

# The 173<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report of the Royal Meteorological Society for the period 1 January – 31 December 2023

## ANNEXES

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## Annex A: THE UK WEATHER OF 2023

### Review of UK Weather for 2023

For the majority of the UK, 2023 was warmer and wetter than average, with sunshine amounts close to average. It was another record-breaking year with the hottest June on record, joint hottest September and the warmest year on record for Wales and Northern Ireland. Overall, for the UK, 2023 was the second warmest on record, only slightly behind the 2022 record. Climate attribution studies showed that 2023 was 150 times more likely to be this warm due to human-caused climate change. Unusually, June and September experienced the warmest periods, with July and August being cooler and wetter.

After a notably wet spell at the start of the year, the late winter period was characterised by a very sunny January and very dry February. It was the driest February since 1993 with much of central and southern England receiving less than 20% of the normal monthly rainfall. The first half of March was generally cold, leading to some of the lowest temperatures of the year. By the middle of the month, the situation became milder and wetter. March was exceptionally wet for many regions. Storm Noa was one of the most significant April storms since 2013. A maximum wind gust of 96mph at Needles on the Isle of Wight was the highest wind gust on record for England during the month of April. May was warmer and drier overall.

It was the warmest June on record for the UK with an average temperature of 15.8C, beating the previous record by 0.9C. The highest daily temperature reached in the month was 32.2C. What was unusual about June 2023 was the persistence of the warmth rather than its severity. Temperatures exceeded 25C for at least two weeks. The long-standing statistic that 13 June was the only June date that had never previously recorded over 30C was finally broken in 2023, reaching 30.8C. A significant contributing factor to the exceptional and persistent warmth was a severe marine heatwave, which further amplified temperatures across the UK. A more unsettled situation then took over for the remainder of the summer, with conditions turning cooler, duller and windier. It was the wettest July on record for Northern Ireland and for parts of north-west England. A key driver of the wet high summer was a displacement in the jet stream to a more southerly track across the UK.

In early September, the jet stream shifted north and high pressure returned. Consequently, the UK experienced another heatwave bringing some of the hottest weather of the year, peaking at 33.5C on 10 September and the longest run of consecutive days of somewhere reaching 30C during September. High temperatures were not confined to the daytime and some locations also recorded “tropical nights” when the minimum temperatures do not drop below 20C. The month concluded with Storm Agnes kicking off the 2023-24 storm season. The remainder of the autumn season and December continued the generally mild, wet and – at times – stormy theme.

#### UK Temperatures

The mean value was 9.97°C, which is 0.8°C above the 1991-2020 average.

#### UK Precipitation

The total was 1,290 mm, which is 111% of the 1991-2020 average.

#### UK Sunshine

The total was 1,435 hours, which is 102% of the 1991-2020 average.

#### Regional Breakdown (data from the Met Office)

Relative to the average (1991-2020)	Mean Max (°C)	Mean Min (°C)	Rainfall (%)	Sunshine (%)
<b>UK</b>	13.7 (0.9)	6.3 (0.8)	111	102
<b>England</b>	14.8 (0.9)	7.0 (0.9)	120	102
<b>Wales</b>	13.8 (0.9)	7.0 (1.1)	115	96
<b>Scotland</b>	11.8 (0.7)	4.8 (0.4)	100	107
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	13.7 (1.0)	6.7 (1.1)	121	97

## **Annex B: MEMBERSHIP AND ACCREDITATION**

### **Membership**

The Membership Development Board (MDB) is represented by members from academic, professional, student and enthusiast backgrounds who oversee the Society's strategy relating to membership.

The MDB is chaired by the General Secretary and sits alongside the Professional Accreditation Board within the Membership and Accreditation Business Area. The MDB met twice during 2023 focusing on those aspects that will help grow and develop membership.

In 2023, our membership community continued an upward trend, with 3,249 members by the end of 2023 (compared to 3,222 at the end of 2022), partly due to a very strong retention rate of 91.2% alongside strong growth across most membership grades. Growth was particularly strong in our Member and Student grades with a 5.5% increase.

Membership fees in 2023 were £101 for Fellowship and £89 for Members, with concessionary rates for students (£44), long-standing retired members (50%), reciprocal members (25% discount) and those taking the Weather journal online only (20% discount). To support our members through the 2023 economic environment membership fees were increased by just 1% for members and there was no increase for student membership.

The Board is committed to engage and recruit a more diverse membership by creating an improved member value proposition. This includes providing more exclusive member only benefits relevant to their background and interests.

### **Key Activities in 2023:**

**New Member Acquisition:** The Society was delighted to welcome 249 new members during 2023.

Initiatives for recruitment included:

- Setting aspirational growth targets for membership
- Raising awareness through employees' drop-in sessions with DTN and Jersey Met
- Engagement with Network Rail, British Red Cross, Scottish Environmental Agency and Environment Agency
- Collaborating with the Met Office to set targets for recruitment and accreditation
- Attending Met Office roadshows
- 25% discount to non-member Masterclass event attendees
- Publishing reviewer benefits on all journal pages offering a 10% discount
- Awareness to journal authors of the APC discount for members
- Reviewing membership journeys, driving our development towards a more inclusive membership.
- Raising awareness of membership benefits with Insurance, Energy and Early Career special interest groups.

### **Collaboration:**

The Society continued to deliver the online Met Masterclass series in partnership with the University of Reading. Two series took place during 2023, one in the spring and one in the autumn. Topics covered included extreme summertime weather events and atmospheric blocking. Just over 1,900 registered, the highest number for a series to date. In total 5,500 registrants have benefitted from this excellent resource providing support to anyone wishing to remain up-to-date on recent scientific developments.

The Society continues to work with the Met Office, attending a number of Met Office roadshows throughout the year. As well as raising awareness of the Society, employees from the Met Office were able to sign up for membership. The Society also visited Jersey Met in December. Similar conversations with DTN and Royal Navy have proved very positive and supports the Society's objective to professionalise the sector and support career development for individuals committed to progress their careers.

**Communication:** This is key to our engagement with new and existing members, and a crucial element of our membership activity. Work to promote the benefits of membership through our media channels continues to go from strength to strength. Improvements have been made to the content, frequency and brand of newsletters (Member' eNews and MetMatters) and Society News. Updates on membership-related matters are communicated more frequently through our social media channels, events and targeted comms. See the [Marketing and Communications section](#).

**Reciprocal Membership:** The Society continues to foster important strategic partnerships with organisations across the meteorological community and beyond. The Society has reciprocal membership agreements with the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the American Meteorological Society, the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the Indian Meteorological Society, the Royal Photographic Society and the Institute of Physics. The Society has worked with all our reciprocal partners during 2023, engaging with activities to promote the mutual benefits to our respective



memberships.

**Corporate Membership:** In 2023, the Society increased its number of corporate members to 18, an increase of 33%. Corporate members: Bermuda Airport Authority, Biral, DTN, Dundee Satellite Station, Equinox Instruments, FleetWeather, Fortis Facades, Gallagher Re, Lake Street Consulting, MBC Network Ltd, MetDesk Ltd, Meteo France International, Meteowater Ltd, OpenWeather, Royal Navy, StormGeo, Vaisala, and Weatherquest. The Society has been working to increase engagement with its corporate members, with a focus on supporting employees with continued professional development and achieving



accreditation.

**Student Ambassadors:** In 2023 the Society undertook a review of our Student Ambassador Scheme, which aims to link the Society with universities across the UK. Positive activities such as extensive promotion of the various initiatives of the Society made a difference to the levels of engagement with the student community and the Society wanted to extend this beyond the current cohort. Recruitment began in the summer, and we were delighted to welcome a total of 32 student ambassadors representing the following universities:

**Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, John Moores, Kings College, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford, Reading, Swansea, East Anglia**

**Volunteers:** The Society could not deliver its important work without the help of a team of dedicated volunteers. During 2023 the Society continued to raise the profile of volunteering through consultation and streamlining internal processes to better understand the breadth and scope of volunteering activities and opportunities. With over 500 volunteers taking part in 60 different activities, this continued involvement of our volunteers underpins many of our membership activities. The Society would like to extend its thanks to all contributors recognising the invaluable impact of their efforts.

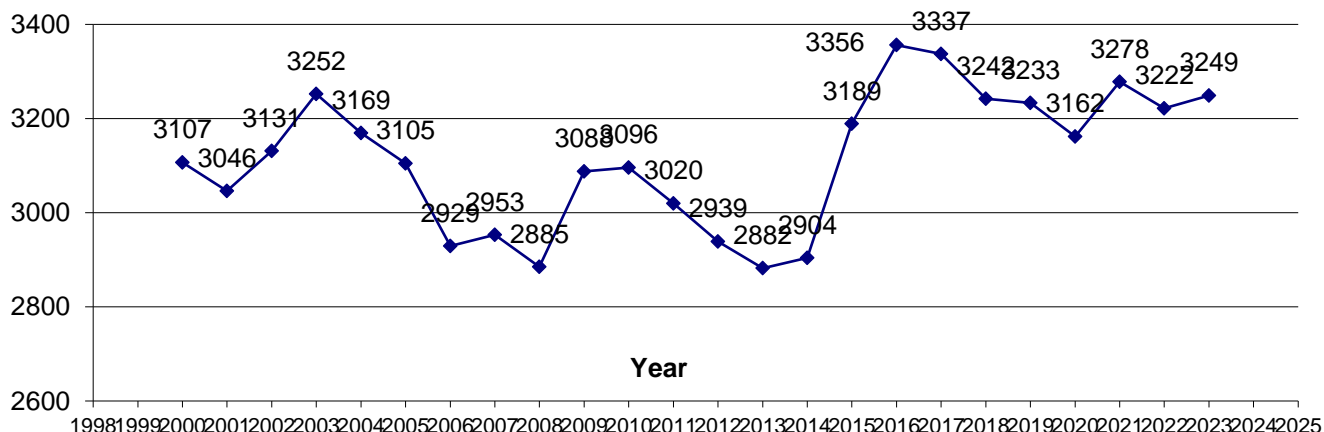
**Retention:** The member retention rate for 2023 increased to 91.2% from 90.4% in 2022. This was achieved through a number of activities including:

- Targeted telephone campaign throughout the membership renewal process
- Contacting members in the first 2/3 years of membership to remind them of the benefits
- Regular communications to members to check their dashboard for information about discounts and member promotions etc
- Marketing campaign promoting Direct Debit sign up.

The Society’s membership is made up of amateurs (26%), practitioners (32%), academics (32%) and students (10%). Whilst the majority (80%) of Society members are from the UK, the remaining 20% represent a healthy spread across several countries. These include USA with the highest number of members, followed by Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland and other European countries, like Switzerland and Italy. The following table shows a breakdown in membership in each category over recent years.

Grade of Membership	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Honorary Fellow HonFRMetS	29	30	29	27	30	30	31	30	30	31	30
Life Fellow FRMetS	33	31	99	94	89	76	82	79	105	107	120
Fellow FRMetS	1,586	1,586	1,513	1,518	1,510	1,471	1,479	1,445	1,390	1,344	1,295
Member (Associate Fellow before 2018)	952	974	1,104	1,217	1,212	1,186	1,164	1,217	1,372	1,390	1,434
Student Member	260	261	416	473	471	464	464	378	367	334	353
Corporate Member	22	22	28	27	14	15	12	14	12	16	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>3,189</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>3,242</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>3,278</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>3,249</b>

**Total Membership**



## Professional Accreditation

The Society’s activities around Professional Accreditation and Vocational Qualifications are overseen by the Professional Accreditation Board (PAB). Members of the Board come from across the breadth of the meteorological community, including the public and private sectors, along with academia. The PAB sits alongside the Membership Development Board (MDB) within the Membership and Accreditation Business Area. The PAB aims to work closely with the MDB and the Terms of Reference for each group reflect this closer cooperation, along with standing invitations for the Chairs to attend each other’s meetings. It reports to Council and is supported by the Course Evaluation and Continuous Professional Development (CE/CPD) Panel.

