteorologists able to go in to schools.

The Society's education resources were promoted at the Annual Meetings of both the Geographical Association and the Association for Science Education. The Society was also involved in a number of educational outreach events in 2010, including the Big Bang science and engineering fair in Manchester, the Cheltenham Science Festival in June and the Royal Institution's family weather fun day in August. Collectively the Society reached over 15,000 people through these events with its education material on weather and climate.

MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Our Meetings, lectures and conferences continue to facilitate communication and collaboration across the Society's community. Meetings are only possible because of the voluntary work of the organisers, the speakers and the Society's Meetings Committee, as well as the dedication of the Society staff. The Society thanks all who have contributed in 2010. The total number of attendees at the National Meetings (Wednesday and Saturday) in 2010 was 1,069, up by 130 on the previous year, and the highest recorded number of attendees in the electronic record, which goes back to 1999.

Wednesday National Meetings

Wednesday National Meetings are aimed at a broad meteorological audience and are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month.

The aim of the National Wednesday Meetings programme is to provide a varied and stimulating programme for discussion of topical matters on weather and climate, providing an opportunity to bring together people from different academic, professional and non-professional backgrounds to interact on topics of common interest. A number of meetings were held this year in association with other organisations such as the British Hydrological Society, the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM), the Royal Aeronautical Society, the UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC) and the General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo). It was encouraging to see from the feedback received from attendees that meeting content, quality of presentations and level of specialisation have all improved since last year, highlighting the continuing commitment by all involved to the overall quality of the meetings programme.

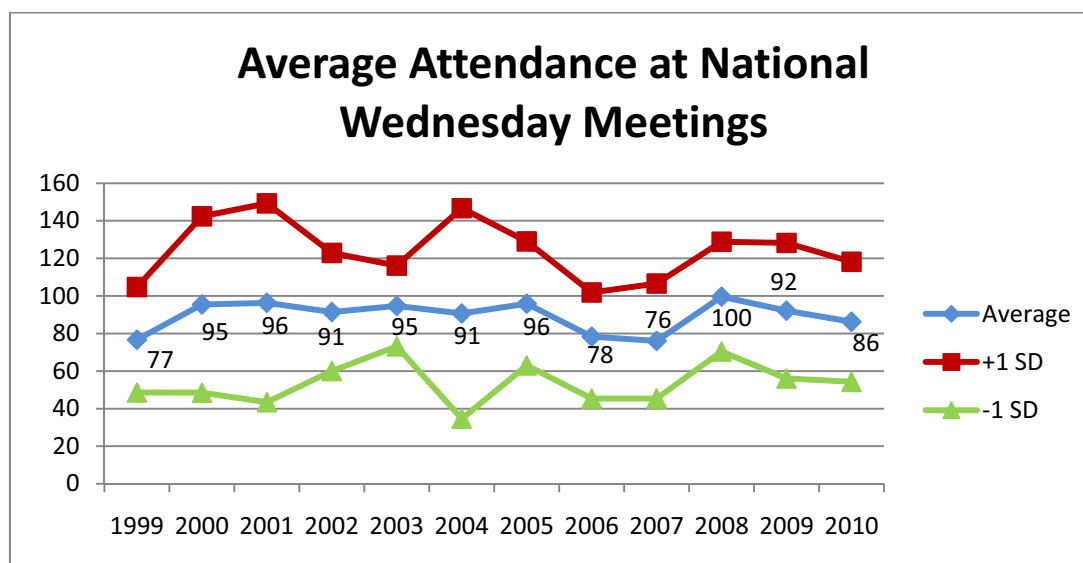
The main London venue for National Meetings was Imperial College with three meetings held this year outside London; at the University of Leeds and University of Reading. The following meetings took place in 2010:

- January** *Catastrophe modelling: Improving our understanding of the impact of extreme weather in financial markets*
- February** *Adapting our cities for future climates*
- March** *The science of seasonal forecasting: Challenges and Prospects*
- April** *From valley flow to mountain storms: New insights into orographic impacts on the weather*
- May** *Presidential Address, Mason Gold Medal Lecture and Annual General Meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society*
- June** *Coping with climate change post-Copenhagen?*
- October** *Flood Risk from Extreme Events*
- November** *Turbulence – a ‘resolved’ problem*
- December** *Aviation Services – Coping with the weather and volcanoes*

The Faraday Theatre at the Royal Institution provided the venue in May for the Presidential Address, given by Professor Julia Slingo on the 'The Indian Summer Monsoon', and the Mason Gold Medal Lecture, given by Professor Anthony Illingworth on the 'The Golden Age of Radar: The best is yet to come'.

2010 Summary Statistics from National Wednesday Meeting Feedback Forms

Content	%	Quality of Presentation	%	Level of Specialisation	%
Very Interesting	76	Consistently Good	61	Too Specialised	7
Reasonably Interesting	24	Mostly Good	36	About Right	92
Disappointing	0	Patchy	3	Too General	1
		Poor	0		



In 2010 the Society had three meetings with an attendance of 120 people or more, however one poorly attended meeting, of 23 people, lowered the yearly average. Without this meeting the annual average attendance would have been 94.

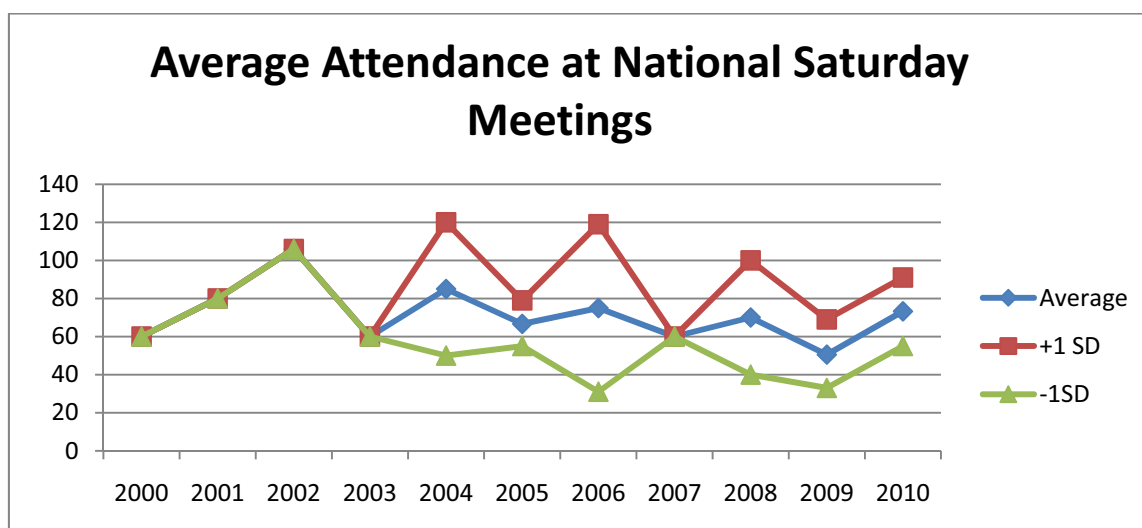
Saturday National Meetings and other Joint Meetings

Two Saturday National Meetings, open to all but aimed at non-specialists, were held this year along with the National Summer Meeting and National Amateur Observers Symposium:

- February** *Some new perspectives on climate change*
- April** *The 150th Anniversary of the founding of the British Rainfall Organization*
- July** *National Summer Meeting in association with the History Group, Devon.*
- September** *1st National Amateur Observers Symposium, Reading.*

2010 Summary Statistics from National Saturday Meeting Feedback Forms

Content	%	Quality of Presentation	%	Level of Specialisation	%
Very Interesting	64	Consistently Good	33	Too Specialised	8
Reasonably Interesting	36	Mostly Good	58	About Right	76
Disappointing	0	Patchy	9	Too General	16
		Poor	0		



The average attendance at the two Saturday National Meetings this year was 60, compared to an average of 51 in 2009. The National Summer meeting was held over two days in Exeter from 18 to 20 July with review talks from top Met Office scientists on key weather and climate issues and visits to the Met Office, National Meteorological Archive, Barometer World and the Norman Lockyer Observatory. The event was well attended with 94 attendees and with excellent feedback. The first National Amateur Observers Symposium was held over two days in September with the topic: Observing the Weather – a meeting to celebrate 40 years of COL. The symposium was successful with more than 80 attending and a mix of keynote talks on both professional and amateur observing, poster displays and an exhibition of instrument suppliers and books.

