



ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales

President: Professor Geraint Vaughan, PhD, FRMetS

The 156th Report of the Council

1st January – 31st December 2006

Submitted to the Annual General Meeting

20th June 2007

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THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

Within the terms of its Royal Charter, the Royal Meteorological Society will advance meteorological and related sciences, their understanding and their applications, and will maintain its position as a world-class professional and learned society. It will provide leadership for all in the weather, climate and related fields.

The Charities Act 2006

The Charities Bill finally received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006 after two and a half years of debate and consultation; its provisions will be phased in during 2007 and 2008. In general the Society welcomes the new legislation, which updates charity law for the new millennium.

One of the major provisions of the Act is that charities must be able to demonstrate that their charitable purposes have a 'public benefit'. It consolidates the categories developed in case law since the original guidance contained in the 1601 Statute of Elizabeth. 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 3 of these categories (numbered as they are in the Act):

(b) 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 MetLink International and RainCatch to stimulate interest of children in meteorology. At higher education levels the Society awards scholarships to students studying meteorological sciences. The Society also actively promotes careers in meteorology and aims to develop the public engagement around meteorological topics such as climate change and severe weather.

(f) The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science. As our Mission states, the Society's aim is to 'advance meteorological and related sciences and their applications' and our activities are all geared to achieve this, by the publication of our journals, public meetings and conference, and the award of bursaries, grants and prizes.

(i) The advancement of environmental protection or improvement. The Society is actively involved in raising the awareness of the impacts of severe weather events, and of global warming and the impacts of climate change. The Society also undertakes to minimise its own impact on the environment as part of the activities of its headquarters team and its committees.

The Act also strengthens the role and resources of the Charity Commission, and clarifies many issues such as the role of trustees and auditors, charity investments, mergers and fundraising, as well as introducing a new legal form of charitable company, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

THE YEAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2006

A brief review of the highlights

2006 was another busy year for the Society. The programme of work was largely dominated by the move of the publishing activities to a single external publisher, John Wiley and Sons. The main benefits of this move were to extend the reach of the Society's journals globally, ensure that the Society is able to respond to the (particular technological) challenges of a modern publishing market place, and to deliver savings through efficiencies in staffing and cost reductions due to economies of scale.

All such transitions are not without their teething troubles, and this is no exception, but the headquarters team and Wiley have worked hard to make this transition as transparent as possible. It is also pleasing to see that the Society has already begun to realise some of the cost reductions and seen a large increase in readership of its journals in developing countries through the international aid programmes operated by Wiley.

The Society published a number of new educational resources in 2006, including in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh, 'The Science of Weather: a primary school resource', a DVD of secondary school educational material distributed to Scottish schools free of charge and made available to all on-line, and four 'Talks in a Box' PowerPoint presentations for use by School Corporate Members. Work also continued on an extensive cataloguing of the Society's holdings of archive material.

The Society was actively involved in the first review of the NVQ/SVQ in Weather Forecasting and Observing, following their successful introduction and uptake. The review was completed and the NVQ/SVQ qualifications were accredited for a further three years, until the end of 2009 which is the next scheduled review date. The Society was also pleased to note that it awarded its 50th CMet in 2006. At the end of 2006 there were 53 registered CMets and some 185 of the existing Fellows have been accepted for the public use of FRMetS.

Sir John Mason, FRS bestowed on the Society a very generous gift to support a new Society prize that celebrates an 'outstanding contribution to the understanding of the fundamental processes that determine the variability and predictability of weather and climate'. Council named this the Mason Gold Medal and it ranks along side of the Symons Gold Medal as the pre-eminent award of the Society. The first award of the Medal went to Professor Paul Mason, CB, FRS for his 'pioneering contribution over a long period to the basic understanding of boundary-layer processes'. The Society marked this special occasion with a reception for Society members followed by a lecture from Professor Mason.

In 2006 the Society said goodbye to Dr Richard Pettifer, who retired in October, after a long and very distinguished career in the public, private and charity sectors of meteorology. The Society is indebted to Dr Pettifer's dedication and unstinting commitment. He oversaw a great deal of changes during his seven years with the Society and has helped to position the organisation as a modern, fit for purpose Professional body and Learned Society. We wish him well for a very long and happy retirement.

WITHOUT WHOM

During the year the following Officers and Council members retired from office. Their successors are shown on page 32, 33 and 34.

President:	Professor C G Collier
Vice Presidents:	Professor R J Gurney
Vice-President for Scotland:	Mr D C Paterson
General Secretary:	Dr P Ryder
Treasurer:	Dr D J Pick
Ordinary members of Council:	Dr P J A Burt Dr D J Parker Dr H Rogers Dr I Roulstone Dr N L H Wood
Chairman, Publications Committee and Editor of Atmospheric Science Letters (ASL)	Professor P Hardaker

The Society depends heavily on the valuable work done by those who hold voluntary office and we record the thanks of the Society to all of them for their services.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2007

Further developments within the Society are expected over the next three years. Now that the Wiley contract is in place, the Society plans to look at additional opportunities to build on this relationship. Two such areas of work are the potential development of a Society book programme and a root and branch review of the portfolio of Society journals.

The Society also plans to embark on an extensive web development project. The project will look to replace much of the underpinning technology of the Society's web site, to ensure that this is fit for purpose as one of the Society's key mechanisms for delivering benefits to its different stakeholder groups. This will also include a re-design of the presentational and usability aspects of the site.

Plans are also in place to extend the Society's public outreach programme. This will include new multi-media content on the web site aimed at interested members of the general public, and a new popular publication to promote and stimulate interests in meteorology.

In addition, the Education Committee plans to revisit its strategy and reviews of the Society's Meetings Programme and Scholarship funding are already scheduled for the second half of 2007. The Society also plans its first significant review of membership for some time, and Council plans to review the Society's Governance structures to ensure that they follow best practice and comply with the new Charities Act.

THE WEATHER OF 2006

After three years of marking time, 2006 saw a renewed upward surge of warmth which began in May and continued until the end of the year. By contrast, the first four months were consistently rather cold with frequent overnight frosts, but January and February were both dry months and snow was once again in short supply in most parts of the country. The only disruptive snowfalls occurred in March when Scotland was badly hit. Arguably, the centrepiece of the year was the exceptionally hot July – the heat often accompanied by high humidity and a threat of thunderstorms – but, uncharacteristically, it was followed by a relatively cool and unsettled August. Most hot Julys in Britain are followed by warm or hot Augusts, and the drop in mean temperature between these two months in 2006 appears to have been unprecedented in available records.

Temperatures

The moderately low temperatures at the start of the year continued throughout March and April, and the first four months of 2006 were the coolest such grouping since 1996. The changeover happened during the first week of May: the temperature reached 21°C for the first time anywhere in the UK on May 3rd, the latest date to reach this level for 23 years, and on May 4th the mercury climbed to 28°C, the earliest date to reach this level since 1995. August apart, records were approached in every single month thereafter: June was the warmest since 1976, July the equal-hottest in over three centuries of records, September also the equal-warmest on record, October ranked third-warmest, November was the warmest in some regions since 1994, and December widely the warmest since 1988. Records were also broken for the autumn quarter, and for the summer half-year. The Central England Temperature for the calendar year 2006 was 10.90°C, beating the previous record of 10.67°C established in 1990.

Rainfall

Although some hosepipe bans remained in force in Southeast England until the end of the year, the lengthy water shortage which had begun in November 2004 effectively ended in September 2006. There had been scattered periods of wet weather earlier, notably in late-March and in late-May, but heavy rains returned to eastern and central regions in August, and to all parts of the country from September onwards, and Glasgow broke local rainfall records in both November and December. At the end of July it looked as though 2006 was going to mount a challenge for some drought records but by the year's end most regions had collected near or slightly above-average amounts of rain.