The PAB met twice during 2023. The overall process of accreditation continues to run smoothly with analysis of applications, assessments of applicants, assessment of CPD reports and course evaluation. We were pleased to have 197 professionally accredited members and awarded 9 new CMets and 7 new RMets in 2023.

In 2023 the board welcomed a new Chair, whose focus is to improve and streamline processes and explore how to increase the value of accreditation to individuals, employers and clients.

### Key Activities in 2023:

- RMet and CMet guidance notes reviewed and updated
- Guidance developed for applicants wishing to progress from RMet to CMet
- RMets Accreditation webpages thoroughly reviewed and updated
- A short self-assessment questionnaire was developed to help potential applicants to determine whether they are ready to apply for RMet or CMet
- Updated guidance relating to CPD records and reports for accredited meteorologists and CPD assessment panel
- Revised list of CPD types
- Timing of CPD call moved to less busy time of year for operational meteorologists
- Review of the revised WMO-No.1083 to ensure the professional accreditation programmes satisfy the revised versions.

The Society defines the scope of its accreditation activity as recognising excellence in people, in organisations, and supporting CPD. Providing the resources and support listed above to encourage professional development and learning for members is vital in delivering a meaningful experience whilst they complete their professional journey.

The tables below show the data relating to RMet and CMet over recent years.

### Registered Meteorologist (RMet):

Registered Meteorologists (RMet)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of applications received	49	35	11	46	5	4	17	8	6	7
No. of accreditations granted	44	28	20	46	5	3	13	18	3	7
No. of RMets resigned/withdrawn					5	19	3	6	9	7
No. of applications outstanding at year end	2	7	4	7	2	3	8	2	3	3
No. of RMets transferred to CMet						8	1	4	3	4
No. of RMets on Dormancy Register			3	5	6	6	6	8	7	11
No. of accredited RMets at year end	44	72	92	124	123	99	106	114	112	108
<b>RMet CPD reports</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
No. of RMet CPDs reviewed				50	71	93	94	81	86	92
No. of RMet CPDs approved				50	71	92	93	81	86	82

The RMet register can be found [here](#).

**Chartered Meteorologist (CMet):** The number of CMets increased in 2023 to 89, the highest number of CMets since 2013.

Applications remain steady. Successful RMets identified as possible CMet candidates are contacted to encourage progression to the Chartered level. The PAB has set realistic targets and associated activities to continue this trend and increase numbers in 2024 and beyond.

Chartered Meteorologists (CMet)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of applications received	6	1	5	5	6	4	9	7	7	7	9
No. of accreditations granted	7	1	3	3	4	5	8	3	8	7	9
No. of CMets resigned/withdrawn	5	0	3	1	5	1	8	1	2	5	2
No. of applications outstanding at year end	1	0	1	2	4	0	1	5	4	3	4
No. of CMets on Dormancy Register		5	4	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	1
<b>No. of accredited CMets at year end</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>CMet CPD</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	
No. of CMet CPDs reviewed	34	23	30	35	24	27	28	28	31	32	
No. of CMet CPDs approved	34	23	30	35	23	27	28	28	31	32	28

The CMet register can be found [here](#).

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD):** The Society recognises that membership and professional accreditation are closely aligned offering benefits to both meteorological practitioners and their employers. CPD forms part of these benefits and the Society continues to support those across the community in recognising, publicising and delivering CPD. Compared to 2022 the number of members completing their CPD records has increased by 13%. The number of CPD events across the year was over 70, offered both in-person and virtual, reflecting the higher levels of accessibility for our members.

The table below shows the data relating to ACCSYS, the Society's online platform for accreditation application and CPD records, since it was launched in 2014. CPD activities linked to Society publishing opportunities and event attendance can be captured directly as a CPD record in ACCSYS through the click of a button.

ACCSYS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CPD records	642	1,644	4,782	7,820	9,237	11,984	14,297	16,400	19,232	21,880
CPD reports				321	391	604	718	825	971	1,080



## Annex C: AWARDS

The Society is incredibly proud of the work and achievements of all our award winners. Over recent decades the nature and extent of contributions of our members has broadened substantially, as meteorology and related disciplines have become more central to education, business and policy. Since 2022, following an awards review, the Society launched a new award portfolio that reflects the breadth of work in the meteorological community, as well as maintaining a link to more than 170 years of Society history.

The Society’s recognises and rewards excellence in people and teams who have made outstanding and exceptional contributions to meteorology and related disciplines, as well as recognising innovation in the use of observations and instrumentation and in the use of models, computational tools and visualisation. The award portfolio is split into 4 sections based on the activities of the Society and its members: “Advancing Science”, “Educating, Inspiring and Enthusing”, “Impact on Science, Policy and Society”, and “Contribution or Service to the Society or Profession”.

The Society’s Award winners for 2023 are shown in the table below:

<b>Awards for Advancing Science</b>	
<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
The Mason Gold Medal and Lecture for Lifetime Achievement in Advancing Science	Prof Brian Golding
The Buchan Award for Scientific Advances	Prof Andy Turner
The Hugh Robert Mill Award for Precipitation Research	Dr Nick Dunstone
The Adrian Gill Award for Advances at the Interface of Atmospheric Science and Related Disciplines	Not awarded
The L F Richardson Award and Lecture for Early-Career Researchers	Dr Indrani Roy
The Malcolm Walker Award for New Environmental Researchers	Dr Daniel Skinner
<b>Awards for Educating, Inspiring and Enthusing</b>	
<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
The Climate Science and Climate Science Communication Award	Not Awarded
The Michael Hunt Award for Increasing Public Understanding of Meteorology and its Applications	Dr Rob Thompson
The Education Award	Sandra Patterson FCCT
The Emerging Communicator Award	Dr Simon Clark Ayesha Tandon
The Gordon Manley Weather Award	Howard Waller
<b>Awards for Impact on Science, Policy or Society</b>	
<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
The FitzRoy Award for Professional Meteorology	Not Awarded
The Award for Impact	Not Awarded
The Award for Innovation in Development of Observations or Instrumentation	Not Awarded

The Award for Innovation in Development of Computational Models, or Visualisation	Not Awarded
<b>Awards for Contribution or Service to the Society or Profession</b>	
<b>Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
Honorary Fellowship	Prof Chris Folland
The Award for Outstanding Contribution to The Society or Profession	Dr Geoff Jenkins Kate Groom
The Society Volunteer of the Year Award	Not Awarded
The Meteorological Applications Editors' Award	Joan Bech
The International Journal of Climatology Editors' Award	AE Athanassious Argiriou
The Quarterly Journal Editors' Award	Keith Grant and Jack Hopkins
The Geoscience Data Journal Editors' Award	Not Awarded
The Atmospheric Science Letters Editors' Award	Valerio Ferraci
The Climate Resilience and Sustainability Editors' Award	Not Awarded

The Society plans to present the 2023 Awards in 2024.

The Society also presents awards at the annual ECR and Student Conference and in 2023 these were awarded to:

**Oral Winners**

- Phoebe Noble, University of Bath
- Hannah Bryant, University of Edinburgh
- George Jordan, Met Office
- Ruth Chapman, University of Exeter and Met Office
- Alice Lake, Met Office
- Petr Dolezal, University of Cambridge
- Emma Lawrence, Met Office

**Poster Winners**

- Thea Stevens, University of Reading
- Matthew Fry, Met Office
- Selena Zhang, University of Cambridge
- Toby P. Jones, University of Exeter

## Annex D: SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

Scientific publishing is one of the Society's strengths and aims to deliver a high-quality journal and book programme to support scientific knowledge management and promotion of the science.

Our journal programme is overseen, on behalf of Council, by the Scientific Publishing Board and the Editorial Boards for each journal in the portfolio. The dedication and hard work of our Editors-in-Chief, Editorial Boards and all those who support the peer review process, not only support our journals but the meteorological community as a whole, as any income generated from scientific publishing makes up a significant portion of the Society's total revenue allowing the Society to deliver many other important programmes of work.

The last couple of years have been quite challenging for the journal portfolio with a decline in total submissions for the second consecutive year in 2023. This could partly be due to the increasingly competitive market, but also data from the Web of Science has shown an overall reduction in output across the Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences category.

A key focus moving forward is to ensure the international community is aware of our journal's relationship to the RMetsS and how authors contributions are vital in supporting the Society's other charitable activities. The Society has also taken the opportunity to ensure our journal aims and scopes are up to date; expanded and described the various article types accepted by each journal; explained what might be out of scope for an individual journal but relevant for another RMetsS title; and overhauled the author guidelines.

Another area of focus for promotion is around the quality of our peer review process. With an increasing number of publishers and journals offering extremely fast turnaround times, the Society wants to ensure authors understand that whilst peer reviews may take longer, the resulting reviewer responses aim to provide the author with valuable feedback which ultimately enhances how their research is presented to the community.

The Society also wants to ensure research is reviewed fairly, removing any potential bias. Meteorological Applications (MetApps) carried out and completed a double-blind peer review pilot in 2023 and it was agreed at the autumn Scientific Publishing Board meeting that this peer review model would be rolled out across all Society journals, starting with Atmospheric Science Letters (ASL) in early 2024. It was also agreed at that meeting that Society journals would be included in the Earth and Space Science (ESS) Open Archive. ESS Open Archive is a pre-publication platform which allows researchers to showcase their work whilst under consideration at a journal. This accelerates early and open dissemination of research outputs and supports funding body mandates. The Society expects this to be fully available in 2024, hopefully providing another reason to publish in the Society's journals, as well as offering some potential for conference poster hosting going forward.

Wiley continues to expand their transformational agreements, now with 75+ agreements globally. These agreements ensure all authors can publish open access on the same terms, no matter their access to funding or the subject discipline in which they wish to publish. These agreements also positively impact the readership of research articles, particularly amongst Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Whilst initiatives like Research4Life have been in place for a number of years now providing automatic waivers and discounts on Article Publication Charges for authors in LMICs, the Society is pleased to learn that discussions are also progressing around transformational agreements in these areas, with new ones being set up in India, South Africa and South America in 2023.

The Society is extremely grateful to all the Editors and Editorial Boards for the support and work they put into the journals whilst managing their own personal and work commitments. The Society would particularly like to thank Becky Hemingway and Andreas Montani whose terms ended with ASL; and Vicky Pope and Habiba Gitay whose terms ended with Climate Resilience and Sustainability (CRS).

All the Society's journals are freely available online to its members at [www.rmets.org/publications/journals](http://www.rmets.org/publications/journals).

### Highlights from the journals in 2023:

During mid-2023, Chris O'Reilly and Massimo Bollasina joined **Atmospheric Science Letters** (ASL) as co-Editors-in-Chief. As of the end of November, ASL had 101 submitted papers, of which 51 have been published. ASL continues to receive manuscripts on a variety of subjects from across the world, with a large number continuing to come from China. While keeping up the journal standards, the new co-Editors-in-Chief have so far worked to refresh and update the journal home page, including the journal description and scope, accounting for the evolving field as well as general trends. Ongoing areas of focus are refreshing the Associate Editor Board, preparing to implement a double-blind review process, and aiming to reduce the decision time for manuscripts.

**Climate Resilience and Sustainability** (CRS) publishes recent interdisciplinary research on the approaches, methods, and tools that enhance the resilience of human societies, economies, or natural systems to climate change, in the context of aiming to achieve the broader UN Sustainable Development Goals. The journal publishes papers on policy and practice, as well as research papers, from practitioners and researchers. Papers focus on analysis of current or proposed actions that enhance climate resilience or reduce climate change risks through adaptation; ideally, in one or more sectors. The journal is particularly well suited to Special Issues to get the full breadth of inter-disciplinary research and practice. In 2023, Prof Rachel Warren (UEA) and Prof Kristie L. Ebi (University of Washington) took over as co-Editors-in-Chief. The journal is in the process of renewing the editorial board to cover a broader range of disciplines, expertise, and perspectives.

**Geoscience Data Journal** (GDJ) saw a decrease in submissions overall but a growth in articles published largely due to a couple of large special issues: "Deep-time Geoscience Data and Tools which received 17 submissions and "Datasets of "OneSediment": a contribution to the IUGS "Deep-time Digital Earth" Big Science Program" which has also received 17 submissions. The journal has two other special issues ongoing which will remain open into 2024. The journal's editorial team is continually expanding in order to reduce processing times to ensure a speedy peer review process.