National Conferences

The Student Conference was held at the Met Office, Exeter, 8 to 10 July, with a wide range of subjects covering the atmospheric and oceanic sciences. More than 80 delegates from 22 different institutions attended the conference comprising of PhD students and early-career foundation scientists from the Met Office. Feedback was very positive and the conference

provides a valuable opportunity for students to present their work and discuss a wide range of research topics in an informal environment.

Special Interest Groups and Local Centres

The Local Centres and Special Interest Groups continue to provide opportunities for sharing common interests and enthusiasm around the UK and more than 40 meetings were held in 2010, a significant increase on the previous year.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

Delivering the Strategic Plan's objectives, targets and success measures

Accreditation means many things to many people and organisations but recognising excellence in people and in organisations (in the public and private sector) and their continuing professional development is what the Society defines as the scope of its Accreditation work. It is important that the Society has a coherent accreditation framework that can demonstrate both how its professional developments and qualifications fit together and how they relate to the wider national and international frameworks. In response to the Strategic Plan's articulated need to "Lead the development of professional standards in Meteorology" the Accreditation Board reviewed the aims of the Society's professional development and encapsulated the work that the Society is undertaking as part of its Accreditation programme, with the aim of providing a useful reference for Council and the work of the new Strategic Plan group.

Key work strands that remain to be completed:

- The priority review and development of CMetTech to confirm the need for and scope of the scheme and the subsequent review of CMet to enable a more detailed analysis of the future requirement for CMet accreditation and review processes.
- Developing and extending the Society's NVQs based on the European Qualification Framework.
- Assessing and recognising the function and cost of the Society's accreditation to maintain educational standards.
- Addressing how, if at all, the Society should be involved in accrediting the increasing number and variety of courses and provider institutions.
- Developing the function and applicability of CPD as a component of the Society's qualifications drawing upon examples and methodologies of CPD used by other societies and bodies.
- Assessing the viability of a mentoring and support scheme for those new to meteorology.

Review of Charter Qualifications

Enabling work was completed on the proposed new Chartered Meteorological Technician (CMetTech) qualification that aims to build upon WMO classification of functions within the profession. Investigation of the CMetTech qualification is seen as a precursor to a review of the existing Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) qualification. As part of efforts to revitalise the perception of CMet, plans are in hand to convene assessment panels at Institutes or Centres to help in cases of accrediting larger numbers of chartered meteorologists. The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) undertook its quinquennial audit of the Society's accreditation processes for Chartered Environmentalist in late 2009. Following this review, the license to grant CEnv status was renewed in March 2010.

Sector Committee Working Group on Vocational Qualifications

The Sector Committee has revised the National Occupational Standard (NOS), the unit based syllabus for the Society's vocational qualifications, and worked on the development of the new Units and Qualifications under the Government's new Qualifications and Credit Framework

(QCF). The revisions to the NOS have been accredited and the new Units for the QCF completed. The Society's awarding body PAA-VQSET uploaded the units to the QCF in late 2010 and from 1 January the new qualifications have been in place, replacing the previous NVQs.

The new framework brings greater flexibility so that in addition to replacing the previous NVQ qualifications it has also offered an opportunity to develop new qualifications within the framework enabling the Society to offer the following qualifications: Level 3 Diploma in Meteorological Observing, Level 5 Diploma in Meteorological Forecasting, Level 5 Award in Meteorological Briefing, Level 4 Certificate for a Meteorological Forecasting Technician, Level 5 Certificate in Meteorological Broadcasting. A Level 6 Diploma in Flood Forecasting and a Level 4 Certificate in Global Weather and Climate will be introduced in due course, together with the possibility of new qualifications in topics such as Mountain Meteorology.

Further developments to the roles fulfilled by national and specialist bodies, such as the Society, in the administration of vocational qualifications are anticipated as a consequence of changes with Sector Skills Councils and their funding.

The Quality Standard Pilot Project

The Society worked on the first stage of a pilot study for the Quality Standard Project between June and December 2009. Outcomes from this pilot were first presented to Council in 2010. The Society's Council and the Quality Council have given their final comments on the Pilot project outcomes and a contract has been let to complete the final stages of work, including a review of the financial viability of the standard. This will be brought to the February 2011 meeting of Council for a decision on operational implementation.

Chartered Meteorologist, Chartered Environmentalist and FRMetS

The work of the Course Evaluation/Continuing Professional Development Panel continued in assessing the CPD returns from CMets, CEnvS, evaluation of courses, and advising on applications for the use of the appellation FRMetS. This is summarised in the table below, which also provides information on the number of new applications for CMet, CEnv and their outcomes.

2010 Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) Applications				
Applications in progress at 1/1/10	New accreditations granted in 2010	Accreditations refused/withdrawn during 2010	Applications in progress at 31/12/10	Total number of CMets at 31/12/10
2	2	2	2	59
CMet CPD Returns				
Number of returns reviewed		Number of returns not approved		
16		1		
Applications for the public use of FRMetS				
Applications for public use	Applications approved	Applications refused/resigned	Total numbers of FRMetS at 31/12/10	
64	64	4	482	
2010 Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) Applications				
Applications in progress at 1/1/10	New accreditations granted in 2010	Accreditations refused/withdrawn during 2010	Applications in progress at 31/12/10	Total number of CEnvS at 31/12/10
1	1	1	0	6

CEnv CPD Returns	
Number of returns reviewed	Number of returns not approved
5	0

The Course Evaluation Panel has also renewed the accreditation of courses from the University of Reading as providing the minimum level of knowledge required by a CMet.

Acquired Rights/WMO 258 Accreditation

The Society remains the UK's regulatory body for recognition of Aviation Forecasters against the requirements of WMO 258 for direct entrants and the waning number of applicants utilising the "Acquired Rights" route for those "joining the profession" before the standard was introduced. The Accreditation Board acts on the Society's behalf, overseeing the processes employed by other organisations rather than undertaking any direct testing of individuals as competent meteorologists. A streamlined process for submission of applications to reduce the administrative burden for all parties. Numbers recognised as achieving WMO 258 are summarised in the table below, which also provides information on the number of new applications for WMO 258.

WMO 258	
Number of new applications in 2010	Number recognised as achieving WMO 258 up to 31/12/10
2	465

SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

Introduction

The Scientific Publishing Committee oversees the Society's journal portfolio. Its long-term aim is to grow the circulation and use of the journals, increase journal revenue through increased sales, and place the journals in the top five of their respective categories.

There have been three key aspects of the activities of the Scientific Publishing Committee over recent years. The first has been an ongoing review of our portfolio to ensure the Society is achieving the appropriate scope and coverage, and to assess performance with respect to competitors. As part of this the Society has also been investigating how we might employ new technology strategically to the journals. The second has been to critically analyse the production process to ensure it is as swift and smooth as possible, and that it is in-line with the Society's carbon-reduction strategy. This has included a review of the weight of the paper used for the journals. The third has been to instigate a review of our policies regarding data access and plagiarism, and the testing of plagiarism-detection software for some of the journals, to ensure the Society is in line with best practice in the publishing industry in these regards. In addition, a number of marketing initiatives have been conducted by Wiley-Blackwell during the year to promote the journals worldwide.

The Society introduced an academic book programme for meteorological science in 2010, with the aim of producing 2 books in the series per year. The two published in 2010 were 'Mesoscale Meteorology in Midlatitudes' by Paul M. Markowski, Yvette P. Richardson and 'Thermal Physics of the Atmosphere' by Maarten Ambaum. These have been very well received by the international meteorological research community.

Below are some of the highlights from the work of the Society's individual journals.

Quarterly Journal

The impact factor for Quarterly Journal in 2009 was 2.522, a significant recovery since the drop in the previous year (2.050 in 2008 and 2.893 in 2007). This is particularly encouraging because it is not dominated by a small number of highly cited papers and follows a number of initiatives the Editorial Board made to ensure the impact factor remains high. The reviewing process took an average of 239 days to an Accept decision. An African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) special issue appeared in January 2010 and several other special issues are in the pipeline. Partly related to these special issues, there has been a significant rise in submissions (316 in 2010, up from 270 in 2009). The long-term strategy continues to be to improve readership and impact factor by encouraging review articles by field leaders, attracting more North American authors and readers and encouraging institutional usage in the Far East. A new page layout was introduced in January 2010 which has been well-received.

International Journal of Climatology

The impact factor for the International Journal of Climatology in 2009 was 2.34, an improvement following the drop in 2008 to 1.97. The reviewing time took an average of 107 days to final decision. Although steps are being taken to improve this further, there is considerable difficulty in obtaining willing reviewers with 8 to 10 approaches being made to secure two reviewers for some papers. The total number of submissions grew again to 476 (from 338 in 2009). Consequently the rejection rate is now 52%, up 8% from 2009. There was a successful special issue on the impact of land use change on climate. The Editorial Board plans to take more of a strategic look at the choice of special issues going forward. The overall strategy of the journal is to improve its impact factor, increase the quality of submissions, and seek state of the art review articles and obtain better penetration into the North American market. The Editorial Board will be reviewed in 2011 and the journal is exploring the possibility of appointing a UK-based Regional Editor.