Sunshine

July again stole the limelight as far as sunshine records were concerned, the aggregate sunshine during the month of 301 hours (averaged over England and Wales) beating the previous July record set way back in 1911. November was also the sunniest on record over much of the eastern half of the UK, and December records were broken in eastern Scotland and northeast England as well. In fact, sunshine was plentiful throughout the year (only March and August were cloudier than average) in all eastern, central and southern parts of Britain, but annual sunshine totals were still well short of those logged during the record-breaking year of 2003. Much of western and northern Scotland ended up with a small deficit.

Apart from all the broken records – always good copy in newspaper and broadcast newsrooms – the weather also hit the headlines on other occasions. Deep snow stranded Saturday night clubbers in Glasgow on March 12th-13th; severe thunderstorms, hailstorms, and minor tornadoes were frequent occurrences between July and October; a trawler capsized with the loss of all hands in a severe North Sea gale on October 26th; a tornado caused damage to property in Kensal Rise, northwest London, on December 7th; and in southern and central England fog persisted for much of the four-day period December 19th-22nd, seriously disrupting air travel at one of the busiest times of the year.

FINANCE

The accounts for the year ending 31st December 2006 are appended to this Annual Report. The Auditors' report as usual appears as the front page and certifies that in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31st December 2006. The format of these accounts meets the requirements of the Charity Commissioners.

The Society continues to be in a good financial state. The expenditure for the year exceeded the income by some £109,000, but the investment revaluation gains of £97,000 resulted in a net deficit of only £12,000. The investment gains reflect the continuing market recovery of equities. This deficit is part of a planned programme of over-spend to invest a greater proportion of the Society's Capital Reserve on development initiatives that place the Society in a stronger position to deliver its charitable objectives.

The Legacies fund benefited substantially by £24,000 as a result of a final payment of the very generous donation from the estate of Rod (Waldo) Lewis.

The Publications, and in particular the *Quarterly Journal*, continued to be a major source of income for the Society and resulted in an overall contribution of about £95,000. 2006 was the last year that QJ and Weather will be published directly by the Society, and from 2007 onwards the journal income will be received in the form of profit share from the net income received by J Wiley & Sons. The expenditure for the year included scholarship grants of just under £30,000 and legal fees of £7,000 concerning the publishing changes.

Membership subscription income has slightly increased to £136,000. Administration Support and Establishment Costs that are apportioned against activities in the Accounts were marginally down on the 2005 level, resulting from a continuing downward pressure on administrative costs.

Both the income and expenditure from Meetings were reduced substantially from the 2005 figure as there was no major conference during the year.

Staff costs were £44,000 (6%) up on 2005 due mainly to the replacement of the Executive Director (following Richard Pettifer's retirement) with a new Chief Executive in October, together with a hand-over period and a pension payment to the outgoing Executive Director. The staff complement otherwise remained constant through the year.

The notes to the accounts are largely self-explanatory and provide more insight into the way the numbers have been derived.

MEMBERSHIP

The following table shows the Society's Membership at 31st December 2006 with comparative figures for 2005.

Grade of Membership	2005	2006
Honorary Member	18	20
Life Fellow	41	41
Fellow	1920	1849
Associate Fellow	897	854
Associate Fellow (student)	156	96
Corporate Body	73	69
TOTAL	3105	2929

The Society learned with regret of the deaths in 2006 of the following:

David Cazes, Northampton; George Clark, Fort William; Paul Crispin, London; David Darbyshire, Preston; George Day, Newport; Geoffrey Haworth, Norfolk; Wynand Hofmeyr, South Africa; Peter Howard, Surrey; Kirill Kondratyev, St Petersburg; Jane Love, Ayrshire; Joseph Meardon, Shropshire; Anthony Morse, Spain; Norman Orr, W Sussex; Wilfred Rawlinson, Kent; Peter Sambrook, Walsall; Alan Stemmler, Cheshire; David Thomas, Surrey, Philip Thomas, Norfolk.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Work continues on the extensive cataloguing of the Society's books and pamphlets both at the Society's Headquarters and held on loan at the National Meteorological Archives in Exeter. The majority of this work is expected to be complete in 2007.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Society is delighted to announce that it will make the following Awards in 2007 for the 2006 year:

The Symons Gold Medal

to Professor Brian Hoskins, University of Reading

The Buchan prize

to Dr Alan Grant, Met Office

The L F Richardson prize

to Dr John Methven, University of Reading

The Hugh Robert Mill prize

to Professor Geoff Austin, University of Auckland, New Zealand

The Adrian Gill prize

to Professor Peter Cox, University of Exeter

The Michael Hunt Award

to Dr Ross Bannister, University of Reading

The *International Journal of Climatology* Award

to Dr I Auer, Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics, Vienna, Austria

The Society Outstanding Service Award

jointly to Mr Keith Herrington, Bracknell, and Mrs Margaret McGraw, Royal Meteorological Society

The Gordon Manley Weather Prize

to Mr Jim Galvin, Met Office

The Jehuda Neumann prize

to Mr Oliver Ashford, Didcot, Oxon

The *Quarterly Journal Review* Award

to Dr Gordon Inverarity, Met Office

The James Paton Prize

awarded, by the Scottish Centre, to Mr Neil Barker

Honorary Membership

to Dr Peter Ryder, Bracknell

EDUCATION

Strategy implementation

Progress in 2006 on delivery of the Education Strategy was as follows:

- The handbook called *The Science of Weather: a primary school resource*, which was published by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2005, was made available on the Royal Meteorological Society's web site towards the end of 2006 (<http://www.rmets.org/education/scienceofweather.php>). The book was written by Victoria Aldridge, George Meldrum and Hamish Ross and contains ideas and lesson plans to enhance the teaching of weather studies in the primary school.
- Extension of the primary-level work to the secondary level was carried out during the academic year 2005/2006, with Oliver Bray, an East Lothian schoolteacher, serving as the project leader. The aim of the initiative was to produce a DVD containing high-quality, adaptable, copyright-free and user-friendly educational material for distribution free of charge to all Scottish schools and also made available online. The work was funded by the Royal Meteorological Society, with additional support provided by the East Lothian Education Authority and the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers. The DVD will be published in 2007 and its contents made available soon afterwards on the Society website.
- Four 'Talks in a Box' PowerPoint presentations were published on the Society website in May 2006 for use by School Corporate Members and others who require off-the-shelf presentations when giving talks. The titles of the four presentations are: *Clouds; Thunderclouds and cloud hazards; Weather systems over the British Isles; Tornadoes and hurricanes*.

Internet projects and other interactions with teachers

The major activity of 2006 was the online project *MetLinkInternational* (www.metlink.org) and the project was again directed by the Education Resources Manager with the assistance of John Harris (Radley College), John Clayton (a retired schoolteacher) and Kathy Maxwell (the Society's IT Manager). The active phases of the project were from 30 January to 10 February and 25 to 29 September, supported by weather reviews, weather charts, webcam pictures, satellite images and educational exercises.

The trend for the number of participants continued to grow, with more than 450 schools and individuals in 61 countries registered. However, only 200 of the 450 entered observations in the *MetLink* database during the active phases, a smaller number than in 2005, when more than 250 entered data. The reason for the downturn in active participation is not known, despite requests for feedback, but the fact that the September phase was early in the academic year for schools in the northern hemisphere may well have been a significant factor in causing the disappointing participation level. Pleasingly, though, quite a number of schools and individuals continued to enter observations in the database after the active phases had finished and some did so for many weeks. Indeed, *MetLink* has effectively become an all-year project, with at least 15 and sometimes more than 25, observations in the database every day of the year.