**International Journal of Climatology** (IJOC) remains the largest of the Society's journals and has four Senior Editors which supported the triaging of 822 submissions in 2023 (compared to 910 in 2022). The total rejection rate is 44%. Rejection before peer review represents nearly two thirds of the total rejected contributions. Therefore, roughly one of each two submissions to IJOC is finally published. Regarding geographical origin, 33% of the articles originated in China (40% in 2022), with India (13%) and Brazil (5.5%) as second and third contributors. The United States dropped from 3rd to 5th contributor. IJOC published 10,481 pages in 2023, compared to 6,853 in 2022. IJOC remains a truly international journal, with manuscripts submitted from more than 20 countries. The median days to first decision raised to 73 (64 in 2022) and to 178 to final decision (171 in 2022). The number of open access articles continues to grow, with a large proportion of them funded via Transformational Agreements. The journal had three special issues agreed and opened in 2023 all of which attracted good content. "Advances in homogenisation techniques of meteorological and other environmental time series" received 17 contributions by the time it closed in June and published 11 to 13 accepted articles. "The climate of the Mediterranean region at multiple time and spatial scales" had received 14 submissions at the time of writing this summary. "Compound extremes: mechanisms, attribution and future changes", had received 19 submissions by the end of 2023. Virtual Collections are being finalised on "Climate and environment change in the Third Pole - extremes, mechanisms and future change" and "Urban Climate".

**Meteorological Applications** (MetApps) aims to serve the needs of forecasters, applied meteorologists, climate scientists and users of meteorological services, as well as early career scientists and both graduate and undergraduate students, by publishing both research and review papers on all aspects of meteorological science, including both weather and climate processes. In fact, over the course of the past few years we have seen an increasing number of submissions that centre on weather applications in the context of a changing climate. We are pleased to report that the journal continues to increase its impact factor steadily from 1.685 (2019), 2.119 (2020), 2.451 (2021) and now we have reached 2.7 in 2022. MetApps is a fully Open Access journal, and efforts are continuously made towards easier and more accessible readability, e. g. publishing more visually accessible figures and colour schemes by referring authors to the author guidelines on uses of colour in particular when the submitted figures require some

development in this regard. This is to ensure that our colour-blind readers can access the information in the journal's papers and to generally improve the impact of the figures we publish to clearly communicate the scientific content of research to all readers. All submitted manuscripts undergo a double-blind review process. The journal continues to expand the composition and expertise of the Editorial Board while trying to maintain gender parity. In 2023, 15 papers were published in a Special Issue entitled "Atmospheric processes and applications in urban, coastal, and mountainous terrain".

([rmetsonline.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1469-8080.atmospheric-processes-apps](https://rmetsonline.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1469-8080.atmospheric-processes-apps)). This special issue was a diverse collection of important contributions to MetApps and each paper therein has been subsequently cited. The Editors-in-Chief are grateful to the Associate Editors, Wiley publishing team, Society staff and countless reviewers for the journal who maintain high standards and help the journal improve its practices and output. The journal's continued success is due to their integrity, hard work and dedication.

Celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2023, **Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society (QJ)** had a busy and successful year. Several activities took place to mark this significant anniversary. The RMetsS and its volunteers collated notable articles that have been published in QJ since 1873 to produce a Digital Timeline. This featured 21 papers selected by former and current Editors-in-Chief of the journal, over 60 papers chosen by the RMetsS History Special Interest Group, as well as key RMetsS milestones, and information on past and current QJ Editors-in-Chief. All papers included in the timeline were made free to access throughout 2023. A QJ@150 Anniversary virtual collection was compiled and hosted on the journal homepage, highlighting some of the milestone papers from the journal over its history and including an editorial which explained why papers had been chosen for this special collection. Finally, a well-attended commemorative meeting and celebratory drinks reception was held at Imperial College in September – further details on this can be found in the events section of this report.

QJ also saw a significant increase in its Impact Factor (7.237 to 8.9) which has in part encouraged a 21% increase in submissions in 2023 - with 389 manuscripts submitted in total and UK, China, India and USA being the top submitting countries. Of these, 212 manuscripts were accepted for publication with the UK, USA, Germany and China leading the published author list. The Editors have grown the Editorial Board to reflect the changing numbers and geography of the journal's submissions. Open access continues to be increasingly popular as a publication choice with 56% of authors choosing gold open access – the majority though are transformative open access agreements. However, QJ maintains the option to publish without charge to the author (no page charges) and still have green open access. This helps authors from lower income countries and also from organisations that do not have transition deals or publication funds to publish their science, upholding QJ's global presence.

The journal also encourages publication on emerging topics in atmospheric science through impactful special issues with four open through 2023 expecting to close at various points in 2024. These are: "Ice Fog and Boundary-Layer Ice Clouds", "FATIMA Marine fog and turbulence", "Combined machine learning and data assimilation for the atmosphere and ocean sciences" and "Coupled Earth system data assimilation".

**Weather** acts as a bridge between the interests of those having a professional and a general interest in the weather, as well as between meteorologists and others working in related sciences such as climatology, hydrology and geography.

Building upon recent successes for the journal, 2023 saw *Weather's* Impact Factor remain high at 1.9, continuing a marked increase that began in 2020. Review turnaround times were within target, and the journal also saw an increase in the geographic diversity of the author base, particularly from Europe.

The long running "Global and Regional Climate" series continued for its 27th year, perhaps more important than ever in our rapidly changing climate, as did the "Scottish Snow Patches" series (also in its 27th year). Three Spotlight articles – short articles introduced in 2020 to bring timely high-level summaries of important recent weather events – were published. As part of an extensive overhaul of *Weather's* Author Guidelines, Spotlight articles were formally introduced for submission from outside the Editorial Board.

The online offering was improved, including a new virtual collection on Heatwaves and Drought, updates to

existing virtual collections, and new links to collections of all Spotlight, Insight and Climate Change Short articles. One Special Issue was published in June (the annual “Early Career and Student Conference” Special Issue), while calls for two forthcoming Special Issues were sent out.

Weather welcomed Melanie Brunner-Straub as Production Editor in October 2023, succeeding seven years of dedicated service by Howard Waller. New Editorial Board members, including two new Associate Editors, were recruited bringing a range of expertise, and several specific roles within the Board were formalised. Several improvements to the production workflow were implemented later in the year, helping to reduce potential delays during issue preparation.

**WIRES Climate Change** is an invited review journal published by Wiley and affiliated with the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). Maria Carmen Lemos and Dan Friess joined as co-Editors-in-Chief in 2023, supported by a team of 15 Associate Editors. The journal received a 2022 Impact Factor of 9.2 and 959,428 full text views over the course of the year.

### Submissions and Decisions (All Journals Combined)

Submissions and Decisions / Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Submissions	1795	1841	1903	1996	1961	1754	1712
Number Reaching Final Decision	1709	1716	1847	1923	1961	1712	1609
Number Accepted	853	844	944	1022	1045	906	834
Average Journal Rejection Rate (%)	47.5	48	44*	45	47	42	40

\*Average of rejection rate of each journal rather than as a collective

### Impact Factors

Journal / Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Quarterly Journal	2.978	3.198	3.471	3.739	7.237	8.9
Intl. Journal of Climatology	3.1	3.601	3.928	4.069	3.651	3.9
Meteorological Applications	2.391	1.711	1.685	2.119	2.451	2.7
Atmospheric Science Letters	1.198	1.796	1.879	2.416	2.992	3.0
Geoscience Data journal	1.867	2.667	2.714	1.778	3.488	3.2
Weather	0.812	1.143	0.943	1.596	2.239	1.9
WIRES	5.124	7.057	6.099	7.385	10.072	9.2

### Academic Book Programme

The academic book programme aims to be recognised for its international, high-quality publications offering a diverse choice of books. Prof Paul Williams is the Society’s Book Series Editor and continues to work with authors to develop our academic book programme. Three academic books were published in 2023. These were: Tropical Cyclones by Roger Smith and Michael Montgomery, Geophysical Convection Dynamics by Jun-ichi Yano and Climate Change, Community Response and Resilience by Uday Chatterjee. Members are eligible for a 35% discount on all titles in the Developments in Weather and Climate Science series via the discount code on their member dashboard.

## Annex E: SOCIETAL BENEFITS

### Societal Benefits Board

The Societal Benefits Board was agreed that regular meetings of this Board were redundant with communication flowing effectively between the relevant committees. The Board will gather for an ad hoc meeting if a specific occasion or need arises.

### Science Engagement Committee

The Science Engagement Committee (SEC) is responsible for developing and overseeing the delivery of the Society's strategy relating to communication and engagement with all audiences, whether that is the general public, government or other key stakeholders representing the interests of the meteorological profession. Chaired by Prof Peter Stott and Dr Michelle Cain, the Committee helps the Society engage in important conversations within weather and climate, whilst providing evidence-based information through statements, briefing papers, events, training, and informal education activities.

**Science Engagement Fellowships:** In June 2022 the Society sponsored three Science Engagement Fellowships. This created an opportunity for PhD, postdoctoral and early career researchers to engage with the Society's Science Engagement activities. Three special interest groups (SIGs) were initiated: Insurance, Energy, and Youth and Early Career. Through the three new SIGs, the Society aims to identify the needs of those working within the industries related to weather and climate and develop content / activities that helps the Society to engage new audiences, attract new members, and encourage audiences to engage in CPD (including professional accreditation). The work provides opportunities for new partnerships in support of our wider strategic objectives and to further diversify income. This work focusses on inspiring and supporting individuals during their early stages of their career, whilst aiming to lower the average age of membership across the Society, supporting the Society's commitment to improved equality, diversity and inclusion.

A continued focus for science engagement activities in 2023 was building on the success of previous years and further developing the Society's engagement with the insurance and energy sectors, as well as early careers. To enable this area of work, the Society continued to fund three 1-year Science Engagement Fellowships and these were awarded to Dr Matthew Priestley, Matthew Wright and Regan Mudhar.

Activities for each program of work included:

- **Insurance** – Hosting two virtual events, '2022 Journal Paper Showcase' in February and 'Modelling Weather and Climate Hazards' in November, which attracted over 70 and 110 attendees respectively. Working with the UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (CGFI) to co-host a London-based event in April 'Insurance and Climate Science: Research, Analytics and Grand Challenges', which attracted over 90 people. Discussions from this event helped to shape the Society's Weather and Climate Data Programme for insurance which will be delivered in early 2024, sponsored by Willis Towers Watson and Brit Insurance.
- **Energy** – Surveying attendees and presenting a poster at the International Conference of Energy and Meteorology (ICEM) in Italy, as well as co-leading a workshop on energy-meteorology education. Information gathered was used to inform the virtual event 'Energy, Weather and Climate Forum: Challenges and Opportunities' in October. Discussions from the forum are informing the Society's future engagement with the energy sector. The Energy SIG also hosted the 'Seasonal Forecast Outlook for the Energy Sector' webinar for the second time in November, attracting over 130 attendees.
- **Early Careers** – Renaming the Early Career and Student Conference to emphasise 'early career' and sourcing speakers for a careers keynote session; reviewing, improving and relaunching the RMetS Student Ambassador scheme; launching a new webinar series called 'Diverse Voices'; and hosting a virtual event in December on 'Early Careers: An Insight into the Life of Operational Meteorologists'.

The SEC also focused on the development and delivery of activities within the Society's Climate Strategy through 2023. This included:

- Delivering climate change communication training to the Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA), Oxford Diocese, the Greater London Authority, DTN, AJT and Jersey Met. Additionally, the Society continued to provide ongoing support to ITV throughout the

year via short videos on recent climate science/policy updates. A series of short films based on the training course were also developed for the Sustainability Unlocked learning portal.