Atmospheric Science Letters

The journal will be awarded an impact factor for the first time for 2010, which will be announced in June 2011. This is a significant achievement for a young journal. The numbers of papers submitted has again grown, with 118 papers being submitted in 2010, an increase of about 12%. The average time to online publication, from receiving the article, was 132 days, although this number is skewed by a small number of articles taking a long time. The long-term strategy of the journal is to increase its impact factor with a goal of achieving a factor of 2 within the next three years, to increase the quality of submissions and to continue with its planned programme of special issues. This includes experimentation with an overlay issue for key meteorological datasets.

Meteorological Applications

The journal saw an impressive improvement in its impact factor in 2009 to 1.467 (up from 0.583 in 2008). The total number of submissions in 2010 was 113, in-line with the numbers for 2009. The average time for review of first submission was 42 days, also in-line with 2009. Four issues were published, with one special issue on *Flood Forecasting and Warning* edited by K. James, P. Ryder, J. Curtin and C. Collier. The Editorial Board has endorsed the practice of producing one specialist issue *per* year, providing a current, state-of-the-art review of more specialist topics relevant to the journal's themes, and addressing the generalist nature of the Journal in the other three issues each year. There were two changes to the Editorial Board: C Y Lam (Hong Kong Observatory) retired from the Board, and Alexis Lau (Hong Kong) and Ashwini Kulkarni (India) joined the Board.

Weather

Weather has now been accepted for calculation of an impact factor in 2010, which will be awarded in June 2011. There was a special Issue on Symons (May), the *From Observations to Forecasts* series continued (to be completed in 2011) and there has been an increasing

emphasis on recent interesting weather. Two special issues are planned for 2011: *Severe winter weather* (January) and 65th anniversary of *Weather* (May). There has been improved Book review throughput with a Book review editor appointed from within the Board. As always, as wide a range of material as possible is sought for publication. The introduction of the Weather Image and Viewpoint features has been a welcome addition to the journal.

Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews (WIREs) Climate Change

WIREs Climate Change is a new review journal from Wiley-Blackwell sponsored jointly by the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). The journal launched in January 2010 and is bi-monthly with each issue containing between 10 and 12 review articles. The disciplinary scope of the journal is extremely broad, matching the growing range of disciplines which are contributing to knowledge around climate change - from environmental history, to ethics, to sociology and anthropology, as well as the more well-established earth sciences, economics, and policy sciences. WIREs Climate Change is primarily an on-line journal which allows versatility in the organisation of content by serial bi-monthly issue, by topic content or by special themed virtual issues. Professor Mike Hulme, from the University of East Anglia, is the Editor-in-Chief and he has an Editorial Board of 14 Executive Editors from around the world, each responsible for a different topic area. The journal will gain its first Impact Factor in 2012, once the title has been adopted by Thomson Reuters (ISI) Web of Knowledge.

During 2010 the interest in WIREs Climate Change has been high and the Society is encouraging the development of circulation by offering one year's free membership to those who registered in year. The journal has already received several publishing community prizes, including the R. R. Hawkins Award, the PROSE Award for Excellence in Reference Works and the eProduct/Best Multidiscipline Platform from the American Publishers Awards for professional and scholarly excellence.

Acknowledgements and special thanks

The Committee would like to thank all the Editors and their Editorial Boards and the staff both at the Society's headquarters and at Wiley-Blackwell for their hard work and support.

REPORTS FROM OTHER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Society for the Environment (SocEnv)

The Society's Chief Executive, Paul Hardaker, and General Secretary, Dr Bob Riddaway, represent the Society on the Board of SocEnv. During the summer both Paul Hardaker and Bob Riddaway joined the SocEnv Board visit to the 2012 Olympic site. There were talks from the local organising team, including David Stubbs, the Head of Environment and Sustainability for the Olympics, as well as from the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Prof John Beddington, who received Honorary Membership from SocEnv at the meeting.

During 2010 Paul Hardaker took part in the SocEnv Governance Review team, tasked with streamlining the governance structure of the organisation, and this is due to report back in 2011.

Regrettably the SocEnv Chief Executive resigned in 2010 after serving in the position for under two years. This has been a big blow to SocEnv who have lost several Chief Executives in recent years and been unable to find a Chief Executive who can remain with the organisation to bring the stability it requires for it to grow and develop into a more effective organisation.

Science Council

The Society's Chief Executive, Paul Hardaker, represents the Society at the Science Council. Paul Hardaker is also an elected member of the Science Council Board, and is Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and a member of both the Nominations Committee and the HR and Remuneration Committee. In 2010 the Nominations Committee drew up a short list of potential candidates to succeed the current Science Council President, Sir Tom McKillop.

The Society, co-ordinated by Sarah Grintzevitch and Rachael Fordham, actively contributed to the Science Council's participation in the Big Bang science and engineering festival, which was held in Manchester in March 2010. Some 20,000 people attended the event. The Society provided material to the careers section of the exhibition and took part in a panel discussion with children and parents on future careers in science. The Society also teamed up with the Met Office to run the 'blue screen' weather presenting system and also ran a 'Postcard to No.10' exhibition. Some 1,300 people wrote submissions on a postcard to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and posted it by a replica of the No.10 Downing Street door. Sarah Grintzevitch collated these contributions into a submission that was sent to the Prime Minister after the May elections.

The Society's Chief Executive and President, Prof Julia Slingo, joined six others from sister Societies and the Chief Executive and President of the Science Council for a lunch-time strategy session to discuss the future direction of the Science Council. The Society also contributed to Science Council programmes on Women in Science, Careers for Scientists (through the flagship programme FutureMorph), developing professional qualifications for science technicians and on consultations on the Science Diploma and the science curriculum.

General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo)

There were four meetings of the General Aviation Safety Council in February, May, September and November. The Society's involvement in GASCo and its Council continues to make an important contribution to general aviation safety in the UK.

As intimated in last year's report, John Thorpe retired as Chief Executive at the beginning of the year and was succeeded by Mike O'Donoghue. Mike has both fixed and rotary wing experience and recently gained his qualification as a rotary wing instructor. He has had a busy year; not only has he been on a steep learning curve in his first year as Chief Executive but he has also taken primary responsibility for the managing the General Aviation safety evenings, which this year GASCo took over from the Civil Aviation Authority. This has involved recruiting suitable people to run the evenings (of which there are usually around twenty a year, mainly in the winter months held all round the country), preparing the appropriate materials and visual aids and generally co-ordinating the presentation on the day. Early indications are that this change over has been very successful and will enhance GASCo's reputation with the CAA and other aviation bodies.

It was intended that the Society's representative (Anthony Bowles) should take over as Treasurer of GASCo from David Corbett in the autumn. This has not been possible because of competing commitments, however Mr Bowles has joined the GASCo Board and will take over as Treasurer in 2011.

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is due to take over all aspects of pilot licensing and aircraft maintenance in April 2012 from the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA). What originally was seen as an opportunity to simplify overly complex historic national regulations has become bogged down; national differences through Europe are significant in some respects and deep-seated, and cannot easily be rationalised into one uniform set of regulations. Inevitably political overtones have arisen and the final outcome remains somewhat opaque, but it is likely that some national differences will continue.

UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC)

The UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC) is an unincorporated association of professionals dedicated to the improvement of Commercial Aviation Safety. Members include British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, British Midlands, Monarch, British Airports Authority, British International, Civil Aviation Authority, Cathay Pacific, Easyjet, Gulf Air, Lufthansa, Malaysia Airlines, Ryan Air, National Air Traffic Service and the Military Aviation Authority. Over 2010 the Society's representative attended regular Safety Information Exchange meetings and Overseas Facilities Working Group (OFWG) at CAA Gatwick, British Aerospace Farnborough and RAF Northolt, and examined ways to improve safety and avoid incidents/accidents, and a meeting was arranged with the Met Office aviation services for the UKFSC Chief Executive.

Regular communication has been maintained with the UKFSC Chief Executive, ensuring that timely advice is provided on emergent issues, including the recent Icelandic Volcanic Ash Incident. With increasing reliance on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) to facilitate safe and efficient navigation, the Society's representative was keen to highlight the important consideration of space weather and its implications for accurate navigation. Meetings with the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Centre have proved fruitful and are yielding collaborative opportunities between the UK and US to ensure readiness in the aviation community ahead of the next solar cycle.