The online project called *RainCatch*, which first ran in October 2005, was repeated during the period 6 to 10 November 2006. It was again restricted to schools and individuals in the United Kingdom and Ireland and intended for children aged 8-12 and individuals of any age. The project's website (www.raincatch.org) was designed and maintained by Kathy Maxwell and the project was directed by the Education Resources Manager with the assistance of John Harris and John Clayton. The weather was disappointing during the week of the project in that comparatively little rain fell anywhere in the British Isles. High pressure predominated and the fronts which brought precipitation were mostly rather weak. Perhaps the lack of wet

weather, which was such a contrast to *RainCatch 2005*, was the reason why only 32 of the 125 registered participants actually entered rainfall measurements in the database. Of the 32, 16 were schools and 16 individuals, one of the latter the Society's Education Resources Manager.

The Education Resources Manager helped organize, and attended, the Seventh International Conference on School and Popular Meteorological and Oceanographic Education (EWOC 2006), which was held in Boulder (Colorado) from 3 to 7 July 2006. He presented a Keynote Address on *The educational strategy of the Royal Meteorological Society*, a paper on *The online weather projects of the Royal Meteorological Society* and posters entitled *The Royal Meteorological Society's educational activities*, *MetLinkInternational – the Royal Meteorological Society's principal online weather project* and *RainCatch – an online weather project for children aged 8-12 and individuals of any age*. Chairman of the Society's Education Committee George Meldrum, with co-authors Vicki Aldridge and Ollie Bray, presented a paper entitled *A multi-agency approach to teacher secondment* and Vicki and Ollie presented a poster entitled *New resources for schools: multi-agency educational initiatives of the Royal Meteorological Society*. Ross Reynolds spoke on *Weather science short courses for 'talented and gifted' school students in England* and the Education Resources Manager presented a paper written by Sylvia Knight and a number of her colleagues on *Climateprediction.net as a weather and climate learning resource for schools and the general public*.

Further contact with teachers and students was achieved through the involvement of the Education Resources Manager in the Annual Conference of the Association for Science Education and the Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Geographical Association. At the former, held in Reading in early January, he presented, with Geoff Jenkins, a workshop on *Setting up and using a school weather station*. At the latter, held in Manchester in April, he gave a talk entitled *What's happening to our climate* and also, with Sylvia Knight and George Meldrum, manned a Royal Meteorological Society stand. The stand was again in evidence at the Annual Conference of the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers held in Dundee, manned by George Meldrum.

Earth Science Education Forum for England and Wales

The aims of this Forum are to promote earth science in education at all levels and to bring together for this purpose all relevant organizations. The Education Resources Manager attended several meetings of the Forum during the year.

Educational enquiries

Apart from requests for careers leaflets, the rate of flow of enquiries received from teachers, students, careers advisers and other members of the public decreased sharply in 2006, hopefully as a result of the FAQ facility which was made available on the Society's website (www.rmets.org/faq.php).

Meteorological instruments

Towards the end of the year, the Society's stock of instruments for loan to members was enhanced by the purchase of three maximum/minimum thermometers, three wet- and dry-bulb hygrometers, three self-assembly temperature screens, two "Windy" hand-held anemometers (made by Navis) and two "Skywatch Eole" wind-speed meters (made by JDC Instruments).

Grants to Society members

Two applications for funding were received and approved in the latter part of 2006, both from School Corporate Members, one for purchasing meteorological instruments (£190 granted), the other for help towards replacement of an automatic weather station (£400 granted). Both of these members have taken part in MetLinkInternational for several years.

MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Meetings, lectures and conferences continue as one of the main activities of the Society, facilitating communication between members, the wider scientific community and the public. Meetings are only possible because of the voluntary work of the meeting organisers and the Society Meetings Committee, the dedication of the Society staff and the commitment of those who attend the meetings. Special thanks are extended to all those who have contributed in 2006.

Wednesday meetings

Wednesday meetings are aimed at a "broad meteorological audience" and are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month (from October to May) at the Zoological Society Meeting Rooms in North London. The following meetings took place in 2006:

January:	Palaeoclimates
February:	Urban meteorology
March:	Hurricanes
April:	Forecasting UK and European winters
May	Symons lecture delivered by Julian Lord Hunt
June	Presidential Address and AGM
October:	The upper troposphere and lower stratosphere: improvements in our understanding
November:	Process modelling: how does it help?
December:	Environmental stress

Feedback forms are collected at every meeting and summary statistics for the whole year are given below. The average attendance at the meetings in 2006 was 78 people. Feedback forms collected at the meetings have been analysed and the following statistics produced.

Content	%	Quality of Presentation	%	Level of Specialisation	%
Very interesting	62	Consistently good	38	Too specialised	4
Reasonably interesting	38	Mostly good	59	About right	94
Disappointing	0	Patchy	3	Too general	2
		Poor	0		

These are very similar to previous years, and it was pleasing to see that the meetings continue to be well received.

Saturday meetings

Saturday meetings are aimed at the non-specialists and, in recent years, have benefited from co-sponsorship by other organisations. The following meetings were held in 2006:

January:	A celebration of the 200 th anniversary of the Beaufort Scale
February:	Weather and Sailing
October:	A joint meeting with the General Aviation Safety Committee on the topic of weather and safe flying

Conferences

No major conference was held in 2006. The Student body, who are now formally represented on the Society's Meetings Committee, held their annual Student Assembly at the University of East Anglia.

Summer visit

Some 30 people visited the British Antarctic Survey in July.

Special Interest Groups and Local Centres

A large number of special interest group meetings and local centre meetings were held in 2006. Of particular note has been the revitalisation of the North West Centre who have held some very popular meetings during the year.

The Mason Gold Medal lecture

Professor Paul Mason received the inaugural Mason Gold Medal in September and gave an accompanying Lecture at an evening meeting organised by the Society to celebrate the occasion. This was held at the Institute of Physics in London.

Publicity for meetings

Systems were put in place in 2006 to circulate details of meetings via email groups to ensure more effective publicity. Further work is planned for 2007 to more actively promote all of the Society's local and national meetings.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

WMO Meteorologists

Acquired Rights were granted to almost 200 non-graduate forecasters from the Met Office and Royal Navy. The *acquired rights* recognise that the qualifications and experience of these forecasters may be regarded as degree equivalent so enabling them to conform to the guidelines in the revised WMO 258 and, in particular, the requirements of ICAO for forecasting for international civil aviation. These requirements come into force from 1st January 2007. In addition the Board confirmed that over 200 forecasters from the same organisations automatically satisfied the new requirements.

National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) in Weather Forecasting (level 4) and Meteorological Observing (level 3)

The revised NVQ/SVQ at level 4 and NVQ at level 3 have been approved at a recent three-yearly review and are accredited until the end of 2009. Unfortunately the SVQ at level 3 is no longer available due to lack of demand.

Since November 2005 the three assessment centres operated by the Met Office, Weathernews (UK) Ltd and the Maritime Warfare School, Hydrographic and Meteorological Training Group (MWS-HMTG) have jointly awarded three Forecaster (level 4) and five Observer (level 3) N/SVQs.

The assessment centre operated by Weathernews (UK) Ltd is no longer able to accept new registrations due to restructuring of the company, but it will continue to process those already working towards their SVQs.

Chartered Meteorologist and FRMetS

The work of the Course Evaluation / Continuous Professional Development Panel continued in assessing the CPD returns from CMets, 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 and their outcomes.

2006 Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) Applications				
Applications in progress at 1/1/06	New Accreditations granted during 2006	Accreditations refused/withdrawn during 2006	Applications in progress at 31/12/06	Total number of CMets at 31/12/06
9	5	0/1	5	53
CPD Returns				
Number of returns reviewed		Number of returns not approved		
17		0		
Applications for the public use of FRMetS – existing Fellows				
Applications for public use	Applications approved	Applications refused	Total number of FRMetS (existing Fellows) at 31/12/06	
12	12	0	185	

The Course Evaluation Panel approved courses from the University of East Anglia and the University of Plymouth as providing the minimum level of knowledge required by a CMet.

