

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING AT WHICH THE BRITISH (LATER ROYAL) METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED

The meeting was held on Wednesday 3 April 1850 in the Library of Hartwell House, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The minutes were written by James Glaisher and the opening paragraphs (reproduced below) read as follows:*

At a meeting held on the 3rd day of April 1850 at Hartwell House near Aylesbury in the County of Buckingham at which were present

John Lee Esq of Hartwell LLD FRS FRAS

The Reverend Samuel King of Latimer, Chesham FRAS

The Reverend Joseph Bancroft Reade FRS of Stone Vicarage near Aylesbury

The Reverend Charles Lowndes of Hartwell Rectory, near Aylesbury FRAS

Samuel Charles Whitbread Esq FRAS of Cardington near Bedford

James Glaisher Esq FRS FRAS of Dartmouth Terrace, Blackheath

Edward Joseph Lowe Esq FRAS of Highfield House near Nottingham

Vincent Fasel Esq FRAS of Stone near Aylesbury

John Drew Esq FRAS of Cumberland Place, Southampton

and

William Rutter Esq FRAS of Adelaide Road, Haverstock Hill.

Mr Whitbread was called to the Chair.

The chairman opened the proceedings by stating that a necessity existed for the formation of a society the objects of which should be the advancement and extension of Meteorological Science by determining the Laws of Climate and of Meteorological Phenomena in general. The practical importance of these determinations at present as applied to Sanitary Measures, as well as its importance to Agriculture, to Mariners, and indeed to all classes of persons is great.

He adduced various arguments in support of his statement and after several observations made by the gentlemen present and a paper of memoranda read by Dr Lee, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

That a Society for the objects aforesaid be now formed to be called "The British Meteorological Society".

The minutes continued thus:

That the Society consist of ordinary and honorary Members and that the aforesaid Gentlemen be the original and ordinary Members with power to add to their number.

That the officers of the said Society shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents, a Treasurer and Secretary, and a Council of which the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary should be ex-officio Members. Three Members of such Council do form a quorum.

That for the current year ending the 31st day of December 1850, Mr Whitbread be President, Dr Lee Treasurer, Mr Glaisher Secretary and Messrs King, Reade, Lowndes, Lowe, Drew, Fasel and Rutter Members of the Council with power as the Society may hereafter see fit to increase the number.

That the annual subscription for each of the present and future ordinary Members of the Society be £1 for the current year to end on the 31st day of December.

That the Meetings of the Society be held on the 1st Tuesday in each month at such hours of the day and at such places as may hereafter be agreed upon. The next Meeting to be held at 5 College Doctors' Common London on the 7th of May next at 4 o'clock p.m.

That the present rules be reconsidered and further rules made and the offices filled up at the next or any subsequent Meeting of the Society.

The meeting then adjourned.

continued ►

* LLD = Doctor of Laws; FRS = Fellow of the Royal Society;
FRAS = Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society

The meeting which was adjourned on 3 April was resumed the following day. The minutes of the resumed meeting were as follows:

The meeting which was adjourned yesterday was resumed this day [4 April 1850], at Hartwell House near Aylesbury.

Samuel Charles Whitbread Esq. was in the Chair.

The minutes of the meeting held yesterday were read, confirmed, and signed by the Chairman and all the Members present. [Of the ten who met on 3 April, Samuel King and William Rutter were not present]

The following resolutions passed unanimously on the motion of Dr Lee, that the Treasurer be allowed to furnish himself with books and stationery as he finds necessary.

On the motion of Dr Lee, that the Secretary be allowed to furnish himself with books and stationery as he finds necessary.

On the motion of the Chairman, that Mr Clark of Moorgate Street, near the Bank, London, be appointed the Stationer to the Society.

That the Secretary be desired to take the necessary steps for the furtherance of the objects of this Society, by writing to all persons whom he considers desirable to be members of this Society.

On the motion of Dr Lee, that the Secretary be desired to defray all expenses of Stamps, Carriage of Parcels, and sundry expenses incidental to his office.

On the motion of Dr Lee, that William Stowe Esq of Buckingham be admitted a Member.

On the motion of Mr Glaisher, that the Rev. John Slatter of Rose Hill Cottage, near Oxford, be admitted a Member.

On the motion of Dr Lee, that Mrs Lee be admitted a Member.

On the motion of Mr Drew, that Mrs Glaisher be admitted a Member.

On the motion of Mr Drew, that Mrs Lowndes be admitted a Member.

On the motion of the Rev. J.B.Reade, that Miss Gertrude Dovers be an Honorary Member.

On the motion of Mr Glaisher, that William Johnson Esq of Thame, Oxfordshire, be admitted a Member.

It was then resolved that all the Officers of the Society have the power of receiving the names of gentlemen for admission without ballots of the meeting of Officers on the 7th day of May next.

The meeting then separated, having agreed to meet again at 5 College Doctors' Commons, on the 7th day of May next.

To view the first page of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April, click [here](#).

At a meeting held on the 3rd day of April 1850
at Hartwell House near Aylesbury in the County
of Buckingham at which were present
John Lee Esq of Hartwell L. L. B. F. R. S. F. R. S. S.
The Reverend Samuel King of Latimer, ^{Dean} ^{Chesham} F. R. S.
The Reverend Joseph Bancroft Rector F. R. S. of
Stone ^{Vicarage, near Aylesbury} Bucks. The Reverend Charles Lowndes of
Hartwell, ^{Rectory, near Aylesbury} Bucks, F. R. S. and Samuel Charles
Whitbread Esq F. R. S. ^{of Langney Lane near Bedford} James Glaisher Esq. F. R. S.
F. R. S. of Dartmouth Terrace, Blackheath. Edward
Joseph Lowe Esq. F. R. S. of ^{Highgate House} ~~Beaconsfield~~ Villa near
Wottonham. Vincent Fasel Esq. F. R. S. of Stone
^{near Aylesbury} Bucks. John Drew Esq. F. R. S. of Cumberland
^{Place} ~~Place~~ Southampton. and William Denton Esq.
F. R. S. of Adelaide Row, Waverstock Hill.
Mr. Whitbread was called to the Chair
The Chairman opened the proceedings
by stating that a necessity existed for the
formation of a Society the objects of which should
be the advancement and extension of Meteorological
Science, by determining the laws of Climate and
of Meteorological Phenomena in general. The practical
importance of these determinations at present as
applied to Sanitary Measures, as well as its
importance to Agriculture, to Mariners, and
indeed to all classes of persons is great.
He adduced various arguments in support of
his statement and after several observations
made by the gentlemen present & a paper ^{of Memoranda} read
by Mr. Lee, the following Resolutions were
unanimously adopted.
That a Society for the objects afore said
be now formed to be called "The British
Meteorological Society"