Yet again meteorology has been a key component of many aviation incidents/accidents over 2010 and many were attributed to classic meteorological threats in the take-off, approach and landing phases – these included poor visibility/fog, icing and cumulo-nimbus/thunderstorm related incidents. Through early preventative action, serious incidents associated with the Icelandic Volcanic Ash Cloud remained limited. During this event the Society's representative visited the British Embassy Washington D.C. to set up a situation room and advise representatives, including the department for transport, on impacts on flight safety.

Threat and Error Management (TEM) underpins most Safety Management Systems of Air Operator Certificated (AOC) companies. The Society's representative has pursued the application of meteorology for flight safety purposes within this context, culminating in two seminars at the Aero Expo and joint Society/UKFSC/GASCo/Royal Aeronautical Society meeting ("Coping with the weather and volcanoes") at Imperial College. A paper was submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority – Safety Regulation with meteorological threat and error management now expected to work its way into the training environment.

European Meteorological Society (EMS)

EMS Membership and Society Representation

EMS is now an Association of 34 Meteorological Societies from 29 European countries. In addition it has 30 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services (e.g. Met Office, Deutscher Wetterdienst and Météo-France), international institutions (e.g. ECMWF and EUMETSAT), research and education institutions, and commercial companies. In the last year there has been one new Associate Member: Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW), Warszawa, Poland. In addition two Members left the EMS: the Italian Member Society SIMA is being dissolved, and Degreane Horizon cancelled its Associate membership. The Royal Meteorological Society is a permanent member of the EMS Council. At present Dr Bob Riddaway is the Royal Meteorological Society's representative and has been re-elected as EMS Vice-President for three years. Dr Riddaway is also Chair of the Policy Advisory and Development Group and Chair of the EMS Editorial Board.

Meetings

During 2010 the EMS held the 22nd EMS Council in Budapest on 18 to 19 March 2010 and the 23rd EMS Council and 12th EMS General Assembly in Zürich on 12 September 2010. The 10th

EMS Annual Meeting (EMS10) and 8th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC8) were held in Zürich from 13 to 17 September 2010. There were over 600 participants providing about 400 oral presentations and the display of over 300 posters. Future EMS Annual Meetings will be as follows:

- **Annual Meeting 2011.** EMS11 will be held in Berlin, Germany, in conjunction with ECAM10, from 12 to 16 September 2011.
- **Annual Meeting 2012.** EMS12 will be held in Łódź, Poland, in conjunction with ECAC9, from 10 to 14 September 2012.
- **Annual Meeting 2013.** EMS13 will be held in Reading, UK (hosted by the Society) in conjunction with ECAM11, from 9 to 13 September 2013.

Policy Advisory and Development Group (PADG) and Project Teams

The key actions of the PADG and Project Teams included the following:

- The PADG reviewed progress with the work programmes of the project teams and the actions that were implemented in response to the results of the membership questionnaire.
- The Committee on Meetings successfully introduced a session relevant to manufacturers into the EMS Annual Meeting, and arranged a meeting to discuss ways in which EMS could support Member Societies in developing their activities associated with meetings.
- The Professional Practices Project Team is seeking information about existing codes of ethics with a view to preparing a model code that Member Societies can adopt if they wish.
- The Communications Team has been replaced by an Editorial Board. Its remit includes overseeing the development of the *ems*-message and website.

Other activities

- **Constitution.** The constitution was revised. The main changes are to (a) explicitly state that research and education institutions can become Associate Members and (b) reduce the number of Vice-Presidents from three to one whilst establishing the post of Treasurer.
- **International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS).** Fritz Neuwirth (EMS President) attended the IFMS Meeting in January 2010 and chairs the working group responsible for specifying the structure and content of the IFMS website.
- **EMS Silver Medal.** The EMS Silver Medal 2010 was awarded to David Burridge, a former President of the Royal Meteorological Society.
- **Awards.** 13 Young Scientist Travel Awards were given in 2010 and the Young Scientist Award went to John Marsham (University of Leeds).
- **Europhotometeo'09.** The European Photo Competition was a great success with about 650 photos being submitted from over 250 authors.

International Forum for Meteorological Societies (IFMS)

The second meeting and first formal meeting of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) was held in January 2010 at the Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society. At this meeting the IFMS drafted and adopted its first Constitution. The IFMS has a management committee and the Society has representation on this committee through the European Meteorological Society.

Several Working Groups have been established in order to progress the work of the IFMS. The Society is involved in the Working Group to develop the content of the IFMS website (the current version can be found at www.ifms.org) and the Working Group on sharing ideas on developing benefits for society members.

The second formal meeting of the IFMS is planned for November 2011 in southern China, and Paul Hardaker, the Society's representative, will be attending. The Society has offered, on behalf of Europe, to host the third meeting of the IFMS in the UK in September 2013.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

East Anglia Centre

Committee:

James Dent (Chair and Treasurer), Marigold Penkett (Secretary), Vacant (Events Co-ordinator/Deputy Chair)

Activities:

During the year, the Centre held 6 meetings at which the attendance ranged from 10 to 35.

- Thursday 21 January 2010. Dr Declan Conway, School of International Development, UEA. "Some issues of climate change in relation to development in China"
- Thursday 25 March. Prof. Stuart Penkett: "WMO Global Atmospheric Watch Programme recording Greenhouse Gases and Reactive Gases."
- Friday 7 May. David Cherry, Environmental Assessment Manager (Transport Policy), Leeds City Council: "The Development of a Climate Proofing Policy for Leeds."
- Thursday 17 June. Dr. Varyl Thorndycraft, Lecturer in Physical Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London: "Extreme floods of the last millennium."
- Thursday 23 September. Rev Philip Foster, Author and clergyman, St Ives' Cambridge. "Creation, Cosmology and Climate Change".
- Thursday 18 November. Tornado Chasing in Texas. Chris Bell, Forecaster, Weather Quest, Norwich.

A programme of 3 further meetings is arranged over the next 5 months and it is hoped that a further meeting can be arranged for mid-June 2011. The programme for the final quarter of the year (2 meetings) will be arranged in due course:

- Thursday 27 January. Colin Tomlinson and Christina Martyn, HM Coastguard, Great Yarmouth. "The influence of weather on marine casualties."
- Saturday 26 March. Joint meeting with History Group. Talks and tour, Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge. 10.30am to 5.00pm.
- Thursday 5 May 2011. Iain Cameron, author and researcher. "Cool Britannia – Snowier times in 1580 to 1930 than since".

Other activities (newsletters, visits, special lectures, etc.)

No summer visit was held this year.

Finance:

Income for the year was £450, received from the Society. Expenditure for the year was £632.70. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £74.20.

East Midlands Centre

Committee

Ernie Pepperdine.

Activities

During the year, the Centre held no meetings but continues to provide regular summaries of local and regional weather observations.

Finance

Income for the year was £300. Expenditure for the year was £301. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £299.

North East Centre

Committee

Dennis Wheeler (Chairman and Secretary), Ken Cook (Treasurer).

Activities

During the year, the Centre held 8 regular monthly meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 15.

- Friday 12 February. *Latest views on climate change*, Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale (University of Durham)
- Friday 12 March. *Durham's astronomers and their meteorology*. Joan Kenworthy (Royal Met. Soc History Group)
- Friday 9 April. *Greenland ice sheet mass-balance*, Dr. Edward Hanna (University of Sheffield)
- Friday 14 May. *What are the big challenges in meteorology: the climate of the classroom?* Professor Paul Hardaker (Chief Executive, Royal Met. Soc)
- Friday 11 June. *Arctic polar climate change seen through old documents*. Catharine Ward (University of Sunderland)
- Friday 8 October. *The great winter of 1947 recalled*. Mr. George Booth.
- Friday 12 November. *The "English Lowlands" and the North Sea Basin System: A History of Shared Risk*, Professor Greg Bankoff (University of Hull)
- Friday 10 December. *Tracing rapid climate change*. Professor Valerie Hall (Queen's University, Belfast)

The local committee would like to express their thanks to Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale and Dr Edward Hanna for standing in at short notice following the illness of our speakers. Our thanks go also to St. Chad's College for hosting our monthly meetings.

This year's Gordon Manley lecture, supported as always by the Geography Department of Durham University, was presented by Dr Astrid Ogilvie (University of Colorado at Boulder) "*Sagas and sea ice: variations in the climate of Iceland from the Settlement to the present*". An audience of about 50 attended for what was another successful event and now very much part a popular part of the Centre's calendar of events.

Finance

Income for the year was £2,000. Expenditure for the year was £2,303.98. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £954.68.