Chartered Environmentalist

One application has been received for Chartered Environmentalist, which is currently in progress. To date the Society has accredited six CEnvts through its license from the Society for the Environment.

PUBLICATIONS

An eventful, and historic, year

Members of the Publishing Committee played an active role in the debate leading to the decision taken by Council in June 2006 to appoint John Wiley as the publisher of the Society's portfolio of journals. The Committee has subsequently played a key role in the process of transferring the work to Wiley, and in particular, the Committee acts as a conduit for feedback from the various editorial boards to the Chief Executive.

During the summer of 2006, various members of the Wiley team had consultations with members of the editorial boards to discuss matters ranging from the use of the new document handling system, Manuscript Central, to the strategy for marketing and promoting the portfolio of journals. Representatives from Wiley will attend the meetings of the Publishing Committee, not only to ensure effective communication on all matters relating to our publishing activities, but to cultivate the partnership we now have with them.

With Professor Hardaker's appointment as Chief Executive of the Society in October 2006, Professor Ian Roulstone took over as Acting Chairman of the Committee, and Dr Emily Shuckburgh as Acting co-Chair. It is envisaged that, if elected, Professor Roulstone will move from being acting Chairman to take over formally as Chairman in October 2007 for 12 months and Dr Shuckburgh will take the Chair of the Committee in October 2008.

In the background the debate on the future of scientific publishing in the UK has continued. We see this as an important issue for the future of journal publications and as such the Society has remained an active participant in this on-going debate.

The Society continued to maintain its wide range of publishing activities and just some of these highlights from 2006 are outlined below.

Quarterly Journal

The Editors have been working closely with the production team at Wiley to ensure a smooth transition to the new A4 format and style – a radical step for the *QJ*! We are also hoping to recruit new members to the editorial board from China and the Far East – an emerging 'market' that the *QJ* must take steps to engage with and cultivate.

The number of members and subscribers taking *QJ* decreased from 824 in 2005 to 785 in 2006, which comprised 633 print (and print + online) copies and 152 for those taking online only (including the free subscriptions for *QJ* editors).

Papers for two special issues will be published in 2007 by Wiley – Map-II and ADRIEX. MAP-II is currently with Wiley for copy editing and should be published as April B 2007. There are plans for two further special issues – EAQUATE and COST723, which will probably be published towards the end of 2007 or early 2008. Special issues have been beneficial to the Society's finances in recent years, but can place considerable strain on the office at HQ. As a consequence of this, *QJ* currently has a policy of only handling, at most, one special issue at any one time. We shall, of course, review this situation with Wiley once the transition has settled down and we have published one or two special issues with them.

As part of our strategy to improve the standing of the *QJ*, the Board has started to solicit review papers from prominent scientists, which it is felt will improve the impact factor. It is envisaged that review papers will be the leading article in the edition of the *QJ* in which they appear, and such papers may also play an important role in marketing the journal (for example, as sample reprints available at conferences).

International Journal of Climatology

Subscriptions increased by 4.3% in 2006 while full-text downloads experienced an increase of 37%, which is encouraging. The average time from submission of papers to final decision is approximately 4.4 months, which is considered very good and far better than in previous years. It is hoped that online submission and review through Manuscript Central will improve the situation even further.

As with the *QJ*, a number of review articles have been published. These reviews are valued by readers as these effectively summarise the current state of the field in topical subjects, and in some cases present a research agenda for the near future. Such papers enjoy a high level of citation and usage.

The impact factor has been maintained at around 1.6 but there are concerns that the low level of citation in 2004 will affect the impact factor for 2007. It is the intention of the editorial team to make the impact factor a high priority for 2007 which hopefully will see an affect on the impact factor in following years.

Meteorological Applications

Members of the Editorial Board are working extremely hard on editing activities, and the ongoing expansion of the Editorial Board will mean that the editing load is shared more evenly. Associated with this expansion is an improved network of communication with authors. Paper turnover times are decreasing. For example, most of the papers to be published in 13:4 have times between receipt and acceptance of between two and nine months. It is anticipated that the switchover to electronic submission of manuscripts will reduce this further, although it is likely to have a finite impact on the final publication times as the Journal is still published quarterly.

The Editorial Board is being expanded to include a greater number of non-UK members, with the aim of engaging scientists at 'local' centres overseas (especially in non-EU countries) in the Journal, both from an editorial and a publicity viewpoint. No formal target number of Editorial Board members has been identified at present, although an informal target of at least two dozen is envisaged. The marketing team from Wiley has been developing a more detailed marketing strategy for the Journal, targeting overseas conferences and meetings and improving the Journal's publicity material. It is planned to send 'packs' of publicity material to all Editorial Board members for them to take to meetings. Overall, the marketing strategy is evolving and will occupy a large part of the Journal's non-publishing activities over the next six months.

Consideration is being given to a series of themed issues and invited review papers. It was agreed to publish a specialist supplement in 2006, although the future of this is now in doubt, and one themed issue is planned for 2007.

Atmospheric Science Letters

Dr Alan Gadian took over from Professor Paul Hardaker as editor-in-chief in April 2006.

ASL as an electronic Journal has relatively rapid turn-around. The role of the journal is for short letters (eg Stott and Karoly, September 2006, which raised the journal's profile on television and in the press), and we plan to continue with this goal in mind. The main competitors are ACP, BAMS, and the new open access IOP journal. We see *ASL* as supplying the extra element of rapid electronic publishing to the existing Society journals

The exposure of the journal needs improving. In the UK, there are now AEs from UEA, MO, Manchester, Leeds, Reading. There is a need for another AE (possibly deputy editor) in the

US, Asia and other overseas countries. In the EU we have an AE in Italy and France, but would like to include Germany and may be one other country.

The journal is due to receive its first Impact Factor rating within the next few months. Although the size of each published volume is small, it is essential that publication deadlines are met. It is anticipated that a “respectable” rating will not be achieved for a further two years. Quality is difficult to assess currently, and is susceptible to a current deluge of papers arriving from the Indian sub-continent.

The fast response of the journal enables us to attract topical items (eg Professor Hardaker soliciting a paper on climate change) and papers on topical subjects. This is being kept in focus by discussion at Editors’ meetings and by proactive use of invited papers.

The role and manner of electronic journals is rapidly changing. It is apparent that open access, no page charges journals will become more commonplace. The major question is can a suitable financial model be created which would allow the Society to have at least one such publication in its portfolio?

Weather

The Wiley marketing team have developed a detailed marketing plan for *Weather* which has been discussed at meetings of the Editorial Board. The key features include heightened promotion at conferences (where the initial feedback has been positive), distribution to librarians in North America, inclusion in specialist brochures and advertising within related Wiley journals, including some not published by the Society. A further objective is to encourage student readership. This is seen as essential in view of the current age profile of the readership and as a means of capitalising on the high profile of the climate change debate and the visual impact of papers that can be attained following the redesign in 2004. A further advantage of this promotion would be the potential for increasing the membership of the Society. Further benefits are expected to accrue from the enhanced online presence and through contacts that Board members are able to make at conferences and other events, supported by Wiley.

Weather has a particular objective of promoting popular science education. In the past this has been achieved by running occasional Schools Supplements. More recently this objective has been implicitly acknowledged in the range and technical level of papers. Plans are being developed now to create a new education series that has the aim of bringing readers up-to-date with new methods of meteorological observation, how such information can be interpreted on the web and the ways in which observations are incorporated into forecast models. This will include a number of review papers.

We have also commissioned a number of articles to keep readers up-to-date on new developments in climate change. The special issues on Arctic climate change (March and April issues in 2006) brought several such papers together. The Weather News page in each issue provides a brief summary of noteworthy research developments.

