

## The 169<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society

Virtual Online Meeting - 24 June 2020

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 participants that only members of the Society can vote. Copies of the official documents were available for members on the Society's website [www.rmets.org](http://www.rmets.org).

### Minutes and Actions

David Warrilow requested that the minutes of the AGM (15th May 2019) be adopted as a true record of events; they were proposed for adoption by Karl Shepherdson and seconded by Vicky Ingram. There were no actions from the 2019 AGM.

### Election of Officers and Members of Council

David Warrilow 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:**

**Professor Lesley Gray**

University of Oxford

**Vice-President for Scotland:**

**Gary Johnston**

Millbank PWS

### Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws

David Warrilow presented the proposed revisions to By-Laws 26 to 29 that had been approved by Council. This information was circulated in the April Notice to Members.

There were no objections to the proposed By-Law changes and David Warrilow asked for a proposer and seconder to approve the amendments. The adoption of the changes to the By-Laws were proposed by John Pears and seconded by Karl Shepherdson.

### Highlights from 2019

Liz Bentley (RMets Chief Executive) gave a presentation highlighting some of the Society's activities from 2019. A recording of the presentation is available on the RMets website.

The following questions were asked:

1. The RMets is now partnering with Elsevier to publish our new academic book series, what happens to the book series published with Wiley?

It was confirmed that books already published with Wiley, and two more still to be published under this agreement, will still be available.

2. Are there plans to hold more meetings/conferences virtually?

It was confirmed that the Society would be hosting a number of virtual events in the coming months, including the Student and Early Career Scientists Conference, and it is hoped that more virtual events or face-to-face events with a virtual option can be held in the longer term.

3. Is it possible to provide figures about the total numbers that have been successful over the years that we have offered these qualifications?

The total numbers taken from Annual Reports 2007-2019 of QCF/RQFs are as follows:

a. Level 3 Diploma in Meteorological Observing	59	
b. Level 5 Diploma in Meteorological Forecasting	227	
c. Level 5 Award in Meteorological Briefing	139	
d. Level 6 Diploma in Flood Forecasting	11	
e. Level 6 Diploma in Operational Hydrometeorology and Flood Forecasting		8

Prior to 2007 under the NVQs there were 38 awarded at Level 4 and 36 at Level 3.

David Warrilow reiterated thanks to the retiring officers and also to those who have supported the Society in 2019 and continue to do so.

## Report of Accounts

Jennie Campbell (RMetS Treasurer) presented the Society's 2019 accounts which were adopted by proposer Jim Galvin and seconded by Steve Pavett.

### Questions

The re-election of Porter Garland as the Society's auditors was also supported, proposed by Paul Hardaker and seconded by Dave Offiler.

## Questions from Members

The following question was asked:

1. How long have Porter Garland been the Society's auditors and is there a need to change at some point? Porter Garland have been the Society's auditors for over 20 years. The appointment of the auditors is considered annually and a number of factors are taken into account including independence. Risks regarding independence are mitigated by staff changes both within the Society and Porter Garland. Within the last 6 years it is worth noting that there have been new incumbents within the Society in both the CFO and the Treasurer positions.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has requirements regarding the length of audit partner involvement with non-listed entities. Porter Garland have procedures in place to ensure compliance with these regulations which include sample cold reviews of audit files. The Society's 2019 Accounts received a second partner review.

It is also worth noting that until 2017 the Society was not obliged to have an audit as we fell below the £1m turnover threshold.

## Any Other Business

Notice of Any Other Business was to be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive by close of business on 4 May 2020; nothing was received.

David Warrilow formally closed the AGM at 14:20hrs.