North West Centre

Committee

Dr Grant Allen (Treasurer), Dr Hugo Ricketts (Secretary), Dr Tom Choularton (Treasurer)
Dr William Morgan (Web Officer), Mr Christopher Lee (Meetings Co-ordinator),
Dr Jennifer Muller (Publicity Officer).

Activities

The Centre has restarted after a one year respite and held its first meeting in a new and continuing series under the new committee in December 2010. The attendance at this meeting was a very pleasing 42. Title of this meeting was: *The Whitworth Observatory – Past, present and future*.

Titles of meetings planned for the future are:

- Experiences of a storm chaser (and the VORTEX-2 field experiment)
- The Icelandic volcanic eruption one year on: What did we learn?

- Weather forecasting for the military (experiences of an RAF forecaster)
- Weather on extra-terrestrial planets

The Centre is planning a weather balloon launch in Summer 2011, which aims to carry a camera and GPS payload to retrieve images and video from high altitude. Members will be encouraged to get involved in weather forecasting to predict a suitable launch date within a 2 week window. This will be a joint venture with other Local Centres.

Finance

Income for the year was £1,000 (from the Society). Expenditure for the year was £15. The current funds in hand and at the bank are approximately £1,500.

Scottish Centre

Committee

Mr G Meldrum (Chairman), Mr C Brown, Dr R Essery, Prof D Fowler, Ms V Ingram, Ms A McLure, Mr G Monk, Mr D Paterson, Mr M Rogerson, Ms M Roy, Dr J Smith, Dr D Stevenson and Mr R Tabony (Secretary).

Activities

During the year, the Centre held 6 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 30. Titles of meetings held during the year were:

- The development of a climate change adaptation policy. David Cherry Leeds City Council
- The winter of 2009/10, Open forum.
- Beyond Copenhagen: a new climate change road map. David Reay, Univ. Edinburgh
- The Indian summer monsoon, Professor Julia Slingo, Met Office
- Tornadoes in the UK, Nigel Bolton, Met Office
- Winter road forecasting, Julian Mayes, MeteoGroup UK

Titles of meetings planned for the future are:

- Transport and air quality, Margaret Bell, University of Newcastle
- Vegetation and snow, Richard Essery, University of Edinburgh
- Upland renewable energy, Alex Gormally, University of Lancaster
- Reducing the impact of emissions from aviation and shipping. Full day meeting

Finance

Income for the year was £1,001.90. Expenditure for the year was £1,410.99. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £635.87

South East Centre

Committee

Stephen Burt (Chairman), John Pears (Secretary), Paul Hardaker (Committee member)

Activities

The Centre held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday 28 April: Peter Gibbs, BBC weather broadcaster, presented on 'The role of the modern weather forecaster' to a standing room-only audience of 60.

The centre normally meets at 7pm on the final Wednesday in the month in Reading Town Hall (Blagrove Street, RG1 1QH, 2 min walk from the railway station). Since and including our inaugural meeting, our average attendance to date has been 41. All are welcome: there is no charge for meetings.

The Committee would like to offer grateful thanks to all our speakers, who have provided an interesting and varied programme, and to the Society's staff who provide all the 'behind the scenes' work to enable us to run the centre's activities.

During 2010, the centre hosted a further 6 meetings and one external visit, as follows:

- Wednesday 26 May - Prof Paul Hardaker, Chief Executive of the Royal Meteorological Society: *Post Copenhagen, will we reach our emissions targets and what role will climate science play in this?*
- Wednesday 30 June - Dr Ian Strangeways, Terradata: *Have conventional met instruments got the accuracy to detect climate change?*
- Wednesday 7 July - Visit to Green Park wind turbine in Reading
- Wednesday 29 September - Dr Liz Bentley, Royal Meteorological Society: *The RMetS Weather Club – helping that British obsession to grow*
- Wednesday 27 October - Paul Knightley, MeteoGroup: *MeteoGroup – Europe's largest private weather business*
- Wednesday 24 November - James Murphy, Met Office Hadley Centre: *Recent advances in the science of decadal prediction*

A further seven meetings are planned to July 2011:

- Wednesday 26 January - Noel Nelson, Met Office: *The science of dispersion modelling and its application to animal welfare*
- Wednesday 23 February - Prof Julia Slingo OBE, Chief Scientist, Met Office: *The Indian Summer Monsoon*
- Saturday 26 March - Joint meeting with History Group at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge to mark the centenary of Captain Scott's fateful expedition to the Antarctic 1910 – 1913
- Wednesday 27 April - Paul Knightley, MeteoGroup: *Storm chasing*
- Wednesday 25 May - Philip Eden, writer and broadcaster: *Traditional meteorological observing in the UK: a history, and future prospects*
- Tuesday 21 June – a second joint visit with the History Group, this time to the Thames Barrier in London
- Wednesday 6 July - Richard Hamblyn, Writer in Residence, UCL Environment Institute: *Skies of the Unexpected: In Search of Unusual Clouds*

A programme of nine meetings for 2011/12 is in preparation.

Finance

Any expenses have been met directly by the Society rather than through a subvention.

West Midlands Centre

Committee

Dr Ian D Phillips (Chairman)

Activities

During the year, the Centre held 5 meetings at which the average attendance was 31 (43 in January, 36 at both meetings in February, 23 in March, and 17 in September):

- Thursday 28 January, *The Severe Winter of 1947*, by Mr George Booth, a retired teacher, a weather observer at Epping in Essex and a glider pilot and instructor.

- Thursday 4 February, High flow and long-term flood trends in Britain, by Dr Jamie Hannaford, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire.
- Thursday 25 February, The Buncefield Oil Depot Explosion of December 2005: a meteorological perspective, by Dr Helen Webster, Hadley Centre, Meteorological Office, Exeter.
- Thursday 18 March, The Weather and Climate of Cumbria, by Mr Peter Johnson, from Levens, near Kendal. Author of Cumbria's Weather – Your Complete Guide and weather presenter on BBC Radio Cumbria.
- Thursday 9 September, Response of the Greenland Ice Sheet to Contemporary Climate Change by Dr Edward Hanna, University of Sheffield.

A programme of 5 further meetings is planned over the period to the end of March 2011.

A 500 word summary of the academic content of each meeting is placed on the Society's website. Titles of meetings planned for the future are:

- Thursday 27 January, Measuring and predicting sea level changes, By Professor Philip Woodworth, Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Liverpool.
- Thursday 3 February, The influence of weather conditions on the spread of Bluetongue Disease, by Dr Christopher Sanders, Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Woking, Surrey.
- Thursday 17 February, The Exceptional Hailstorm at Ottery St Mary in Devon in October 2008, by Mr Nick Grahame, Operations Centre Guidance Unit Manager, Met Office, Exeter.
- Thursday 3 March, The British Meteorological Office at HQ Bomber Command during the Second World War, by Mr Brian Booth, Former Chief Forecaster at RAF High Wycombe (the Defence Meteorological Centre, Headquarters Strike Command).
- Thursday 17 March, The Spatial Coherence of European Droughts, by Dr Simon Parry, Hydrologist, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

Finance

Income for the year was £400 (received from the Society in February 2010). Expenditure for the year was £240.50 (all in speakers' expenses). The current funds in hand and at the bank are £256.61.

Yorkshire Centre

Committee

Names of committee members are: Sarah Norris, we use the university buildings for free and are supported by the School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds.

Activities

During the year, the Centre held 7 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 40. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- "Atmospheric Services – What does the atmosphere do for you?" – John Thornes. University of Birmingham. Attendance ~ 15
- "Adapting Leeds to climate change" - specifically to the current UKCIP09 projections including 3 examples of applications for transport, e.g. the new trolleybus or bridge investments, and how they are to be adapted in view of the future climate. Dave Cherry. Leeds City Council. Attendance ~ 25
- A joint talk with the Institute of Physics and Environmental Physics Group. "Extreme weather, from Tornadoes to Hurricanes". Ross Reynolds. Reading University. Attendance ~ 100 between the 2 societies.

- The Bayesian's Burden: Or Why Physicists Shrug and Statisticians Scoff (As the Earth Warms) Professor Lenny Smith. Talk run by NCAS with at least 10 Yorkshire Centre members attending.
- "Volcanic ash over Europe – When volcanology meets meteorology –" by Anja Schmidt and Peter Knippertz. ICAS, University of Leeds. Attendance ~ 70
- "Reading the sky : Identifying clouds and using them to interpret the weather situation" - by Douglas Parker, Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds. Attendance ~ 45
- Chasing Tornadoes with VORTEX2, Dr Lindsay Bennett, University of Leeds. Attendance ~ 50

Titles of meetings planned for the future are:

- 13 January - Impacts of climate change on the marine fauna of the Antarctic Peninsula. Dr Cath Waller, Hull University.
- 23 February - High Altitude ballooning and photography of the upper atmosphere. Robert Harrison.