The Editorial Board now has a standing item each year to review the strategic objectives of the journal. This gives an opportunity to consider the longer-term development of content, as opposed to short-term issues. Priorities at present include the encouragement of younger readers (especially students) and the importance of maintaining the role of *Weather* as a bridge between the professional and wider communities. There is also potential for reinforcing specific objectives of the Society.

Society News

Society News, as an integral part of *Weather*, seeks to include more items of interest for its members on topical meteorology, climatology and climate change. We need to ask members what they would like to see in *Society News*, and whether we are currently fulfilling their expectations. There may be scope for more items, like the above, although the Society must remain academically sound and politically neutral.

Society News needs to keep items up-to-date and reflect the important weather and climate issues of the day. As well as having our standard items, for example, New Members, Deaths, CMet, Awards, Conference information, it is important that members see that Society is proactive in topical issues. This will reinforce our brand as an active organisation, but it should also make room for all types of members, for example, academics, students, current professionals, amateurs, retired. This should be kept under review by the Editor of *Society News*, the Editor of *Weather* and Society Chief Executive.

Acknowledgements and special thanks

As always, the Committee and the Society's publications rely heavily on many people to deliver the diverse programme of work we undertake each year, and this is our opportunity to pass on our particular thanks to those who have supported us throughout 2006.

On the editorial board of the *QJ*, Dr R Grainger retired and was replaced by Dr Ben Liley. Dr Pete Francis replaced Dr Jonathan Taylor, Dr Maurizio Fantini replaced Dr Andrea Buzzi, and Dr Oscar Alves replaced Dr Harry Hendon.

The Editors of *QJ* would like to thank the Copy Editors (Mr S G Cornford, Mr K Grant, Mr R N Hardy, Mr J. Hopkins, Mrs S A Oliver, and Dr P W White) for their important contributions. Mr Cornford, Mr Hardy and Mrs Oliver decided to retire from copy editing and we have written to them thanking them for their valued contribution over the years.

Professor Nigel Tapper (Monash University, Australia) was appointed Regional Editor of *IJOC* for Australasia.

Finally the Committee would like to thank the Sub-Editor Ms Virginia Robins and Editorial Assistant Mrs Alison Hunter for their constant hard work and efficiency – thank you.

THE EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY (EMS)

EMS Membership

EMS is now an Association of 35 Meteorological Societies from 29 European countries. In addition it has 27 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services (eg Met Office, Deutscher Wetterdienst and Météo France), international institutions (eg ECMWF and EUMETSAT) and commercial companies.

- **New Member Societies:** Associació de Meteorologia I Ciències de l'Atmosfera d'Andorra and the Meteorological Section of the Polskie Towarzystwo Geofizyczne (PTG).
- **New Associate Members:** Instituto Nacional de Meteorología (Spain), National Meteorological Administration (Romania), Finish Meteorological Institute and Hungarian Weather Service (OMSZ).

The Society continues as a permanent member of the EMS Council.

Representation

Since 2002 Dr David Axford has represented the Society at EMS meetings. He has held the posts of EMS Vice-President, Treasurer and Chairman of the Accreditation Committee. In all these roles he has made a valuable contribution to the activities of the EMS. Also as the Society's representative he has ensured that the interests of the Society are always given full consideration. The last meeting he attended was the 14th EMS Council in Helsinki in March 2006.

The Society is now represented by Dr Bob Riddaway who is also the existing Chairman of the EMS Publications Committee. The role of Chairman of the EMS Accreditation Committee has been taken on by Dr Howard Lyne who is Chairman of the Society's Accreditation Board. Dr Riddaway and Dr Lyne attended the 15th EMS Council and 8th EMS General Assembly held in Ljubljana in October.

Dr David Burridge took over from Professor Werner Whery as EMS President in September 2005. He has proved to be a very effective President and has taken the lead in clarifying the role of the EMS.

General Matters

Dr Martina Junge has replaced Arne Spekat as Executive Secretary. Some of her key activities have been taking a leading role on organising the Annual Meetings and planning and implementing a relaunch of the EMS website. The Bureau of the EMS continues to be located in the Institut für Meteorologie in the Freie Universität Berlin.

The Strategy Implementation Group has identified some short-, medium- and long-term actions that would satisfy the EMS mission and objectives. The Group was asked to continue its work and prepare a paper for consideration at the EMS Council Meeting in spring 2007.

Finance

The auditor of the accounts for 2005 indicated that there should be:

- Clearer evidence of the link between expenditure on travel and subsistence and the mission of the EMS.

- A timely presentation of the settlement of the EMS Annual Meeting so that this can be included in the audit for the relevant calendar year.

Action has been taken to address these points. Expenditure in 2006 was in line with the budget and a balanced budget was agreed for 2007.

At the General Assembly in Ljubljana it was agreed that membership fees would be increased annually in line with the inflation in Europe based on the data available from the *Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices* published by Eurostat. This results in an increase of membership fees of 2% for 2007.

Committees

During the year the various EMS Committees on Accreditation, Awards, Education, Media and Publications continued to act on behalf of EMS.

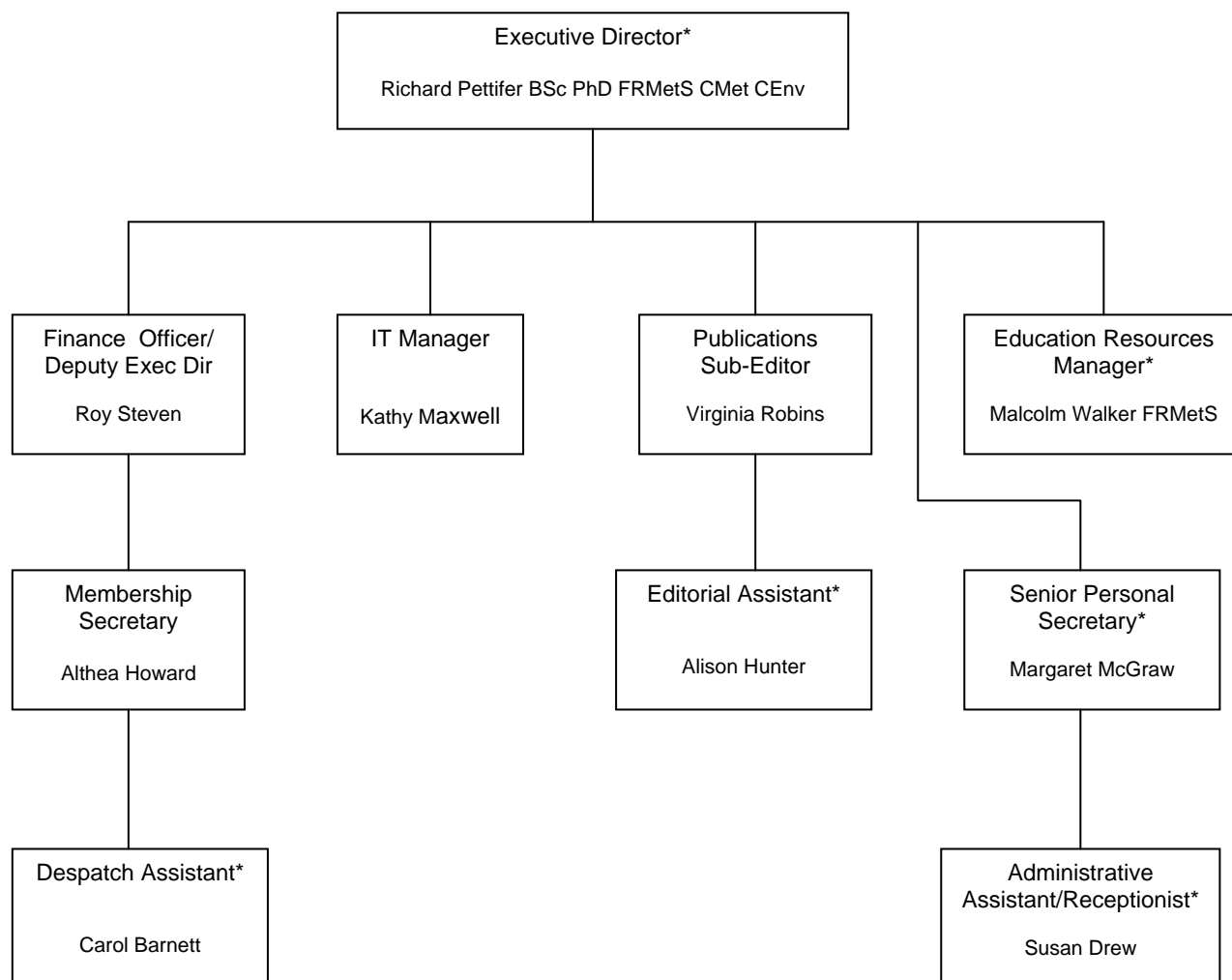
- **Accreditation.** It is recognised that since accreditation is primarily a national matter, the role of the EMS is likely to be limited to giving advice and making recommendations to its member societies. A possible exception is the accreditation or certification of forecasters for civil aviation, where the adoption of the guidelines in WMO 258 by ICAO and the implementation of the regulations concerning the Single European Sky (SES) could require the establishment of some form of European certification in which the EMS would play a part.
- **Awards.** Awards amounting to 5600 Euro were made during 2006. The Awards Committee was asked to prepare a paper on the future policy for awards for consideration at the EMS Council Meeting in spring 2007. Information about requirements and submissions for the Awards can be found at <http://www.emetsoc.org/awards>.
- **Education.** ECTOM2, the catalogue of training opportunities in Europe, is now available though more entries are required. The Education Committee will investigate the possibilities for collaboration with EGU in educational activities.
- **Media.** The Media Committee is seeking new members to give fresh impetus to its activities.
- **Publications.** Early each year a newsletter will be prepared which will be the annual report of the EMS. Other news will be put on the EMS website in the form of an online newsletter. Arrangements have been made to accommodate publication of papers presented at the Annual Meetings.