- Hosting a webinar on ‘The Role of Behavioural Change and Communication in Tackling Climate Change’ ahead of COP28. Over 100 individuals attended the virtual event to hear Prof Lorraine Whitmarsh and Prof Saffron O’Neill talk about the importance of behavioural change in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and how we can effectively communicate climate change.
- Attending COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. The Society has observer status and can view the negotiation process and update our members and stakeholders through videos and written roundups for both MetMatters and ITV. The Society participated in formal meetings, sat on panels and inputted into the process through the constituencies.

Other informal education activities to note outside of the Science Engagement Fellowships and Climate Strategy include:

- Completing delivery of the Community Leaders Climate Change Training project. In 2022, the Society secured funding, in partnership with the British Antarctic Survey, from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) ‘Growing Roots’ public engagement funding opportunity to share the Society’s Climate Change Communication Training with community leaders across all UK regions. The project kicked off in July 2022 and was completed in February 2023, having successfully delivered six free virtual training sessions to 116 Community Leaders.
- Working with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) to create content raising awareness of World Drowning Prevention Day and co-hosting a webinar on ‘Extreme Weather and Safety at the Coast: Insights from RNLI and RMetsS’, which attracted over 80 attendees.
- Running the Weather Photographer of the Year Competition for the eighth year, under new sponsorship from Standard Chartered. The competition attracted more than 3,700 entries, from over 1,200 photographers representing 94 countries, and after announcing the shortlist, over 9,200 votes were cast by the public. During 2023, the competition received more than 500 press and media mentions in 27 countries with an estimated public reach of circa 795,600. A total of 12.5 million people were reached on RMetsS social media channels. Some of the winning images are shown below.

Winner (Young) – Overhead Mammatus Over Beach Huts by Jamie McBean



Winner – A Perfect Cloud by Francisco Negroni



Winner (Smartphone) – Braving the Storm by Les Irwig





## Education Committee

Formal education remains a central part of the Society's charitable objectives and remains focussed on the needs of young learners and their teachers (often within a school context). The Society is unique in its charitable, meteorological, and educational capability. Education resources are open to all and the Society provides an independent professional approach that encourages the study, enjoyment, and personal progression in everything related to weather and climate.

The Society believes that every student should leave school with the basic weather literacy to understand the impact of weather on their personal life, leisure activities and employment; and that every student should leave school with the basic climate literacy that would enable them to engage with the messages put forward by the media or politicians, or to make informed decisions about their own opportunities and responsibilities and also to equip them with the knowledge and skills required for the green jobs of the future.

A key activity for the Society in 2023 was to ask climate change experts from a wide range of subject disciplines (including climate science, economics, communication, policy) to look for links to climate change in the current English GCSE specifications and Key Stage 3 (KS3) curriculum. This resulted in over 120 expert reviews spanning over 100 GCSE specifications and KS3 documents. Teachers were then asked to comment on the relevance of the reviews to their classroom practice.

In June the Society published an overview report. The major exam boards (AQA, Pearson and OCR) contributed towards the work, so they could access the detailed findings with respect to the specifications in their portfolio and the Society is now working with them to see how best to make use of the links identified. The most substantive progress has been made with AQA trilogy science GCSE. Subsequently, The Society has since been commissioned to carry out a similar review of a range of Cambridge National and Cambridge Advanced National qualifications.

Together with others in the National Climate Education Action Plan partnership, the Society developed a framework for assessing the quality of climate change teaching resources. This can be used by resource developers to make sure new resources are as good as possible, or resource providers can ask the Society to assess their existing resources against the framework in order to gain a quality mark. A small charge is being applied to cover Society costs, and the process is interactive in nature to help all improve the quality of resources. Currently, the Natural History Museum-led National Education Nature Parks and Twinkl have taken part, with many others hoping to do so soon.



Building on the groundbreaking 2022 climate literacy survey, the Society again asked Ipsos to carry out a 2023 survey of 16 year-olds in Wales and Scotland, using 5 basic questions. The Department for Education (DfE) funded an extended survey in England. The Society worked with climate experts and the DfE to develop 50 further questions which will be asked of students in England from 2024.

The Society staff and volunteers of the Education Committee continue to give their time and experience to help oversee the educational remit. The well attended Committee formally met twice in 2023, once fully virtually and once in a hybrid mode at the Society Headquarters, allowing members to come together in person if they were able. The Committee undertakes the routine business of reviewing our formal education activities, strategies, priorities, and risks.

Many partners assist the Committee, including the Institute of Physics, Royal Geographical Society, Geographical Association, various Universities, the Met Office, plus many others. The Society would like to thank everyone for their continued generous support, significant efforts, and loyal dedication. Membership of the Society empowers our educational and charitable work.

### Highlights from 2023 include:

- On behalf of the Society, Geoff Jenkins with the support of Keith Shine have continued to look at the quality of climate change information in past school exam and assessment materials.
- Invited into two consortium tenders to the DfE to deliver a support hub for the Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plans. Whilst the bids were unsuccessful, the Society is supporting the winning tender.
- Continued our important role in teacher training, with around 120 geography PGCE students taught, from 9 universities.
- Sylvia Knight, Head of Education, now sits on the expert panel for Oak Academy's new science resources and for Teach the Future's track changes (primary) review.
- Launched a number of new resources on Metlink, the Society's educational online platform [www.metlink.org/](http://www.metlink.org/) (many resources are collaborative with other subject organisations), and the questions on the Isaac Physics platform are doing very well. The Society has also supported Dr Frost Learning in developing a new set of classroom resources.
- Hosted a careers day in June 2023, and were fortunate to have a great group of speakers. Recordings from the event remain available on the Society's YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX4zCL7R\\_7o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kX4zCL7R_7o), to those subsequently asking for advice about a career in meteorology.
- 6 schools achieved a MetMark in 2023. The MetMark, which is awarded by the Society and Met Office, recognises excellence in weather and climate teaching, over and above the normal requirements of the National Curriculum or exam specifications. However, the Society and the Met Office have now made the difficult decision to end this initiative. Congratulations must be offered to every setting which successfully applied for a MetMark over the last 9 years.



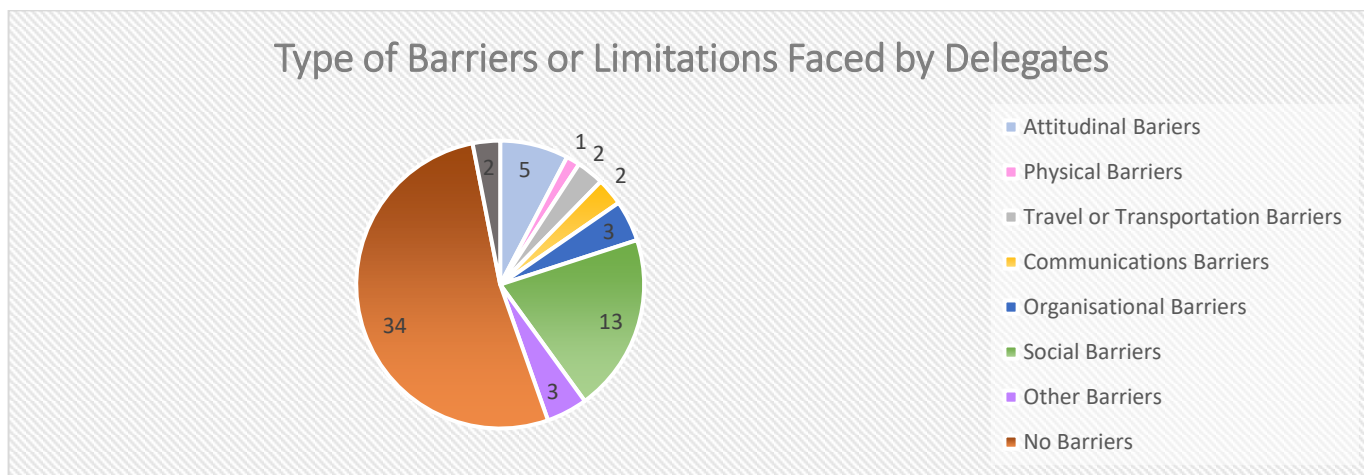
## Events Committee

The Society continued to deliver a diverse and ambitious programme of events throughout 2023. Across the 52 events held: 22 were in-person; 3 were live streamed; and 27 virtual. The programme variety aims to increase accessibility for delegates whilst also supporting different audience needs - be that a one-hour online event, or an in-person conference with parallel sessions and poster presentations. The continued success of these meetings and conferences is thanks to the voluntary contributions of organisers, committees, speakers and members of the Meetings and Conferences Committee, together with the tremendous efforts made by Society staff.

The Society's events have seen an encouraging return to face-to-face meetings and conferences. The Wednesday meeting attendance has significantly increased over the past year, doubling the attendance from 2022, however interest in both in-person and online Saturday meetings have decreased substantially. The team look for different ways to increase attendance across the year and work closely with the Meetings and Conferences Committee to continue to evolve the events programme.

The events team have continued their efforts to run more sustainable events throughout the year however, the external suppliers and venues within the events sector still have a long way to go which limits the amount of data we can collect and our own speed of advancement. It is clear however, that the Society is ahead of many other organisations, with a number of initiatives already in place and our short and long term goals publicly available on the [website](#).

In line with the Society's EDI objectives, a survey was run at the ECR and Student Conference to further supplement data gathered from a larger survey sent out earlier in the year. The ECR and Student Conference survey was completed by 51 individuals and one of the questions focused on the barriers and limitations faced by those in the community, with the response highlighted below.



From the feedback received, and with advice and support from Ellie Highwood and the EDI Working Group, the Society now have guidance for meetings organisers, session chairs and speakers, and a detailed checklist for event planning. The Society believes this facilitates its desire to deliver inclusive events, whilst addressing identified barriers where possible, and helping to ensure attendees have a positive experience.

## National Meetings

The National Meeting programme offers a wide variety of events to cater for all aspects of the meteorological community. Diversity and accessibility within the programme remain key priorities and brings people together from academia, those working in the public and private sector, and other backgrounds to discuss and challenge current topics of interest.

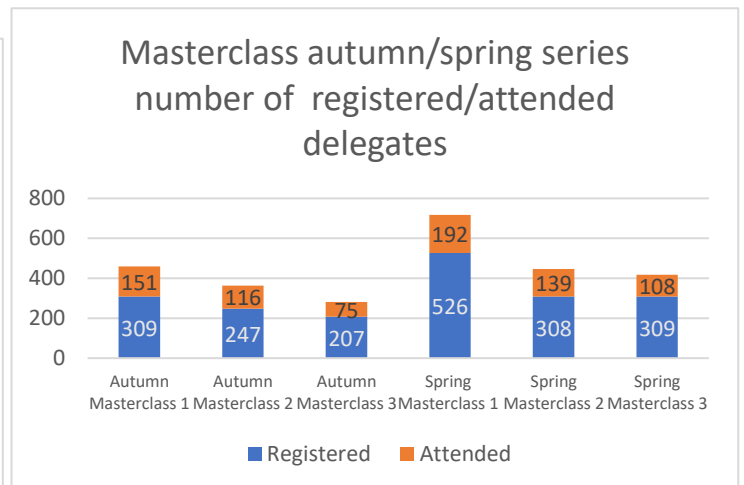
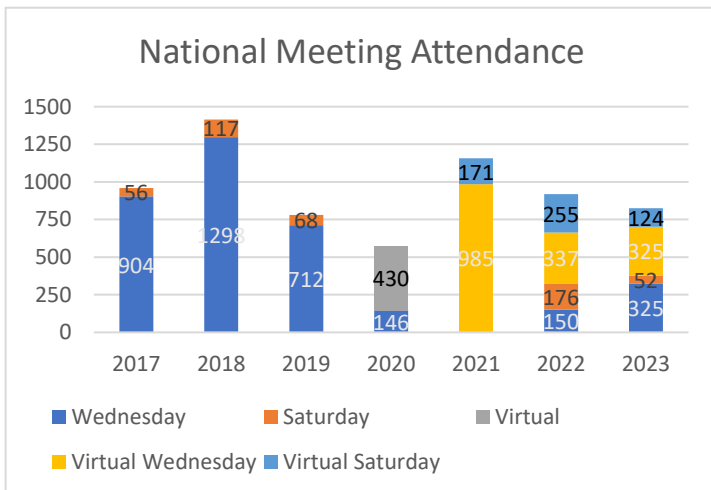
In 2023 the Society hosted a variety of National Meetings offering either in person, virtual or live streamed attendance where possible:

<b>Feb</b>	<a href="#">Understanding the Weather of 2022</a>
<b>April</b>	<a href="#">Mountain Meteorology (Joint with the Scottish Local Centre)</a>
<b>June</b>	<a href="#">Keeping the Lights on During Solar Storms: Space Weather as an Energy Sector Hazard</a>
<b>Sept</b>	<a href="#">RMetS AGM</a>
<b>Oct</b>	<a href="#">The Role of Behavioural Change and Communication in Tackling Climate Change</a> <a href="#">DATA RESCUE – Discovery and Recovery of Historic Climatic Observations</a>
<b>Nov</b>	<a href="#">Extreme Weather and Safety at the Coast: Insights from RNLI and RMetS</a>
<b>Dec</b>	<a href="#">Early Careers: An Insight into the Life of Operational Meteorologists</a>

The ‘Mountain Meteorology’ event was held in Edinburgh as a joint event with the Scottish Local Centre. This was the first time that the local centre had met in person since 2020. The Society also partnered with the RNLI to host the ‘Extreme Weather and Safety at the Coast’ virtual event. The meeting aimed to bring the two audiences together whilst ensuring both the RNLI and RMetS objectives were achieved. Several events were affected by the ongoing train strikes, which resulted in postponement of one event and another to be hosted as a virtual event.

