

The 168th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society

Held on Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 13:15hrs
Institute of Physics, 37 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9BU

The Royal Meteorological Society is the UK's professional and learned society for weather and climate and its mission is to promote the understanding and application of meteorology for the benefit of all. At the heart of this is the responsibility for the stewardship of both the profession and science of meteorology. The Society promotes equality, diversity and inclusion to create greater opportunity for any individual to fulfil their potential, irrespective of their background or circumstances.

Welcome from the President

David Warrilow (RMetS President) declared the Annual General Meeting (AGM) open and reminded guests that only members of the Society can vote. Printed copies of the official documents were available for members to reference on the day, but all can be found on the Society's website www.rmets.org/about-the-society.

Minutes and Actions

David requested that the minutes of the AGM (16th May 2018) be adopted as a true record of events; they were proposed for adoption by Derek Swannick and seconded by Jennie Campbell. There were no actions from the 2018 meeting.

Election of Officers and Members of Council

David referenced those elected and stated that Council circulated its nominations for Officers and Members of Council, showing biographies for new nominees, to the Membership in March's Notice to Members. No additional nominations had been received (as prescribed in By-Law 48) by the qualifying date and so, under By-Law 49, the President declared the following nominees as elected unopposed:

Vice President (President-Elect):

Professor David Griggs, PhD, FRMetS Monash University / Warwick University

Member of Council:

Karl Shepherdson, FRMetS Met Office

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws

Liz Bentley (RMetS Chief Executive) presented the proposed revisions to the By-Laws that had been approved by Council. This information was circulated in the April Notice to Members.

- By-Law 41, 46 and 50 has been amended to change 'Ordinary Member' to 'Member' when referring to Members of Council.

The footnote changes are detailed below (as stated in By-Law 3 'Footnotes appearing in these By-Laws are not part of the By-Laws but are guidance for their interpretation or management):

- Footnote 3 on Page 11 amends 'Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' to 'Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy'.
- Footnote 6 on Page 16 amends 'Part II of the Charities Act 2006' to 'Charity Reporting and Accounting: The Essentials November 2016 (cc15d)'.

The adoption of the changes to the By-Laws were proposed by Lindsay Bennett and seconded by David Roberts.

Highlights from 2018

Liz gave a presentation about some of the Society's activities from 2018, referencing areas that have received extensive review – such as the Society's Journals – and been positively received. David reiterated thanks to the retiring officers and also to those who have supported the Society in 2018 and continue to do so.

Report of Accounts

Jennie Campbell (RMetS Treasurer) presented the Society's 2018 accounts which were adopted by proposer Anna Ghelli and seconded by David Roberts.

The re-election of Porter Garland as the Society's auditors was also supported, proposed by Jennie Campbell and seconded by Aisling Creevey.

Questions from Members

A member of the audience questioned the increase in membership figures a few years ago. Liz explained the context behind the situation; the increase in figures was mostly due to the introduction of Student Ambassadors. The Membership Development Board constantly reviews the statistics and assesses potential reasons for reduced retention rate, increasing the challenge of collectively thinking of ways to make the community more evenly split where possible.

Any Other Business

Notice of Any Other Business was to be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive by close of business on the 5th May 2018; nothing was received. David formally closed the AGM at 14:00hrs.