Annual Meetings

The 6th EMS Annual Meeting and 6th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) were held in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 4th to 8th September 2006. There were 432 participants and 13 exhibitors. Once again the administrative part of the Organisation was conducted by Copernicus.

The 7th EMS Annual Meeting and 8th European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) will be held in El Escorial in Spain from 1st to 5th October 2007. Instituto Nacional de Meteorología (INM) and Asociación Meteorológica Española (AME) will act as local hosts. Convenors of sessions will have the opportunity to arrange publication of conference papers in "*Advances in Science and Research*". This is an open-access journal newly established by Copernicus.

STAFF



* Part-time posts

Dr Richard Pettifer retired as Executive Director in October 2006 and the Society welcomed Professor Paul Hardaker as his successor.

REPORTS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

Local Centres provide particular opportunities for members to meet and promote the Society's aims and activities. Annual subventions are provided to encourage and support such activities. None of this could happen without the dedication and initiative of a relatively small number of prime movers – who would welcome offers of assistance.

East Anglia Centre

Committee

James Dent (Chair and Treasurer)

Marigold Penkett (Secretary)

Professor Bill Wuest (Events' Coordinator)

Activities

During the year, the Centre held six meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 22:

- Aerosols and your health: when smoke gets in your lungs, Dr Rob Kinnersley, Environment Agency;
- Whither the weather by Internet: The Royal Meteorological Society's flagship online weather project MetLinkInternational, Malcolm Walker, Royal Meteorological Society;
- The role of moisture in tropical disease measurement and modelling, Dr Mark Cresswell, Manchester Metropolitan University;
- The Role of weather in US Air Force operations, Capt. Adrian Christensen and Lt. Bryan Garton;
- New for Old: the changing availability of Met observing and analysis equipment, Alistair Barron, The Weather Shop;
- Thermodynamics can be fun! thermodynamics from everyday experience, Jerry Clark and Jamie Kettle.

Meetings planned for the future

A programme of four further meetings is planned over the period to June 2007:

- Development and use of weather buoys, John Kington, University of East Anglia;
- Polar mesocyclones and their impact on the NE Atlantic, Dr Grant Bigg, University of Sheffield;
- Do (or How to help) politicians understand meteorology? Professor Paul Hardaker, Chief Executive, Royal Meteorological Society;
- From Wattisham to the World Service - the changing scope of forecasting, Everton Fox, Met Office, London.

Other activities

Jerry Clark arranged the Society East Anglia Centre Summer Visit to the Sugar Beet Research Station at Broom's Barn, Higham on Saturday 3 June. A party of 25 attended the site visit and presentations, followed by lunch. The Centre held its Christmas function on 15 December. The Guest Speaker was Lt Bryan Garton, Met Officer, USAF, Lakenheath.

Finance

Income for the year was £600.00 Expenditure for the year was £710.45.

The current funds in hand and at the bank are £55.53

Scottish Centre

Committee

Professor D Fowler (Chairman and Vice-President for Scotland), Mr R C Tabony (Secretary), Mr M J B Rogerson (Treasurer), Mr M Becker, Mr C J Brown, Mr I D Cameron, Mr G G Meldrum, Mr G A Monk, Mr D C Paterson, Miss M G Roy, Dr D Stevenson.

Activities

During the year the Centre held six meetings at which the average attendance was 20. The following talks were given:

- The effects of air pollution on health, Professor Jon Ayres;
- New observations on the onset of rain from tropical cumulus clouds, Mr Jason Lowenstein;
- The impact of boundary-layer meteorology on aerial insect distributions, Mr Curtis Wood;
- The science of weather – a resource for primary schools, Miss Victoria Aldridge (presented by Mr Meldrum);
- The science of weather – a resource for secondary schools, Mr Oliver Bray;
- What will control future tropospheric ozone? Dr David Stevenson;
- Measuring UK greenhouse gas emissions using aircraft, Professor David Fowler;
- The history of air quality from paintings, Professor Peter Brimblecombe.

Meetings planned for the future

- Windstorms and insured loss in the UK, Mr Richard Hewston;
- Troposphere to stratosphere transport – a Lagrangian approach? Ms Yu Liu;
- What weather forecasts can and cannot do for the yachtsman, Mr Frank Singleton;
- Air traffic control, Mr Keith Meakin.

Other activities

The Centre is heavily involved in the preparations for the Society's 2007 conference to be held at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. The Programme Committee is chaired by Professor David Fowler and other members serve on the Local Organising Committee (Mr Paterson as Chair and Miss Roy as Secretary plus Messrs Brown and Meldrum). Miss Roy is organising the Buchan Memorial Meeting with the History Group. The Centre is also administering the Society's Schools Competition.

Finances

Income for the year was £2015.76 Expenditure for the year was £1238.02.
The current funds in hand and at the bank are £989.23.

North East Centre

Committee

Chairman: Dennis Wheeler
Treasurer: Ken Cook
Secretary: Patricia Uttridge

Activities

During the year, the Centre held nine meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 20:

- Presenting weather in the media, Paul Simons, Science correspondent for *The Times*;
- The self-reliant fisherman and the barometer: meteorological expertise in mid-Victorian Britain Sara Dry, University of Cambridge;
- Winter 2005/06: a review - how did UK plc cope? Donny Macleod, UK Met Office;
- The Durham Meteorological Observatory, Professor Tim Burt, University of Durham;
- Climate change and disease vectors in the UK, Rob White, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne;
- Weather and insect dispersal, Dr Peter Burt, University of Greenwich;
- Meteorological photography in the synoptic setting, Jim Galvin, UK Met Office;
- *Arctica islandica*, the 'tree of the sea': towards reconstructing marine climates, Professor James Scourse, University of Bangor.