The Society also partnered and co-sponsored events with EDF, Grantham Institute, BAS, University of Reading, NCAS and the Met Office.

**Attendance at National Meetings (and Tasters) over recent years is shown in the following graphs.**



\*Figures for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 include Taster sessions in the National Meeting figures

The overall number of attendees at National Meetings for 2023 was slightly down from 2022 as fewer National Meetings were held (11 in 2022 compared to 8 in 2023). This reduction was to support diversification in the events programme and allow several sector relevant events to be delivered which required events team support. However, the numbers of attendees at National Meetings were only slightly down overall, meaning that individual meeting attendance has improved, with a greater increase at in-person events. The Society continued to face challenges with meeting postponement due to industrial strike action. The Society received continued support from the Events Committee, international speakers and chairs, and other volunteers who aided the events team to ensure the programme could be delivered.

### Conferences and Other Events

In 2023, the Society ran four conferences spanning a diverse and broad range of subjects. Each conference seeks to meet the strategic aims of the Society as well as being inclusive for the membership. Both online and live events were included within the programme.

The conference season started off with the final instalment of the **Atmospheric Science Conference** on the 21 March. This online event followed on from the success of two other events held in 2022 and brought together the atmospheric science, weather and climate communities to share their science with each other.

The organising committee did a brilliant job organising all three events, and on behalf of both the Society and NCAS, we would like to express our sincere thanks. The Atmospheric Science Conference series has now come to a natural close and the Society would like to thank NCAS for their partnership in delivering the conference since 2016.

The **Early Career and Student Conference** was held at the University of Reading on the 4-5 July and ran once again as a hybrid event. The opportunity to attend both in-person and online was offered for all sessions, as well as the chance to present virtually. The conference attracted a record number of 105 delegates in-person this year, which shows how important being able to network face-to-face is to this community. The online option was available but poorly attended. One of the many highlights from the event included a panel session held on the first day with early career professionals. Poster sessions were well attended and attracted 53 presenters. The event had a slight name change this year, after the Youth and Early Career Special Interest Groups survey results revealed that the name needed to be more inclusive. The slight variation from 'Student and Early Career Scientists Conference' now aligns with the Society's objectives. A big thank you needs to be extended to the [Student Organising Committee](#) who once again delivered an outstanding event for the early career and student community.

Over the summer, the Society carried out extensive research to understand what the weather and climate community wanted from a Society conference going forward. Feedback from a survey to members and past conference attendees, as well as multiple focus groups, helped to shape the new annual conference format and highlighted the benefits and need for a UK focused in-person event to bring the community together. It was clear that 2.5 days was a useful length for the event, ensuring the time travelling was worthwhile whilst also providing ample opportunity for individuals at all stages of their career to network, present or be updated on the most novel research across weather and climate and associated interdisciplinary fields. Thank you to all those who helped shape the new annual RMetS Weather and Climate Conference which will be launch in 2024.

On Wednesday 13 September, the Society ran a one-off event to commemorate the **RMetS Quarterly Journal: Celebrating 150 years** held at Imperial College. This conference brought together past and present journal editors, authors and readers of the journal to discuss key papers from the past 150 years. Ninety delegates attended this landmark event, with invited poster presentations from past L F Richardson Winners and the 2023 Early Career and Student Conference.

On 12 October, the Energy Special Interest Group held their inaugural **Energy, Weather and Climate Forum**. This event brought together experts from industry, academia and the public sector to discuss how the energy sector interacts with weather and climate on a range of timescales. The group discussed and identified some key challenges and opportunities in this space, which will be the focus of the Society's energy sector engagement in the future. There were 97 delegates in attendance.

Two series of **Met Masterclasses** took place in 2023, one in March and the other in late October and November. These afternoon sessions are co-organised alongside the University of Reading and offer CPD opportunities to both members and non-members in an online format. These sessions proved extremely popular for the fourth year running, with Prof Sir Brian Hoskins presenting our most popular lectures to date on 'The Fundamental Synoptics and Dynamics of Blocking'.

### **Local Centres and Special Interest Groups**

In 2023 the Local Centres continued to organise meetings across the UK with a wide variety of talks either in person or virtual. Many of the Local Centres are hosting meetings in person with an option to live stream so the event can be attended virtually. The Local Centres held a total of 20 meetings in 2023.

## Reports from Local Centres

The Society's Local Centres offer an extensive programme of events and meetings which are of great interest to Society members and the general public across the country. The meeting details, speakers and dates are available at [rmets.org/events](https://rmets.org/events). The Society and its Local Centres gratefully thank all their speakers, who have provided an interesting and varied programme, and to all the regular and enthusiastic audiences for their support.

Activities of the Society's Local Centres during 2023 are detailed below:

### East Anglia Centre

The East Anglia Centre was inactive throughout 2023.

### East Midlands Centre

Committee Members

Michael Steven (Chair), Roger Phillips (Editor: Weather Front), Alan Jones, Mike Longman.

Our student representative, Florentine Weber, left at the beginning of the year. No replacement has found to date.

Remit

As a local centre, we see our remit as bringing the RMetS to its members in the region; to broaden interest in Meteorology among the public at large; and where appropriate, to promote local expertise in atmospheric science and related disciplines.

Activities

This is the East Midlands Centre's third year of operation since its restart in 2021. Two meetings were held during the year:

- 9th March 2023: Rohit Chakraborty (AirRated Ltd.)  
["Breathing Easy: Understanding Indoor Air Pollution in the UK and Its Impact on Health and Well-being"](#)
- 26th October 2023: Prof Sayed Azam-Ali OBE (Crops for the Future, UK)  
["We can't resolve the climate crisis without transforming the food system – for good"](#)

Attendance was 21 for Mr Chakraborty's online talk. Although the numbers were slightly disappointing, responses to the poll indicated a mix of professional and amateur interest. There was quite a lively discussion and a number of gov.uk email addresses among the attendees, indicating that our efforts to attract council environmental officers in the region had had some success. There were 101 subsequent views of the recording.

The talk by Prof Sayed Azam-Ali was our first attempt at running a hybrid meeting. There were 23 in attendance at the University of Nottingham, plus an additional 17 online. There were 87 subsequent views of the recording. There was again a lively discussion, predominantly with those attending in person. We did have some technical issues in linking the RMetS online system with the Nottingham University system (it is not a seamless process) but managed to resolve these reasonably well apart from a slight background hum. It would not have been possible to show a video as part of the speaker's talk, but fortunately, this was not required on this occasion.

We have made some effort through the year to build up a local membership and involve them in our activities. The current figure is 11, plus the committee members.

The Weather Front (established 1981) is now produced monthly and entirely online. There are currently 13 observers in the regional network, which the editor is working to expand.

### North East Centre

The North East Centre was inactive throughout 2023.

### North West Centre

The North West Centre was inactive throughout 2023.

### Scottish Centre

The Scottish Centre hosted six meetings with an average attendance of 33 individuals. Titles of the meetings included:

- [20 January: The impact of an extreme cloud burst on Edinburgh Castle and how important were human influences.](#)

Prof Simon Tett (University of Edinburgh)

- [21 February: A review of extra-tropical cyclones: observations and conceptual models over the past 100 years.](#)

Prof Helen Dacre (University of Reading)

- [21 March: Post graduate student talks.](#)  
Decadal variability of the extra-tropical response to the Madden-Julian oscillation.  
Mr Daniel Skinner (University of East Anglia)  
Far-flung influences on the predictability of the North Atlantic winter climate.  
Mr Ned Williams (University of Exeter)
- [6 October: Ensemble and probability forecasting.](#)  
Mr Ken Mylne (Met. Office)
- [10 November: Future changes in the frequency of extreme weather across Europe](#)  
Prof Hayley Fowler (Newcastle University)
- [8 December: The electricity of extensive layer clouds](#)  
Dr Keri Nicoll (University of Reading)

Meetings not organised by the Scottish centre but held in Scotland were:

- 22nd April: Mountain Meteorology: Climate change and forecasting perspectives.  
National meeting with various speakers, attendance 42.
- 27th July: Visit to Eskdalemuir Observatory.  
Organised by Richard Griffith, attendance 12.

### South East Centre

The South East Centre hosted 5 meetings in 2023. Titles of the meetings included:

- March: [Tracking the Sustainability of Long-Haul Flights](#)  
Presenter: Cathie Wells
- May: [Nutrient transport within the Subsurface Oceans of Icy Moons](#)  
Presenter: Flynn Ames
- June: [Coupled Water, Energy, and Carbon Budgets](#)  
Presenter: Sammy Petch
- July: [Ecosystem Connections in the Shelf Sea Environment Using Complex Networks](#)  
Presenter: Ieuan Higgs
- November: [The Wessex Convection Experiment \(WesCon\)](#)  
Presenter: Humphrey Lean

### South West Centre

In 2023, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI) enjoyed its seventh year as the Royal Meteorological Society's South West Local Centre but due to work pressure on volunteers, did not manage to fulfil its minimum requirement of at least one meteorological lecture per year. There are plans, however, to provide lectures through BRLSI Geography and Adventure, in conjunction with the BRLSI Science Group, the BRLSI Sustainability Group, the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Geographical Society in 2024.

### Welsh Centre

The Welsh Centre was inactive throughout 2023.

### West Midlands

The West Midlands Centre hosted two meetings at which the average attendance was 15. Titles of the meetings were:

- [23rd February: Combining uncrewed oceanographic systems for observational air-sea interaction studies](#)  
[Elizabeth Siddle, Centre for Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich](#)

- [9th March: Climate change extremes: attribution, projections and intergenerational inequities Prof Simon Gosling, School of Geography, University of Nottingham](#)

## Yorkshire Centre

The Yorkshire Centre hosted 4 events in 2023

- [27th January 2023: Life of a BBC weather presenter Sabrina Lee \(BBC\)](#)
- [15th February 2023: Big weather quiz of the year RMetS Yorkshire local centre committee members](#)
- [20th February 2023: Frozen threats: understanding the role of ice sheets in sea level rise Ruth Mottram \(Danish Meteorological Institute\)](#)
- [29th March 2023: PhD showcase Amy Swiggs, Hazel Mooney, Ashar Aslam \(University of Leeds\)](#)

We are currently in discussion with HQ regarding the next steps for the Yorkshire Centre due to low attendance at events and difficulty finding new committee members to replace those who intend to step down.

## Reports from Special Interest Groups

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of the Society are informal groups interested in specific areas of meteorology and related topics. The groups are primarily a means of bringing together those with a specialised interest that cannot be explored fully by the general Society meetings.