Finance

Any expenses have been met directly by the Society rather than through a subvention.

South West Local Centre

No report was received for 2010. If there are any Members who would like to help re-form the South West Local Centre then they should contact the Society's Chief Executive through 'chiefexec@rmets.org'.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Atmospheric Chemistry

Committee

Dr Mathew Evans, Prof Hugh Coe, Dr James Lee, Dr Rami Alfarra

Activities

During the year, the Centre held 1 meeting on Atmospheric Chemistry: Back into the lab? at which the attendance was 70. A future meeting is planned on Atmospheric Chemistry Modelling: Scales and Complexity.

Finance

Income for the year was £875. Expenditure for the year was £592.07. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1,832.75.

Data Assimilation

Committee

Peter Jan van Leeuwen, Keith Haines, Mike Fisher, Matt Martin, Bruce Ingleby

Activities

During the year the Centre held 1 meeting on 8 April 2010 at the Met Office in Exeter. The meeting was on estimating/representing forecast and model error at which the approximate attendance was 60.

A future meeting is planned for Wednesday 9 March 2011 at University of Reading on “the use of ensembles in data assimilation”.

Finance

There was no income or expenditure in year.

History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

Committee

Malcolm Walker (Chairman), Graham Bartlett, Margaret Deacon, Alan Heasman, Joan Kenworthy, Martin Kidds (Secretary), Julian Mayes, Howard Oliver, David Pedgley, Vernon Radcliffe, Dennis Wheeler, Mick Wood (Treasurer).

Sarah Pankiewicz from the National Meteorological Library and Archive was co-opted onto the committee during the year.

Activities

During the year, the Group held 3 meetings with an approximate average attendance of 80:

- A meeting on the history of the British Rainfall Organization (to mark its 150th anniversary) and the work of G J Symons was held on Saturday 17 April 2010 at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, Zoological Society of London. This was one of the Society’s National Saturday Meetings organized jointly by the History Group and the Meteorological Observing Systems Group. A fitting tribute to Symons’ remarkable legacy this meeting saw a range of speakers review developments past, present and future in the field of rainfall data and its contribution to our understanding of weather and climate. 58 attended. In addition, a ceremony was held to re-dedicate the restored graves of the Symons family at Kensal Rise cemetery in London on St Swithin’s Day, 15 July 2010.
- The Society’s Summer Meeting 2010 was a two day meeting on the theme of “advances in weather forecasting and climate science”, based at Exeter University, was held from Sunday evening 18 July 2010 to Tuesday evening 20 July 2010 organized by Malcolm Walker and the History Group. The meeting included visits to venues locally including the Met Office, National Meteorological Library and Archive, Norman Lockyer Observatory near Sidmouth and Barometer World at Merton. A widely varied programme with excellent talks and visits, with a good balance of subjects covered, made this an outstandingly successful two day meeting. 56 attended over the two days.
- The third ‘Classic papers’ meeting, “Turbulence: a ‘resolved’ problem?” was held at the University of Reading on Wednesday 17 November 2010. This was one of the Society’s National Wednesday meetings organised by the History Group. Another highly successful meeting, 124 attended.

Titles of meetings planned for the future are:

- A meeting on polar meteorology (marking the centenary of Scott's last polar expedition) at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) at Cambridge: to be held on Saturday 26 March 2011. The meeting will include viewing of exhibitions, paintings and historic archive material at the newly refurbished SPRI.
- A meeting on coastal flooding and visit to the Thames Barrier: to be held on Tuesday 21 June 2011. This will include a technical tour and is a joint meeting with the Society’s South East Centre.
- A meeting on the use of aircraft in meteorology (Part 1: up to the 1930s) at the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (to mark the centenary of the outstation at Farnborough and the first use of aircraft for met research): to be held on Saturday 24 September 2011.

- The fourth “classic papers” meeting, on Cloud Physics, at the University of Reading: to be held on Wednesday 16 November 2011. This National Wednesday meeting organized by the History Group will mark the centenary of the invention of the cloud chamber by C.T.R. Wilson.
- A meeting on the Climate, Weather and Health: to be held on Saturday 17 March 2012: at the Civil Service Club, London

Other activities during the year included three newsletters published during 2010, distributed to members and available via the Society’s website. The newsletter continues to include a number of substantial articles and has become a key part of the group’s activities and the subject of much favourable comment. The assistance and support of the Society in printing and publishing this newsletter is greatly appreciated.

The Group continues to maintain on behalf of the Society a list of anniversaries of significant developments in the history of meteorology and physical oceanography. The Group’s Occasional Papers continue to be available via the Society’s website and copies are also held at the National Meteorological Library in Exeter. No new papers were published by the Group during the year; however a number of group members are working on potentially exciting papers for future publication.

The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 80.

Finance

Income for the year was £520.72. Expenditure for the year was £399.42. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £2,035.92 (as at 7 December 2010).

Meteorological Observing Systems

Committee

Steve Colwell (Chairman), Mike Brettle (Treasurer), John Prior (Secretary), Mark Dutton (Newsletter Editor), Dick Saffel, Ian Strangeways, Mike Bennett, Stephen Burt, Suzy Bingham and Keri Nicoll.

During 2010, Andrew Overton stood down at the AGM, and Suzy Bingham (Met Office) and Keri Nicoll (Reading University) joined the committee.

Activities

During the year, the SIG held 3 meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 45. Titles of the meetings held during the year were:

- “The 150th anniversary of the founding of the British Rainfall Organisation” - London, 17 April (jointly with the History SIG).
- AGM and visit to the Chilterns Observatory - Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, 9 July
- “Unmanned aerial vehicle demonstration” - Cardington, Bedfordshire, 23 September.

Titles of meetings planned for the future are:

- “Measuring surface met variables from satellites” - Oxford University, 23 March 2011.
- AGM and manufacturer’s exhibition - Exeter University, June 2011 (part of the Society’s 2011 National Conference).
- Data transmission, presentation and archiving – BAS, Cambridge, autumn 2011.

Other activities during the year included:

- Spring and Autumn Newsletters

- Website with membership information, past Newsletters etc
- Support to other Society-sponsored activities concerning observations e.g. the meeting 4 to 5 September 2010 to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Climatological Observers Link.

Finance

Income for the year was £110 (business account) and £1.33 (deposit account). Expenditure for the year was £139. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1,325.39 (business account) and £2,692.03 (deposit account).

Physical Processes

Committee

Dr John M Edwards

Activities

The group held no meetings in 2010, but a meeting on 'physical processes in polar regions' is being planned for the summer of 2011.

Finances

The group holds no separate funds.

The following Groups have nothing to report:

Dynamical Problems

Weather Service Providers

Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography

The following Groups are currently not functioning because there are no volunteers available to run them. If any members would like to revive either of these they should get in touch with the Chief Executive in the first instance through 'chiefexec@rmets.org'.

Association of British Climatologists

Weather Forecasting

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL (TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales, HonFRMetS

From 1 January to 30 September 2010 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2009.

From 1 October 2010 the following Council held office:

PRESIDENT

Professor Tim Palmer, DPhil, DSc, FRS

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Professor Matthew Collins, PhD, FRMetS (also Chair, Strategic Programme Board)
Norman Lynagh, FRMetS, CMet
Professor Julia Slings, OBE, PhD, DSc

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND

George Meldrum

GENERAL SECRETARY

Bob Riddaway, PhD, FRMetS (also Chair, House Committee)

TREASURER

David Carson, PhD

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Richard Forbes, PhD (Meetings Committee)
Geoff Jenkins, OBE, PhD (Education Committee)
Derek Swannick, FRMetS (Accreditation Board)
Emily Shuckburgh, PhD, FRMetS (Scientific Publishing Committee)

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Jennie Campbell
Richard Griffith
Keith Groves, FRMetS, CMet
Jennifer Rourke, PhD
Oliver Wild, PhD
Curtis Wood, PhD, MinstP

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF COUNCIL

John Hirst, UK Permanent Representative with WMO

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

The Committees listed below are the standing Committees of the Society. Membership of other sub-committees, working groups and similar *ad hoc* bodies are not detailed.

Accreditation Board

Cdr Derek Swannick (Chair)
Dr Andrew Eccleston, Mr Ian Davy (joined in year), Dr David Grimes, Dr Alan Hisscott, Mr Ewen McCallum, Mr David Richardson, Dr Bob Riddaway (ex-officio). Mr David Selway retired from the Board in year.