Meetings planned for the future

- Climate change: the North East's response, Adrian Hilton, Climate Change Coordinator – North East;
- Studying environmental and climatic change using tree rings, Dr Rob Wilson, University of Edinburgh;
- Weather in Art, Dr John Thornes, University of Birmingham;
- Broadcast meteorology, Paul Mooney, BBC TV – North East;
- Flooding and climatic change (provisional title) Terry Marsh, Centre for Environmental Hydrology;
- Mountain and uplands climate (provisional title) Dr Jessica Lundquist.

The June and July meetings have yet to be confirmed. Lectures are yet to be arranged for October, November and December. The Gordon Manley lecture will be held on either 15th or 22nd November, but a speaker has not been identified.

Other activities

The annual Gordon Manley lecture took place on 16th November at the University of Durham where it was jointly hosted and supported by the Geography Department. The presenter for the 2006 lecture was Professor David Crichton (freelance consultant to the insurance industry). The lecture title was "*Coming to terms with climate change*". The attendance was 80 for this event.

Finance

Income for the year was £2000.95. Expenditure for the year was £1469.47.
The current funds in hand and at the bank are £734.53.

South West Centre

Committee

Dr Len Wood, Dr Colin Clark, Dr Andrew Eccleston

Activities

During the year, the Centre held a Saturday meeting on 7th October: 'Weather and Marine Leisure', at which the approximate attendance was 50. It was held at Plymouth's Mount Batten Water Sports Centre. There were four speakers covering a range of topics relevant to water sports, with a convivial gathering.

Meetings planned for the future

No further meetings are planned.

Finance

Income for the year was £200.00. Expenditure for the year was £140.50. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £441.74.

West Midlands Centre

Committee

Dr Ian Phillips (Chairman since July 2006)

Activities

During the year, the Centre held two meetings, at which the approximate average attendance was 15:

- Volcanic dome collapses triggered by intense rainfall, Dr A Matthews, University of East Anglia;
- Daily summer rainfall variability over East Anglia from a network of 136 stations, Dr Ian Phillips, University of Birmingham.

Meetings planned for the future

- Trends in the timing of pollen seasons and allergies, Professor Jean Emberlin, Director of the Pollen Research Unit, University College, Worcester;
- How advances in computer technology have influenced the development of numerical weather prediction (NWP) at the UK Met Office, Dr Brian Golding, Met Office.

Other activities

Professor Paul Hardaker spoke to MSc Meteorology and Climatology students at the University of Birmingham in October about the educational role of the Society.

Finance

Income and expenditure for the year were zero. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £336.40.

East Midlands Centre

Committee

Ernie Pepperdine

Activities

No meetings were held, and none is planned. If any members would like to assist with the revival of the Centre, they should get in touch with the Chief Executive in the first instance.

Other activities

The Secretary continues to produce the broadsheet *Weather Front* quarterly. The 'Silver Jubilee' was celebrated with the 100th quarterly issue in December 2006.

Finance

Income for the year was £252.14. Expenditure for the year was £268.07.
The current funds at the bank are £425.52

North West Centre

Committee

Andrew Russell, Emily Norton, Hugo Ricketts, Hazel Jones, Karen Bozier

Activities

During the year, the Centre held two meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 60:

- Thunderstorms on 31st October;
- Meteorology and health on 28th November.

Meetings planned for the future

- The future climate of the UK;
- Observing and understanding clouds;
- Postgraduate presentations.

Other activities

A meeting report was accepted for publication in *Weather*

Finance

Income for the year was zero. Expenditure for the year was £184.65.
The current funds in hand and at the bank are £988.10.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Atmospheric Chemistry

Committee

Convenor: Dr Howard Roscoe , BAS. Local organiser: Dr Paul Monks, Leics.
There is no formal committee, but an ad-hoc group of advisors that includes Dr Hugh Coe (Manchester), Dr Robert MacKenzie (Lancs), Dr Anna Jones (BAS) and Dr John Remedios (Leics), as well as others from time to time.

Activities

During the year, the Group held one meeting at which the attendance was 77:
Frontiers in atmospheric composition measurements, at Leicester on 3 May 2006.

Meetings planned

One further meeting is planned in 2007:
Tropical composition, from boiler to freezer, at Leicester on 3 April 2007.

Finance

There is no annual membership fee for the Group.
Income for the year was £882.00 Expenditure for the year was £522.39.
The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1542.66, but invoices of £900.00 are expected in January 2007.

Data Assimilation

Committee

Keith Haines, Alberto Troccoli, Mike Fisher, Bruce Ingleby

Membership

There is no membership scheme, but there are approx 70 people on the mailing list.

Activities

During the year, the Group held one meeting at which the approximate attendance was 40:
Data Assimilation one day meeting held on 1 December 2006 at ECMWF, Reading.

Meetings planned for the future

A programme of two further meetings is planned over the period to end 2007:

- Statistical Aspects of Data Assimilation, jointly with the Royal Statistical Society in London in April/May 2007;
- Data assimilation meeting, second half of 2007.

Other activities

In addition our group contributed to a meeting on "The challenges of the interaction of physical processes and data assimilation" on 3rd July 2006 at Met Office, Exeter, organised by the Royal Meteorological Society Physical Processes Special Interest Group.

Finance

There is no membership fee. Income, expenditure and funds in hand are all zero.

Dynamical Problems

No report received.

History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

Committee

Howard Oliver (Chairman), Sara Osman (Hon Sec), Mick Wood (Hon Treasurer), Malcolm Walker (co-opted), Alan Heasman (April-December), Joan Kenworthy, David Pedgley, Vernon Radcliffe, Ann Shirley (January-March), Dennis Wheeler

Membership

The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 71.

Activities

During the year, the Group held two meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 22:

- Saturday 1st April 2006 – London: AGM and meeting on the Meteorology of the Luke Howard era;
- Saturday 7th October 2006 – Bedford: Bedfordshire meteorology and visit to Cardington.

Meetings planned

- Saturday 24 March – Oxford: AGM and meeting on Meteorology of World War I (part 2);
- Friday 7 September – Edinburgh: Joint History Group & Scottish Centre meeting: The life, achievement and legacy of Alexander Buchan

Other activities

Two newsletters were published during the year.

Finance

The annual membership fee for the Group is £5.00.

Income for the year was £740.56. Expenditure for the year was £484.77.

Current funds in hand and at the bank are £1532.42.

Meteorological Observing Systems

Committee

Jonathan Shanklin (Chairman), Mike Brettle (Treasurer), John Prior (Secretary), Richard McKay (Newsletter Editor), * ,Mike Bennett, Andrew Overton, Dick Saffel, Ian Strangeways, Jonathan Wright, Stephen Burt #

* resigned 30 October 2006

joined Spring 2006

The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 50.

Activities

During the year, the Group held three meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 35:

- Meteorology or metrology, NPL Teddington;
- AGM & Summer Visit, BAS Cambridge;
- Measuring the boundary layer, University of Manchester.

Meetings planned for the future

A programme of three further meetings is planned over the period to December 2007:

- Standard urban measurements, University of Birmingham;
- AGM & Summer Visit , CEH, (provisional TBC);
- Climate measurements for the future, University of Reading.

Other activities

Newsletter, Spring 2006

Finances

The annual membership fee for the Group is £5.00.

Income for the year was £225.00. Expenditure for the year was £116.00. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £3645.79.

Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography

No report received.

Informal Grouping of Private Sector Weather Providers

No report received.

Physical Processes

Committee

Sue Ballard (Met Office, Reading), Joanna Haigh (IC), Peter Cox (CEH), Phil Brown (MRF, Exeter), Tom Choularton (Manchester), Keith Shine (Reading Univ), Anton Baljaars (ECMWF), Peter N Francis (Met Office, Exeter), John King (BAS), Steve Derbyshire (Met Office, Exeter), Chris Taylor (CEH), Mike Smith (Leeds Univ) plus watching brief Martin Miller (ECMWF)

Activities

During the year the Group held two meetings:

- “The challenges of the interaction of physical processes and data assimilation” on 3rd July 2006, at the Met Office, Exeter
- “The Joint UK LandEnvironment Simulator (JULES): A new community land surface model” on 2nd October 2006, at the Meteorology Department, University of Reading

No meetings are currently planned.