The update for the three new SIGs formed in 2022: Energy SIG, Insurance SIG, Youth and Early Career SIG is provided within the Science Engagement update. Activities of the other Society's SIGs during 2023 are detailed below:

### Atmospheric Chemistry

No meetings were held during 2023, however, planning took place for the 2024 event which will be held in Leeds in early February.

### Atmospheric Electricity

The Atmospheric Electricity group organised the 11th annual 'Wilson Meeting on UK Atmospheric Electricity' on 16 November, as an in-person event at the University of Bath. There were 39 registered attendees. There were 12 presentations and 4 posters, including international contributions. A meeting report has been submitted to Weather. During June (26-30) an international conference associated with the group was held at the University of Bath, titled "Radio Observations of Theory of Atmospheric Discharge Processes". There were 73 registrants, 12 of whom were UK-based.

### Aviation Meteorology

There were no events during 2023. However, it is worth reporting on a Royal Aeronautical Society meeting organised by the Greener by design Group "Contrail Management – time for action". A member of the Aviation Meteorology SIG, Piers Buchanan of the Met Office, gave a presentation on "Contrails: a Met Office view".

### Climate Dynamics

The 8th National Climate Dynamics workshop was held at Birmingham University in June 2023. With over 50 participants, this in person workshop fosters collaboration between the academic community and Met Office scientists working on atmosphere and ocean climate dynamics from subseasonal to multi-decadal timescales.

### Climate Science

Nothing to report.

### Data Assimilation

Nothing to report.



## **History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography**

In 2023, the Group gained a few new members and had a number of activities.

The Group's Secretary Julian Mayes organised the History Group's autumn meeting and the RMetS National Meeting on Data Rescue on 11th October 2023 at The Geological Society, London. The meeting marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Group. Topics ranged from the archiving of records and the importance of metadata to the recovery of past observation through Citizen Science projects to the use of recovered observations in national and global datasets. The Group acknowledges the support of Catherine Bicknell, Hayley Williams and Liz Bentley from the RMetS. With the eye on future events, Prof Chris Folland and Prof Mat Collins have presented ideas for a conference on the History of Climate Modeling planned for late 2024.

The Society's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the QJ was completed in February. A short article reviewing the process of nomination of 63 landmark publications was included in the Group's July newsletter. Committee member Chris Folland coordinated the expert panel (himself included) who nominated the papers. The timeline for the QJ 150 research can be found at <https://www.rmets.org/news/qj-150th-anniversary>.

The Group continued with the Distinguished Voices Podcasts with the interview of the climate modeling expert Prof John Mitchell by Prof Chris Folland of the History Group. A reciprocal interview of Chris Folland will follow soon. <https://www.rmets.org/distinguished-voices>.

Committee member Richard Griffith led the visit to review Eskdalemuir observatory which he organised in collaboration with the RMetS Scottish Centre. The visit included tours of the Met Office instruments trials ground and the BGS facility and displays of historical materials. Richard had written an article for the summer newsletter. A repeat visit is planned for July 2024.

Julian Mayes ran the editorial work and production of two Newsletters, circulated in June and December 2023 and featuring a variety of historical contributions of interest. The Group continued with evening seminars on 30 May 2023 with the guest speaker Fiona Williamson (Singapore Management University) who presented on 'Meteorology, Weather and War in Southeast Asia: Malaya c.1940-1960.'

## **Meteorological Observing Systems**

The Meteorological Observing Systems SIG held an in-person meeting in March 2023 in Cambridge titled 'Making Weather and Climate Measurements in Difficult Places'. This was a successful meeting with 45 people attending. The SIG held its AGM on 1 November and produced a spring newsletter.

## **Weather, Art and Music (WAM)**

Nothing to report.

## **Weather Service Providers**

Nothing to report.

## **Association of British Climatologists**

Nothing to report.

## Annex F: UNDERPINNING ACTIVITIES AND CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

### Council and Committees

#### MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL (TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)

**Patron: King Charles III, HonFRMetS**

From 1 January to 30 September 2023 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2022. On 1 October 2023, the following Council held office:

#### PRESIDENT

David Griggs, PhD, FRMetS (also Chair, Strategic Planning Board and Awards Committee)

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Brian Golding, OBE, FRMetS  
Robert A Varley, FRMetS, CMet  
Catherine Senior

#### VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND

Greg Wolverson, FRMetS, CMet

#### GENERAL SECRETARY

Derek Swannick, FRMetS, FCMI, MAPM (also Chair, House Committee, Salary and Remuneration Committee)

#### TREASURER

Paul Hardaker, FRMetS, CMet, FInstP

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Anna Ghelli, PhD, FRMetS (Scientific Publishing Board)  
Edmund Henley (Meetings and Conferences Committee)  
Karl Shepherdson, FRMetS (Education Committee)  
Peter Stott, PhD, FRMetS (Science Engagement Committee)  
Rebecca Venton, FRMetS, CMet (Professional Accreditation Board)

#### MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mona Lukha  
Indrani Roy, FRMetS

Unfortunately, Lesley Gray had to step down as President in 2023 and the Society was grateful that David Griggs, the most recent past President, was able to step back into the role until 31<sup>st</sup> September 2024.

Council met on three occasions during 2023 in February, June and November. In addition to routine business, Council completed the strategic planning process leading to the Strategic Plan being extended out to 2026, worked on Net Zero plans for the Society, and had updates on: EDI; development work at Eaton Court; from the Investigations Committee; and the Membership Survey results.

### Council Diversity

The Society's Council has long championed the benefits of diversity on decision-making and seeks to have a diverse range of individuals on its Council and committees in terms of protected characteristics and in terms of diversity of background and experience. To identify the skills and knowledge it needs and inform future recruitment, the Society conducts an annual skills audit, and asks for some EDI data. The current Council membership has a good gender balance, with some representation from ethnically diverse communities.

### Without Whom

During the year, the following Officers and Council Members retired or stepped down from office with our grateful thanks.

<b>President:</b>	Lesley Gray
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jennie Campbell
<b>General Secretary:</b>	Shanti Majithia
<b>Vice President for Scotland:</b>	Gary Johnston
<b>Member:</b>	Aisling Creevey

### House Committee

The House Committee reviews and develops the key functions that underpin the general activities of the Society in order to achieve its strategic aims. The Committee, chaired by the General Secretary, normally meets ahead of the Council meetings. The House Committee met once in 2023 on 7 November to:

- monitor actions from the Governance health check activity completed every 3 years;
- review the Society's Risk Register to ensure ongoing risks are reduced and monitored. Possible development work on the land adjacent to the Society's Headquarters has been added as a new risk to the register and has led to the uptake of a planning consultant and a heritage expert;
- monitor Health and Safety actions following the annual audit;
- review changes to the Standing Orders;
- review progress towards the Society's Net Zero pledge. See Net Zero section on page 27;
- updates on the donations and legacies plan, including ways to attract donations by framing specific projects aligned with charitable objectives and online donation platforms;
- inform the Committee of reviews relating to insurers, auditors and bank services;
- review and approve changes from the Society's employment policies and benefits;
- review the Business Plan and budget for 2024 and recommend them to Council.

### Strategic Planning Board

The Strategic Planning Board (SPB) supports the development of the Society's Strategic Plan. It normally meets annually to ensure the Strategic Plan remains fit for purpose, to provide guidance on cross-cutting themes and potential strategic partnerships, and to review and prioritise strategic project proposals. The Chair of the SPB is the President of the Society.

In 2023, the SPB played an important role in overseeing the review and extension of the Society's strategy plan out to 2026, moving the Society from a 3-year into a 6-year strategic planning cycle. The Board reviewed the mid-term Strategic Plan activities, and approved the extended Strategic Plan, recommending it to Council. The SPB met once in 2023 on 12 October.

### Business Development and Strategic Partnerships

The Society partners with a range of organisations, including academic institutions, businesses and industry, NGOs and government, to support the delivery of its charitable objectives.

In 2023, the Society partnered with: University of Bath, University of Bristol, University of Chester, Columbia University, University of East Anglia, University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, University of Lancaster, University of Leeds, University of Manchester, University of Newcastle, University of Oxford, University of Reading, University of Sheffield, University of St Andrews, Swansea University, Grantham Institute, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, NERC, British Antarctic Survey, ITV, Met Office, ECMWF, DTN, FleetWeather, Royal Navy, Jersey Met Dept, StormHour, TORRO, Royal Geographical Society, Geographical Association, Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, American Meteorological Society, Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Royal Photographic Society, Institute of Physics, European Meteorological Society, International Forum of Meteorological Societies, African Regional Meteorological Society, Climate Action for Associations, Public Relations and Communications Association, STEM Learning, the Science Museum, Young People's Trust for the Environment, IPSOS, Institute of Food Science and Technology, Construction Industry Council, Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Royal Institute of Navigation, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (BRLSI), Royal Statistical Society, GASCo, UK Flight Safety Committee, Pearson, OCR, Energy Networks Association, CEFAS, Aurora Energy, Citadel, AXA XL, Lloyds Banking Group, Bank of England, Inigo Insurance, Brit Insurance, Liberty Special Markets, Willis Towers Watson, B2B, Wiley, EDF Energy, National Grid ESO, Shell, SSE, Ofgem,

Aventedge, Massolit, Twinkl, AQA, Education Scotland, Dr Frost Maths, Anya Jones Translation (AJT), Bermuda Airport Authority, Natural History Museum, RNLI, Oxford Diocese, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, Standard Chartered, The Week Junior, Sustainability Unlocked, CAFA, PBCAC, PlanetMark, Pledge to Net Zero, Ecorys, DESNZ, Defra, Department for Education, MBC NetWeather, Aon, and the Greater London Authority.

Highlights from the activities delivered through the Society's business development and strategic activities in 2023:

- Delivered the Weather Photographer of the Year competition in partnership with Standard Chartered for the first year, significantly increasing the reach and impact of the competition.
- Launched a new "quality control" scheme to support education resource providers to ensure the quality of the climate content included in resources. This includes a partnership with the Natural History Museum to ensure the accuracy of resources shared via the National Education Nature Parks programme.
- Collaborated with Ecorys and IPSOS to secure a partnership with the Department for Education to further extend RMetS research into the climate literacy of school leavers.
- Delivered Climate Change Communications Training for Community Leaders, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation, as part of the Growing Roots public engagement funding opportunity.
- Delivered an event about extreme weather and safety at the coast in partnership with the RNLI.
- Continued partnerships with ITV, the PR and Communications Association, and launched new partnerships with DTN, Jersey Met Office, Greater London Authority, Sustainability Unlocked and AJT to provide training on Climate Change Communications to professional communicators and educators.
- Continued our partnership with the University of Reading to deliver two further "Meteorological Masterclass" series providing continued professional development opportunities for operational meteorologists.
- Welcomed four new Corporate Members to the Society (Gallagher RE, MBC Netweather Ltd, MeteoWeather Ltd, Bermuda Airport Authority), bringing the total number of corporate members to 18.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

In 2023, the Society completed the first EDI survey of its membership. 388 members completed the survey (12.7% of the Society's membership), which has provided a baseline understanding of the diversity of the RMetS membership and helped to inform the subsequent action plan. In 2023, the Society began communicating more clearly about its work on EDI, including sharing the results of the survey and setting out its future plans to members. The EDI working group continued to act as a critical friend, helping the Society to develop its activities e.g. developing a plan for future communications and engagement in awareness days. The Society established its strategic priorities for EDI for 2024 which include improving communications about EDI, reviewing employment processes internally and building and supporting a diverse meteorological community.

## Net Zero

The Society is a part of [Pledge to Net Zero](#) along with over 180 signatories, which is an initiative tackling greenhouse gas emissions within the environmental services sector for those taking a leadership role in the transition to Net Zero. This initiative strengthens the Society's longstanding efforts to address the global climate emergency.

The Society is committed to achieving net zero direct carbon emissions (Scope 1 & 2) by 2025, where there is direct control through avoiding, reducing and substituting. It is also working towards net zero indirect emissions (Scope 3) by 2030, subject to a full feasibility assessment.