Awards

Prof Tim Palmer (President and Chair)
Dr Mark Baldwin (co- Editor, *Quarterly Journal*), Prof John Thuburn (co- Editor, *Quarterly Journal*), Dr Peter Burt (Editor, *Meteorological Applications*), Prof Mat Collins (Nominated Vice-President), Dr Alan Gadian (Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*), Prof Peter Lynch, Prof Glenn McGregor (Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*), Dr Adrian Simmons, Dr Neil Wells, Dr Andy White. Prof Keith Browning and Prof Jo Haigh retired in year.

Education

Dr Geoff Jenkins (Chair)
Steve Brace (Representative of the Royal Geographical Society), Dr Roger Brugge, Barry Evans (teacher from Hinchingsbrooke School), Dr Katherine Giles, George Meldrum, Colin Prowse (Teacher Fellow), Robert Pugh (Teacher Fellow), Dr Bob Riddaway, Paula Richardson (Representative of the Geographical Association), Gerard Rourke (Primary school teacher), Taj Bhutta (Representative of the Institute of Physics), Karl Shepherdson. Jane Varley (Representative of the Met Office), Catherine Muller, Ross Reynolds and John Clayton retired in year.

House

Dr Bob Riddaway (Chair)
Dr David Carson (Treasurer)
Mr Norman Lynagh (Nominated Vice-President)
Dr Emily Shuckburgh (Chair of Scientific Publishing).

Meetings

Dr Richard Forbes (Chair)
Dr Karen Aplin, Ms Amanda Maycock (Student Representative), Dr Alison Rudd, Dr John Marsham, Dr Stuart Webster, Dr Hilary Weller, Dr Claire Walsh. Representatives of Special Interest Groups and Local Centres are also invited to attend.

Scientific Publishing

Dr Emily Shuckburgh (Chair)
Dr Peter Burt (Editor, *Meteorological Applications*), Dr Alan Gadian (Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*), Prof Glenn McGregor (Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*), Mr Bob Prichard (Editor, *Weather*), Prof John Thuburn (co-Editor, *Quarterly Journal*), Dr Mark Baldwin (co-Editor, *Quarterly Journal*). Dr Bob Riddaway (General Secretary) and Dr David Carson (Treasurer) retired in year. Representatives of Wiley-Blackwell who attend by invitation: Alexa Dugan, Fiona Murphy, Alex Owen.

Strategic Programme Board

Dr Matthew Collins (Chair and nominated Vice-President)
Dr David Carson (Treasurer), Dr Bob Riddaway (General Secretary), Jennie Campbell (Council Representative).

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Atmospheric Science Letters

Editor: Dr Alan Gadian

Associate Editors:

G Austin, A Bott, G Bryan, S Callaghan, S Ghosh, W Grabowski, S-E Gryning, K Haines, C Jones, R Jones, A Kybett, J McQuaid, S Malinowski, A Miller, R Nieto Muniz, M Pritchard, A Russell, D Schultz, J Thielen, J Vanneste, D Woolf, Y Yan.

International Journal of Climatology

Editor: Prof Glenn McGregor

Regional Editors: A Comrie, N Tapper
Book Review Editor: C Kidd.

Associate Editors:

J C L Chan, H F Diaz, Y H Ding, B N Goswami, S K Gulev, R Huth, I Jolliffe, R H Kripalani, J A Marengo, J Martin-Vide, T Mikami, G Mills, E O'Lenic, T Osborn, D E Parker, A Parker, A Pitman, C Reason, J A Renwick, H Saaroni, S A Solman, I Smith, R L Wilby, D S Wilks.

Meteorological Applications

Editor: Dr Peter Burt

Associate Editors:

J Bech, L Carvalho, L Chapman, C G Collier, A Ghelli, K James, S Keeling, A Kulkarni, A Lau, G Marshall, R Potts, C Power.

Quarterly Journal

Editors: Dr Mark Baldwin and Prof John Thuburn

Associate Editors:

O Alves, M Ambaum, A Brown, D Cornford, S Davolio, M Fantini, P Francis, H Graf, F Guichard, T Haine, A Illingworth, D Jackson, S Jones, P Knippertz, S Larsen, P Lauritzen, M Leutbecher, B Liley, G McFarquhar, J Methven, M Mu, S Polavarapu, B van der Wiel.

WIREs Climate Change

Editor: Prof Mike Hulme

International Advisory Board:

D Carson, A Goudie, M Munasinghe, T O'Riordan.

Associate Editors:

J R Fleming, N Nicholls, H von Storch, T R Carter, L Hannah, I Lorenzoni, L Whitmarsh, G Yohe, S Gardiner, B O'Neill, J Barnett, R Pielke Jr, D Murdiyarso, H Bulkeley, M Betsill, M Lahsen.

Book Programme

European Editor: Dr Peter Inness
Americas Editor: Prof William Beasley

Honorary Librarian

Eric Harris

Course Evaluation & Continuous Professional Development Panel

Andrew Eccleston (Chairperson)
Norman Lynagh, Dr Peter Jonas, Rob Varley.

Representative on the UK Flight Safety Committee

Rob Seaman

Representative on the General Aviation Safety Committee

Anthony Bowles

Representative with the European Meteorological Society

Dr Bob Riddaway

Representatives on Board of the Society for the Environment

Dr Bob Riddaway
Prof Paul Hardaker

Representative on the Science Council

Prof Paul Hardaker

Representative to the International Forum for Meteorological Societies

Prof Paul Hardaker

WITHOUT WHOM

During the year the following Officers and Council members retired from office. Their successors are shown above.

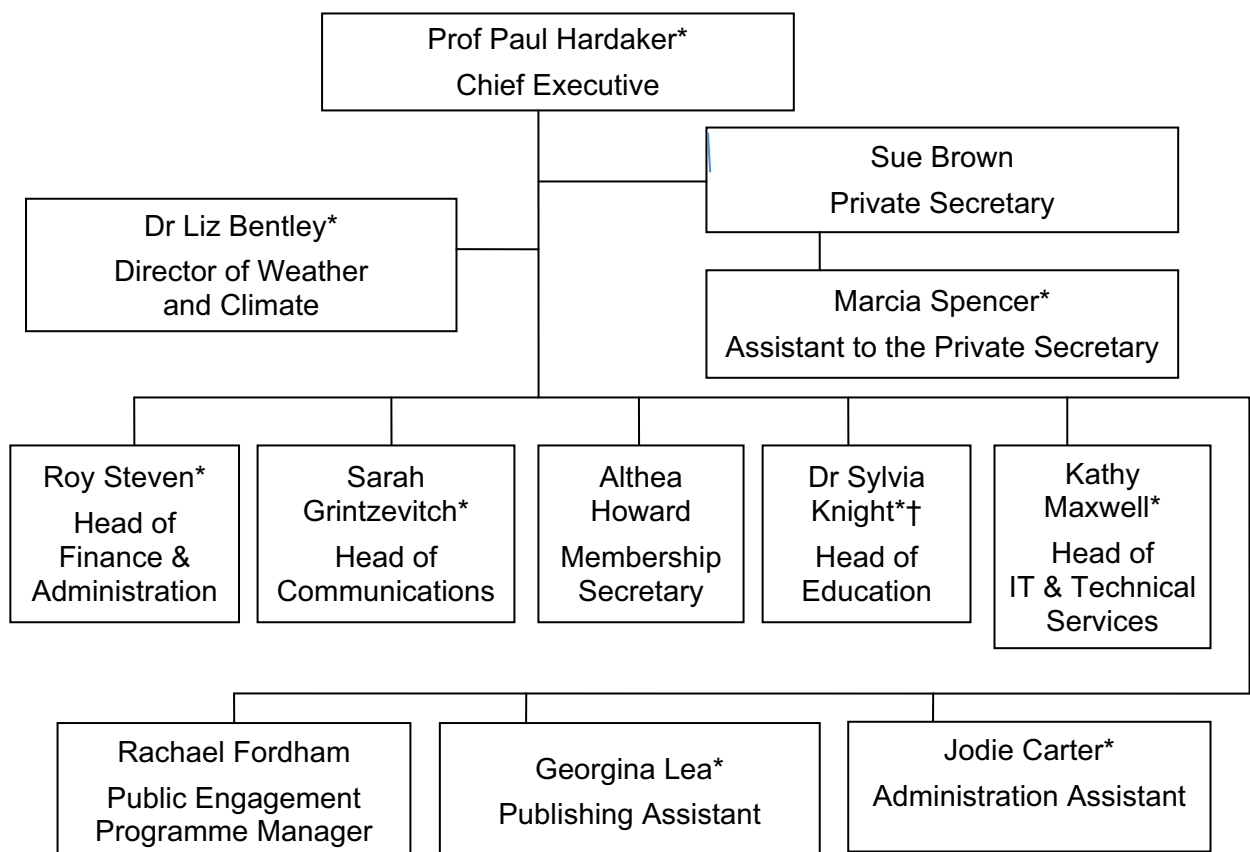
Vice-President: David Anderson, PhD

Ordinary members of Council: Andrew Charlton-Perez, PhD
Professor John Pyle, DPhil, FRS

The Society depends heavily on the valuable work done by those who hold voluntary office. The Society would like to record its grateful thanks to all of those who give up their time and who contribute with great dedication to the work of the Society. The Society could not achieve all that it does without the kind support of all of its volunteers – thank you.