Other activities

None, but an email list is kept of those interested in attending the Group’s meetings.

Finance

There is no membership fee. Income, expenditure and funds in hand are all zero.

The following Centres and Groups are currently not functioning because there are no volunteers willing to run them or are in need of urgent support. If any members would like to revive any of these they should get in touch with the Chief Executive in the first instance.

Association of British Climatologists Weather Forecasting

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL (TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)

From 1 January to 30 September 2006 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2005.

From 1 October 2006 the following Council held office:

PRESIDENT

Geraint Vaughan, DPhil

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Christopher Collier, PhD, CMet, CEnv

Alan O'Neill, PhD

Fredric Taylor, DPhil

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND

David Fowler, PhD, CBE

GENERAL SECRETARY

Bob Riddaway, PhD

TREASURER

David Carson, PhD

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Matthew Collins, PhD (Meetings Committee)

Ian Roulstone, PhD (Publishing Committee – acting chairman from October 2006)

Howard Lyne, PhD, CMet (Accreditation Board)

George Meldrum, MSc (Education Committee)

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Susan Ballard, BSc

Anthony Bowles, BA

Stephen Burt

Fay Davies, PhD

Trevor Davies, PhD

Keith Haines, PhD

Elizabeth Morris, PhD

Dominic Reeve, PhD

David Richardson, BSc

Emily Shuckburgh, PhD

Penelope Tranter, BSc, CMet

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

The Committees listed below are the standing Committees of the Society. Membership of Working Groups and similar *ad hoc* bodies are not detailed.

Accreditation Board

Accreditation Board Chairman
M Brettle, A Eccleston, S Noyes,
D Selway, C B H Stevenson, D Swannick,
J-N Thepaut, R Wilderspin

Awards

President (Chairman)
Nominated Vice-President
Editor, *Quarterly Journal*
Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*
Editor, *Meteorological Applications*
Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*
M Beran, K A Browning, D Carruthers,
A Hollingsworth, J M Huthnance,
P D Jones, J F B Mitchell

Editing (*Meteorological Applications*)

P J A Burt - Editor (Chairman)
Representatives of Cambridge Univ Press
J Bech, X Cai, L Carvalho, C G Collier, J
Curtin, I Dyras, J Hunt, K James, T A
Lachlan-Cope, C Y Lam, G Marshall, R
Potts, C Power, P Ryder, J Thornes, D
Wilks

Editing (*Quarterly Journal*)

P L Reed and I Roulstone - Joint Editors
(Chairman),
Copy Editors
O Alves, E Andersson, S Belcher,
P Benard, A Blyth, P Clark, H Coe,
M Fantini, P Francis, W W Grabowski,
R Grainger, S E Gryning, T Haine,
H Hendon, M Jukes, A Korolev, S Lewis,
B Liley, J Purser, E Richard, R Seager,
R Swinbank

Editing (*Atmospheric Science Letters*)

Alan Gadian - Editor (Chairman)
Representatives from Wiley,
P Hardaker, G Austin, W Grabowski,
M Haylock, E Highwood, K Haines,
C Jones, R Jones, G McFiggans, A Miller,
J Polcher, J Thielen

Editing (*International Journal of Climatology*)

G J McGregor - Editor (Chairman)
Representatives from Wiley

Education

Education Chairman
R Brugge, J Clayton, M J Harris,
G J Jenkins, G C Johnson, S Knight,
C W Prowse, R Reynolds, R W Riddaway,
K Shepherdson

Finance and General Purposes

President
Vice President (President Designate)
Treasurer (Chairman)
General Secretary
Chairman, Publishing Committee
S Burt, R Gurney, T Guymer,
E Shuckburgh

Meetings

Meetings Chairman
R Buizza, G Carver, N Chappell,
R Forbes, A Overton, D Parker, A Rudd,
J Slingo, A Troccoli, S Webster,
S Woolnough
Representatives of Special Interest
Groups and Local Centres

Publishing

Publishing Chairman
Joint Editors, *Quarterly Journal*
Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*
Editor, *Weather*
Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*
Editor, *Meteorological Applications*
Editor, *Society News*
Treasurer
General Secretary
K Haines

Weather Board

J C Mayes - Editor (Chairman)
G D Anderson, G A J Bowles, E Hanna,
D G Lloyd, J Methven, S Moseley,
J M Roberts, M Shahgedanova, B Sinha,
M A Town, P E Tranter, D A Wheeler

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*

A Gadian

Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*

G R McGregor

Editor, *Meteorological Applications*

P J A Burt

Co-Editors, *Quarterly Journal*

I Roulstone, P L Read

Editor, *Society News*

P Tranter

Honorary Librarian

E Harris

Press Officers

G P Eden, W J Burroughs

Editor, *Weather*

J C Mayes

Chairman, Course Evaluation Panel

A Eccleston

Representative on Flight Safety Committee

J B Stewart

Representative on General Aviation Safety Committee

P Digby

Representative on European Meteorological Society Council

R W Riddaway

Representatives on Board of Society for the Environment

R W Riddaway

P J Hardaker

Representative on Science Council

P J Hardaker

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)

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London WC2A 3BP

Auditors: Porter Garland
Portland House
Park Street
Bagshot, Surrey

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

Investment Powers:

By-Laws 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 in the European Union 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 Trustee Act 2000.

83 The Society’s premises shall not be sold or disposed of except with the sanction of a General Meeting of Fellows.

Appendix 2: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE RESERVES

Principal Objective

To maintain and make use of capital reserves to:

- Ensure the viability of the Society on a year by year basis in the long term
- Enable the medium to long-term development of the Society's aims and objectives

Introduction

The Society derives its primary annual income from a combination of members' subscriptions, sales of publications, miscellaneous and income from investments. The annual account is budgeted to balance and is usually in surplus (~£30,000). The Society holds three types of investments: Tangible Assets, a General Reserve and a Legacies Fund. Council approved the policy on management of these two last items on 5th December 2001.

Historically the only major demand on the reserves has been the purchase of the Oxford Road HQ, pending the sale and resolution of the problems with the previous HQ (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.

The medium and long-term strategy of the Society has been formulated by Council and is being implemented by the Development Implementation Group (DIG) which reports to Council regularly through the year. This paper complements this activity by establishing policy guidelines on how the reserves may be used inter alia to fund nonrecurring costs resulting from proposals made by DIG. Individual items of expenditure will be presented for Council approval in the normal way.

The Annual Budget

The annual budget will continue to cover the routine annual expenditure, including maintenance of the tangible assets, and be set broadly to balance.

The Reserves

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets, which comprise the premises, the furnishings and equipment that 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 administrative activities of the Society. This includes committee meetings, but not necessarily Council meetings or the regular Society meetings and conferences. Major changes would be funded on a case by case basis through the General Reserve and could include external contributions (eg on appeal).

The General Reserve

The role of the General Reserve is basically to provide a degree of financial robustness to the long-term survival of the Society:

- Provide some resilience against "single event" failures, e.g. a significant failure of a large conference (~£150,000)
- Allow front loaded spend to save measures (~£100,000)
- Allow some "one-off" expenditures on an opportunist basis (~£100,000)

- Allow a recovery period for significant changes in the income/expenditure balance (~£300,000)
- 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 of about £750,000, although this may change significantly in the short term in times of investment buoyancy or depression.

The Legacies Fund(s)

The policy for these funds is to protect and grow them. Subject to this, capital gains and dividends are used to support, in a sustained manner, benefits primarily to individuals through:

- Grants
- Awards
- Bursaries

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