In 2023, the Society worked closely with [CAFA](#) (Climate Action For Associations), which aims to increase climate and sustainability leadership, drive change and reach net zero using the collective power and influence of professional, trade associations and membership organisations; and the Professional

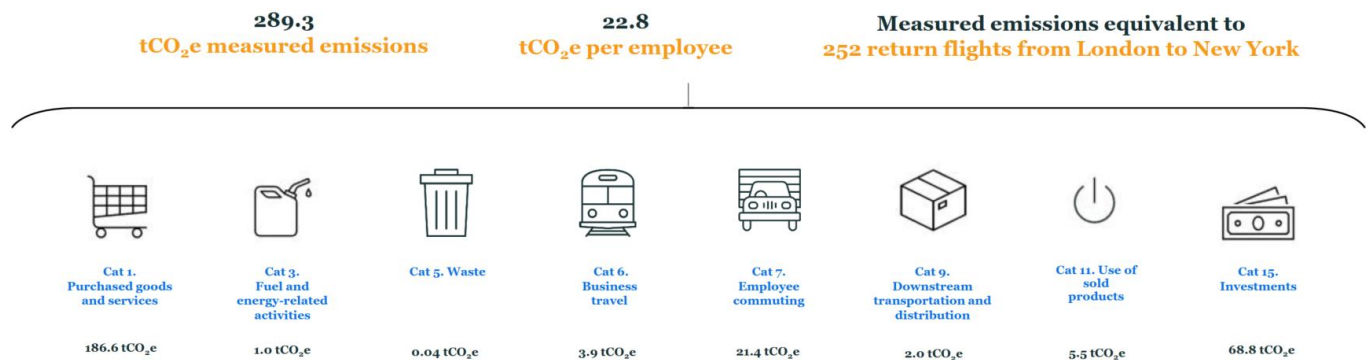
Bodies [Charter for Climate Action](#), which aims to leverage greater collective ambition through interdisciplinary coordination and is supported by many other professional bodies.

### 2023 Carbon Emissions Data

The Society reports on progress against its net zero pledge annually and has been collating information about scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2019 and 2020. The full baseline year is 2022 which also includes scope 3 data calculated during 2023.

The Society has been mindful of reducing its carbon footprint for over a decade, installing solar panels on the roof of the headquarters building and taking steps to eliminate scope 1 emissions by replacing an end-of-life gas boiler with a new electric system. The Society has already cut its scope 2 electricity emissions to net zero by switching to a 100% renewable energy tariff and switching to efficient lighting to reduce its energy demands.

Baseline Year:	2022
Scope 1:	2.4 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2:	1.8 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (0.0 tCO <sub>2</sub> e market-based emissions <sup>1</sup> due to green tariff and renewables)
Scope 3:	289.3 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (3.8 tCO <sub>2</sub> e from T&D losses, water, waste, paper and business travel, 186.6 tCO <sub>2</sub> e from purchased goods and services, 21.4 tCO <sub>2</sub> e is employee commuting, 2 tCO <sub>2</sub> e is downstream transportation and distribution, 5.5 tCO <sub>2</sub> e is use of sold products, and 68.8 tCO <sub>2</sub> e is investments.)



#### Latest annual carbon footprint for 2023:

Scope 1:	0.0 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Scope 2:	3.8 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (0.0 tCO <sub>2</sub> e market-based emissions due to green tariff and renewables)
Scope 3:	289.3 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (calculation completed in 2023 for baseline year 2022 and full recalculation will be repeated every 3 years) In 2023 7.4 tCO <sub>2</sub> e is for T&D losses, water, waste, paper and business travel

<sup>1</sup> The market-based method was introduced in 2015 in order to allow companies to reflect the emissions from the electricity that they have specifically chosen to procure or generate on-site, which in most cases will be different from the average emissions of the electricity that is generated by the local grid.

## Marketing and Communications

The role of communications and marketing is to promote the Society's work and the understanding of weather and climate. The Society recognises the importance of increasing its visibility, raising awareness and being an independent, authoritative voice about weather and climate science.

### Highlights from 2023

- **Social media:** RMetsS' presence continues to grow, with increases in followers on LinkedIn to 6,615 (+49%), X, formally known as Twitter, 15,426 (+2.5%), Instagram 7,311 (+11%), Facebook: 5,100 (+8.5%), and YouTube: 1,600 (not recorded previously).
- **Website statistics:** Website users decreased in 2023 by 21.4%, to 929,605, although Google made changes to their web analytics system halfway through the year, so it is difficult to compare like-for-like. The number of pages viewed increased from 1,294,601 to 1,318,819 in 2023 – an increase of 1.9% – although this may also be related to changes in how page views are measured behind the scenes.
- **Media coverage:** 180 media interview requests fulfilled and 2,233 items of media coverage, a decrease of 42% and 36% respectively.
- **Impact Report:** the third Impact Report published in September 2023 focussed on key priorities of the work of the Society in 2022. Whilst the report itself was scaled down following changes to the team overseeing its production, the impact reported therein was very positive. ([www.rmets.org/impactreport](http://www.rmets.org/impactreport))

During 2023, the Society experienced significant change within its marketing and communications team, which has impacted some of its marketing and communications activity.

In 2023, the Society delivered the following key marketing and communications activities:

### Membership

The Society continues to see strong engagement through Members' eNews, with newsletters performing above average. In 2023 the average open rate was 59%, and the average click-through rate was 11.5% – both well above industry benchmarks.

### Scientific Publishing

In 2023, there were 1,275 national and international coverage items directly referencing Society publications, an increase of 37% on 2022.

### Education and Engagement

MetMatters content attracted around 750,000 visitors in 2023, an increase of 31%. Blog content also appeared in Google search results pages around 40 million times – a good source of brand exposure.

The 8<sup>th</sup> RMetsS Standard Chartered Weather Photographer of the Year competition reached 12.5 million people around the world on social media, with 500 mentions globally from media outlets.

## **Annex G: Membership of Committees, Boards, Local Centres and SIGs**

The Committees listed below are the standing Committees of the Society as of 31 December 2023. Membership of other sub-committees, working groups and similar ad hoc bodies are not detailed.

### **Atmospheric Science Conference Scientific Programming Committee**

Jennifer Rourke (Chair), Beena Balan Sarojini, Helen Macintyre, Paul Williams, Vikki Thompson

### **Accreditation Board**

Becky Venton (Chair), Andrew Eccleston, Alan Hisscott, Pete Inness, Derek Swannick, Julian Mayes, Bob Riddaway, Keith Thomson, Ewen McCallum, Alex Kubara, Baden Hall.

### **Awards Committee**

Dave Griggs (President and Chair), Alan Thorpe, Liz Kent, Jo Haigh, Cristina Charlton-Perez, Simon Lee, Ruth Purvis, Dudley Shallcross.

### **Course Evaluation and Continuous Professional Development Panel**

Keith Thomson (Chair), Andrew Eccleston, Peter Jonas, Norman Lynagh, Penny Tranter, Becky Venton, Michael Brettle, Daniel Adamson, Dan Suri, Andy Page, Fraser Ralston, James Rainbow, Roger Barrowcliffe

### **Education Committee**

Karl Shepherdson (Chair), Andrew Charlton-Perez, Simon Foster, Geoff Jenkins, Melissa Lord, Taj Bhutta (representative of Institute of Physics), James Rae, Paula Richardson (representative of Geographical Association), Jeremy Thomas, Simon Pinfield (representative of Royal Geographical Society with IBG), Rebecca Griffiths/Lisa Tomkins (representatives of Met Office), and David Preece.

### **House Committee**

Derek Swannick (Chair), Catherine Senior (Vice-President), Anna Ghelli (Chair of Scientific Publishing Board), Paul Hardaker (Treasurer).

### **Meetings and Conferences Committee**

Edmund Henley (Chair), Natalie Harvey, Mark Rodwell, Simon Levey, Steve Colwell, Dafni Sifnioti, Ioana Colfescu, Malcolm Newman, Greg Dewhurst, Rachel Perks.

### **Membership Development Board**

Sarah Hewitt (Chair), Daniel Brener, Sarah Dennis, Richard Griffiths, Sarah Hewitt, Amethyst Johnson, Katherine Latham, Rachel Yan.

### **QJ Celebration Event Committee**

Lesley Gray (Chair), Keith Shine, John Methven, Andrew Ross, Joanna Haigh.

### **Science Engagement Committee**

Peter Stott (Co-Chair), Michelle Cain (Co-Chair), Emily Shuckburgh, Candice Howarth, Adam Scaife, David Warrilow OBE, Clare Heaviside, Dann Mitchell, Chloe Brimicombe, Hannah Bloomfield, Matthew Wright, Daniel Skinner, Matthew Priestley, Regan Mudhar.

### **Scientific Publishing Board**

Anna Ghelli (Chair), Eddy Graham and Simon Lee (Co-Editors, Weather), John Methven and Andrew Ross (Co-Editors, QJ), Chris O'Reilly and Massimo Bollasina (Co-Editors, ASL), Cristina Charlton-Perez and Dino Zardi (Co-Editors, Met Apps), Bill Collins and Enric Aguilar (Co-Editors, IJOC), Kate Royse and Jian Peng (Co-Editors, GDJ), Rachel Warren and Kristie Ebi (Incoming) (Co-Editors, CRS).

## **Strategic Planning Board**

David Griggs (President and Chair), Paul Hardaker (Treasurer), Derek Swannick (General Secretary and Chair of House Committee), Robert Varley.

## **Early Career and Student Conference Organising Committee**

Francesca Morris (Co-Chair), Ned Williams (Co-Chair), Daniel Skinner, Matthew Fry, Alex Chamberlain-Clay, Ashar Aslam, Emily Lear.

## **Local Centres**

### **East Anglia Centre**

Chris Bell (Chair), Dan Holley (Co-Chair).

### **East Midlands Centre**

Michael Steven (Chair), Roger Phillips (Editor: Weather Front), Alan Jones, Mike Longman, Florentine Weber (student representative).

### **North East Centre**

Deborah Smith, Ken Cook, Patricia Uttridge.

### **North West Centre**

Emma Simpson (Chair), Hugo Ricketts (Vice-Chair), Andy Smedley, John Wilmer, Michael Woolley, Jonny Taylor, Keith Bower, Ron McLone, Doug Lowe, Ernesto Reyes Villegas.

### **Scottish Centre**

Mr G H Johnston (Chair), Mr D Brener, Prof R L H Essery, Prof D Fowler, Mr G Gunn, Dr V Ingram, Ms A McLure, Mr G G Meldrum, Ms M G Roy, Dr J A Smith, Mr D Steele, Prof D Stevenson, Prof S Tett, Dr V Thompson, Mr G Wolverson, Mr A G McDonald (Treasurer) and Mr R C Tabony (Secretary).

### **South East Centre**

Rob Thompson (Chair), Isabel Smith.

### **South West Centre**

Dick Bateman (Chair), Penny Tranter (Co-Chair).

### **Welsh Centre**

Dr Michaela Bray (Chair), Thomas Green.

### **West Midlands**

Dr Ian D Phillips (Chair).

### **Yorkshire Centre**

Sarah Barr (Chair), John Goulding (Secretary), Thomas Sharp (Treasurer), Suzanne Robinson (Publicity Officer), Michael Baidu (Publicity Officer), Ben Pickering, Victoria Smith, Dorian Speakman, David Cherry, Jim McQuaid.

## **Special Interest Groups**

### **Atmospheric Chemistry**

Dr Ryan Hossaini and Dr Paul Griffiths (Co-Chairs).

### **Atmospheric Electricity**

Giles Harrison (Chair), Martin Füllekrug, Karen Aplin, Alec Bennett, Keri Nicoll.

### **Aviation Meteorology**

Bob Lunnon (Chair), Mike O'Donohoe, Piers Buchanan, Frank Barrow, Phil Nicol-Gent, James Morrison.



## Climate Dynamics

Doug Smith and Adam Scaife (co-Chairs)

## Data Assimilation

Amos Lawless (Chair), Joanne Waller (Secretary), Cristina Charlton-Perez, Stefano Ciavatta, Keith Haines, Bruce Ingleby, Matthew Martin.