STAFFING AT THE SOCIETY

The Society has a secretariat that supports the day-to-day running of the Society and carries out its executive functions. A detail of the secretariat team and the organisational structure is shown below.



* Part-time posts

† Based in Manchester

Dr Sylvia Knight returned from maternity leave in May and Sarah Grintzevitch left the Society on maternity leave in August. The contracts for Rachael Fordham and Sarah Grintzevitch were both renewed for a further two years during 2010.

Appendix 1: BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIETY

The British Meteorological Society was founded in 1850 and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1866. In 1883 the name was changed to the Royal Meteorological Society. A separate Scottish Society had existed from 1855, but in 1921 was merged with the Royal Meteorological Society. The Society is a United Kingdom Charity with a national and international reach and reputation.

The Royal Charter states that the Society was established “for the advancement of Meteorological Sciences”. That remains the aim of the Society and includes advancement of applications of the science and related sciences, including climatology and climate science, the interaction between the atmosphere and the oceans, and environmental awareness. Copies of the Society’s Charter and By-Laws are available on request.

The Society’s Annual Report and Annual Accounts are submitted to the Annual General Meeting by the Trustees, the Society’s Council, who are elected or re-elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Report illustrates activities during the year which reflect Council’s policies in pursuit of the aim of the Society.

The Royal Meteorological Society (Registered Charity No 208222):

Address: 104 Oxford Road
Reading RG1 7LL
Telephone: 0118 956 8500
Fax: 0118 956 8571
E-Mail: chiefexec@rmets.org
WWW: <http://www.rmets.org>

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc
High Street
Bracknell RG12 1BT

Solicitors: Bristows, Cooke and Carpmael
10 Lincoln’s Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP

Auditors: Porter Garland
Portland House
Park Street
Bagshot, Surrey

Investment Advisors: Rathbone Investment Management Ltd
159 New Bond Street
London W1S 2UD

Investment Powers:

By-Laws (May 2010) 82 and 83 read:

- 82 The monies of The Society which are not subject to any specific trust purpose, and which are not required to meet current expenditure, may be invested in any securities quoted in the official list of any recognised Stock Exchange or placed on deposit with a reputable organisation. Council may only delegate its powers to select and make investments to the extent permitted by the provisions of The Royal Charter and the relevant legislation governing responsibilities of Trustees and Charities¹.
- 83 The Society’s premises shall not be sold or disposed of except with the sanction of a General Meeting of The Society.

¹ Reference should be made to Part IV, Section 11(3) of the Trustees Act 2000.

Appendix 2: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE RESERVES

Principal Objectives

The principal objectives of the Society's reserves are to maintain and make use of capital reserves to:

- Ensure the viability of the Society on a year-by-year basis and in the long term as an assurance against significant financial risks.
- Enable the medium to long-term development of the Society's aims and objectives.

Background and Introduction

The Society derives its primary annual income from a combination of members' subscriptions, sales of publications, and income from investments. The Society holds three types of investments: Tangible Assets, a General Reserve and a Legacies Fund. Council first approved the policy on management of these two last items on 5 December 2001 and this is kept under regular review.

Historically the only major demand (> £100,000) on the reserves has been the purchase of the Oxford Road Headquarters, pending the sale and resolution of the problems with the previous Headquarters (James Glaisher House, in Bracknell). Other demands have been comparatively small (~£50,000 spread over several years) and relate to upgrade of the IT equipment, aside from the capital loan (of £300,000 conditional on achieving business plan targets) made to establish the Weather Club in 2010.

The medium and long-term investment strategy of the Society has been formulated by Council, is overseen by the Society's House Committee and is being implemented by the Chief Executive, who reports to Council four times a year. This policy statement provides guidelines on how the reserves may be used *inter alia* to fund non-recurring costs resulting from proposals in the Society's strategic development programme and to mitigate the major risks of the Society. Individual items of expenditure are presented for Council approval in the normal way.

The Annual Budget

The annual budget covers the income and expenditure of the Society in all its activities, including the reserves. Council sets the budget for the Society and at each meeting receives a forecast of out-turn against the budget. For the purpose of the management accounts, the budget and in-year reporting are broken down into two parts: the General Activities, which relate to the day-to-day operational work of the Society, which includes items such as the maintenance of Tangible Assets for example, and the Development Activities, which define the Society's income and expenditure related to its strategic development programme.

The General Activities will normally be budgeted to balance. The budget for the Development Activities will be set by taking account of the gains on the reserve available for investment in the Society's charitable objectives. This is informed by the Charity Commission's guidelines on the ratio of annual turnover to capital reserve.

The Reserves - Tangible Assets

Tangible assets, which comprise the premises, the furnishings and equipment are essential for conducting the business of the Society and are an effective way of providing "rent free" accommodation. These will be routinely maintained primarily through the annual budget at a level appropriate to provide accommodation and facilities to support the normal operational activities of the Society. This includes committee meetings, but not necessarily the regular Society meetings and conferences. Major changes to tangible assets would be funded on a case-by-case basis through the General Reserve and could include external contributions (e.g. on appeal).

The Reserves - The General Reserve

The role of the General Reserve is basically to provide a degree of financial robustness to the long-term survival and mitigation of the major risks of the Society. In line with the Society's Risk Register and the Development Programme requirements, the General Reserve will:

- provide some resilience against "single event" failures, e.g. a significant failure of a large conference (~£100,000);
- allow front-loaded strategic spend-to-save measures (~£200,000);
- allow some "one-off" expenditures on an opportunist basis (~£100,000);
- allow a recovery period for significant changes in the income/expenditure balance (~£150,000);
- create a margin for medium term market fluctuations (~£100,000).

For this model to work at these sorts of levels over a long period the fund needs to have a topping up mechanism. This has to be through income or growth in the market. This gives a target value of the General Fund and the Legacies Fund together which is approximately equivalent to the annual turnover of the Society.

The Reserves - The Legacies Fund

The policy for this fund is to protect and grow it. Subject to this policy, capital gains and dividends are used to support, in a sustained manner, benefits primarily to individuals through Grants, Awards and Bursaries. More details on these funding schemes are available on the Society's website at 'www.rmets.org/activities/awards/grants/index.php#legacies'.

The number and level of grants and bursaries will be determined by the level of available funds and by second priority call on the General Fund.

The Investment Policy

The Management of Investments

The Council, advised by the House Committee, are responsible for overseeing the Society's investments. At present the management of investments is delegated by Council to a professional Fund Manager. The House Committee reviews performance of the Fund Manager twice a year and Council reviews investments normally quarterly, but at least annually. The choice of Fund Manager is kept under annual review in line with performance and the Society's investment requirements.

Choice of Investments

Investments may be made in cash deposits, property, gilts and equities in such proportions as to endeavour to maximise the total return to the Society over the longer term, typically a period of the Society's Strategic Plan, in order to deliver the required investment for the Society's development programme and to mitigate the Society's major risks. To this end investments should not be held in companies whose activities are contrary to the aims of the Society or its social, environmental and ethical responsibilities as the Professional Body and Learned Society for meteorology.

Where investment is made in equity shares, these should be mainly in FTSE-100 companies and no purchase of a single equity should represent more than 5% of the total portfolio value. This guideline excludes shares held indirectly through, for example, Investment Trusts, where there is already an underlying diversity. If any one holding reaches 20% of the value of the portfolio a partial sale should be considered. The portfolio should be diversified over both market sectors and geographic markets, and no one sector should represent more than 25% of the total portfolio value.

Cash Flow Requirements

Council, when considering the budget, will identify the likely demand for withdrawing funds from the investments over the next financial year and this will be communicated to the Fund Manager so that they are able to anticipate the requirement for sales of investments whilst maximising profits and minimising losses. Any surplus cash on deposit may also be transferred at any time to the Fund Manager for investment at the discretion of the Society's Head of Finance and Administration.



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