## Energy

Dafni Sifnioti (co-Chair), David Brayshaw (co-Chair), Amelia Adcroft, Daniel Drew, Daniel Massey, David Hone, David Martin, Emily Wallace, Francis Mosley, Hannah Bloomfield, Joseph Eimmermann, Joseph Howe, Josephine Rogers, Laiz Souto, Mark Dunk, Matthew Priestley, Matthew Wright, Peter McAward, Philip Selwood, Regan Mudhar, Samuel Fisher, Stephen Haben.

## History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

Vladimir Jankovic (Chair), Julian Mayes (Secretary, Newsletter Editor), Howard Oliver (Coordinator - Occasional Papers), Chris Folland (Coordinator - Pen Portraits of Past Presidents), Sarah Pankiewicz and Catherine Ross (Representatives from NMLA), Norman Lynagh, John Gould, Richard Griffith, Peter Rowntree, Andrew Russ-Turner. Rob Allan, Deborah Smith, Joan Kenworthy and David Pedgley are Corresponding Members.

## Insurance

Katherine Latham (Chair), Aidan Brocklehurst, Alec Vessey, Alex Baker, Caroline McMullan, Chris Webber, Hannah Bloomfield, Hayley Fowler, Jason Lowe, Kelsey Mulder, Len Shaffrey, Marie Ekstrom, Matthew Priestley, Matthew Wright, Oliver Halliday, Regan Mudhar, Richard Dixon, Stefan Doerr, Tom Perkins, Vikki Thompson.

## Meteorological Observing Systems

Steve Colwell (Chair), Mark Dutton (Newsletter Editor), Steve Turner (Newsletter Editor), Mike Brettle (Treasurer), Ian Strangeways, Keri Nicoll, Stephen Burt, Dave Bullock, Simon Bell and Katie Muchan.

## Weather, Art and Music (WAM)

Pierrette Thomet, (Chair)

## Youth and Early Career

Ayesha Tandon, Daniel Skinner, Ella Gilbert, Elliot Sainsbury, Euan McNaughton, Florence Shannon-Vines, Fran Morris, Frederick Otu-Larbi, Hannah Bloomfield, Hannah Findley, Kanzis Mattu, Kit Marie Rackley, Laura Byrne, Matthew Priestley, Matthew Wright, Megan Pearce, Ned Williams, Phoebe Fulcher, Rachel Yan, Regan Mudhar, Simon Clark, Simon Lee, Tim Banyard.

## Journal Editorial Boards

### Atmospheric Science Letters

**Editors:** Chris O'Reilly and Massimo Bolasina.

**Associate Editors:** K Bhaganagar, E Black, J Booth, T Diomede, V Ferracci, S Hardiman, I Hoteit, M Kretschmer, L Lei, H Letu, C Li, C Liu, O Martinez-Alvarado, J McQuaid, A Mohebalhojeh, A Miller, R Neely, S Pal, R Parfitt, H Reider, T Stein, A Subramanian, N Theeuwes, M Valipour, D Woolf.

### Climate Resilience and Sustainability

**Editors:** Rachel Warren and Kristie Ebi.

**Associate Editors:** D Bernie, V Boulton, M Ekström, K Halsnæs, W Jiang, G Koren, C Koven, G Nagy, A Sharifi, J Supriatna, M Thompson-Hall, G Wang, C Weaver.

### Geoscience Data Journal

**Editor:** Kate Royse and Jian Peng

**Associate Editors:** J Fan (Regional Editor, China), L Brocca, R Crouthamel, Y Chen, P Diviacco, D Franco, D Gampe, B Hassler, E Hawkins, A Kingdon, G Lasslop, G Leng, D Lorrey, C Reason, Y Shi, Y Su, J Tedds, J Wagemann, J Wang, Y Wang, L Xu, M Zhang, F Zhou.

### International Journal of Climatology

**Editors:** Bill Collins and Enric Aguilar

**Associate Editors:** C White (Deputy Editor), R Wu (Deputy Editor), J Abatzoglou, A Argiriou, A Cherchi, J Marengo, I McKendry, V Moron, M Roth, Q You, L Wang.

### Meteorological Applications

**Editors:** Cristina Charlton-Perez and Dino Zardi

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**Editor:** Maria Carmen Lemos and Dan Friess

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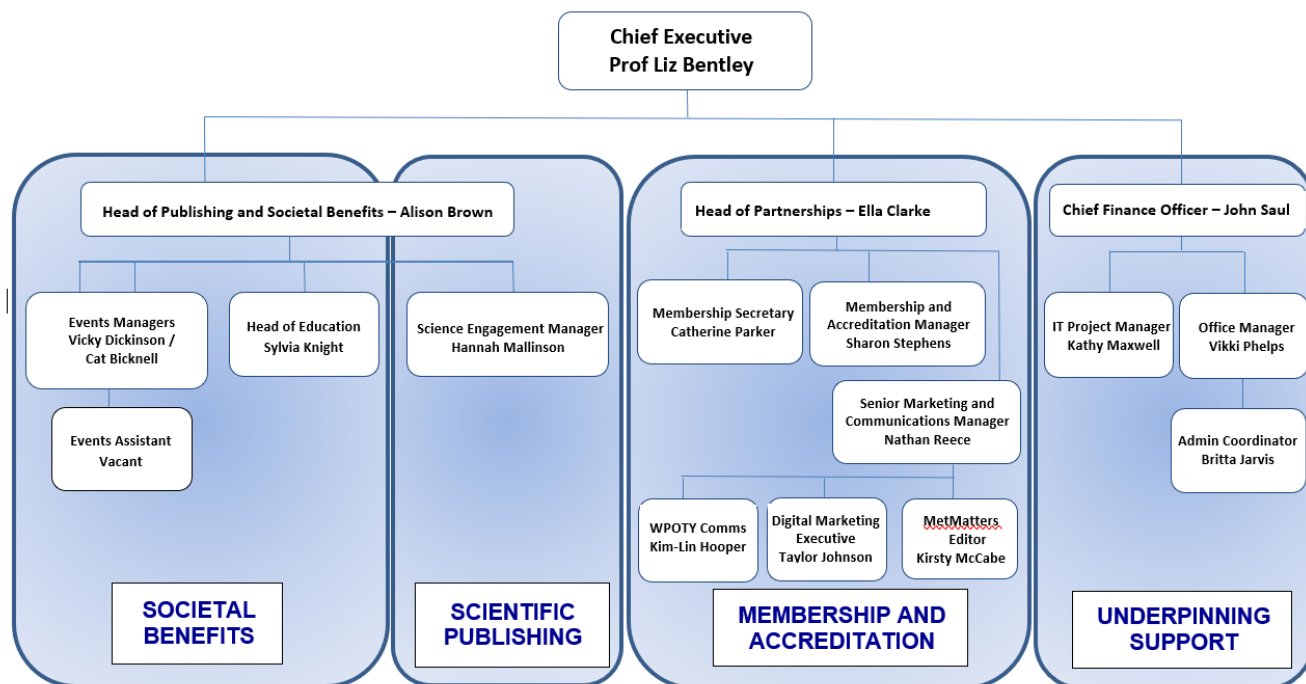
### Representative with the:

- |                                              |                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC):        | R Lunnon        |
| • General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo): | P Nicol-Gent    |
| • European Meteorological Society (EMS):     | D Swannick      |
| • Science Council:                           | Chief Executive |

The Society depends heavily on the valuable and unstinting work done each year 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 on 31 December 2023 is shown below.



The Society welcomed John Saul, Nathan Reece, Kim-Lin Hooper, Taylor Johnson and Vikki Phelps during 2023. The following members of staff left the Society during 2023: Melissa Gerbaldi, Aitana Breton, Hayley Proudlock, Sian Cave, and Kate Groom.

### 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.

### Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Royal Meteorological Society (Registered Charity No 208222):

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Telephone: 0118 2080 142

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Web: [www.rmets.org](http://www.rmets.org)

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

Solicitors: Blandy and Blandy  
1 Friar Street  
Reading RG1 1DA

Auditors: Porter Garland  
Communication House  
Victoria Avenue  
Camberley  
Surrey GU15 3HX

Investment Advisors:  
Rathbone  
Investment Management  
Ltd  
1 Curzon Street  
London, W1J 5FB

Investment Powers:

By-Laws (July 2011) 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 Charities<sup>2</sup>.

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

## THE RESERVES POLICY OF THE SOCIETY

### 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 in the short/medium term.
- Provide an assurance against significant financial risks and unforeseen costs.
- Enable the medium to long-term development of the Society's aims and objectives in line with its Strategic Plan.

### Background and Introduction

The Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for charities requires a statement of a charity's reserves policy within its annual report which should explain to existing and potential members, donors and other stakeholders that the level of reserves set in this policy is considered to be required to ensure financial stability. The setting of a reserves policy forms an important part of the financial management of a charity and helps trustees to fulfil their charity trustee duties.

The Society derives its primary annual income from a combination of members' subscriptions, publishing royalties, partnership income and income from investments. The Society holds three types of fund: Tangible Assets (the Society headquarters at 104 Oxford Road), a Designated Legacy Fund and a General (free) Reserve. Council first approved the policy on management of the last two items on 5 December 2001 and this is kept under regular review, and at least annually.

Historically the only major demand (> £100,000) on the reserves has been in relation to the purchase of the Oxford Road Headquarters. Other demands have been comparatively small (~£60,000 spread over several years) relating to upgrade of the IT equipment and the replacement of the office heating system (~£30,000). Any world economic instability highlights a need for increased resilience to support assured future financial stability and therefore increased levels of reserves.

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 three 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 on strategic development projects of the Society 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 quarter receives a forecast of out-turn against the budget. The management accounts format is broken down into the four business areas of Publishing, Societal Benefits, Membership and Accreditation, and Underpinning Support.

Overall, the budget shall normally be set at break even, with the exception of expenditure on strategic development projects, which may fall across some or all of the business areas. The budget for strategic development projects may be funded from previous years' reserves surplus, which may have been specifically identified as ringfenced for this purpose. The budget shall be set by taking into account the gains on investments available for furthering investment in the Society's charitable objectives.

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<sup>2</sup> Reference should be made to Part IV, Section 11(3) of the Trustees Act 2000.

## **The Reserves - Tangible Assets**

Tangible assets, which comprise the premises, the furnishings and equipment are essential for conducting the business of the Society. These shall 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 Free Reserves - The General Reserve**

The role of the General Reserve is to provide the financial security to enable the long-term achievement of the Society's strategic objectives, to mitigate against the major risks of the Society and to provide the financial stability to enable the flexibility to commit to short term expenditure requirements. In line with the Society's Risk Register and its strategic and development requirements, the General Reserve shall:

- 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 in the short and medium term (~£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).

It is considered that the level of reserves appropriate to meet the above requirements is within the range of 12-24 months of annual expenditure.

## **The Reserves - The Legacies Fund**

The policy for this fund is for protection and growth of the fund. Subject to this policy, capital gains on investments and investment dividends are used to support, in a sustained manner, the benefits primarily to individuals through Grants, Awards and Bursaries. The number and level of grants and bursaries shall be determined by the level of available funds and by second priority call on the General Fund.

## **THE INVESTMENT POLICY OF THE SOCIETY**

### **The Management of Investments**

The Council, advised by the House Committee, are responsible for overseeing the Society's investments in ways which align with the Society's mission and values. In doing so they have a primary commitment to ensure that the Society holds 'responsible investments' with a secondary duty to ensure that the financial returns on investments are maximised.

Council expects companies in which they invest to demonstrate sustainable environmental practices, a strong sense of ethical social responsibility internationally and that they conduct all their operations ethically, with honesty, integrity and openness. Council actively encourages investment in companies which have a firm Net Zero commitment by 2050 and have a good ESG rating. Should Fund Managers or Council become aware that these practices are not adhered to by individual companies they will be specifically excluded from the investment portfolio. The Society specifically excludes direct investment in companies involved in arms or weapons, fossil fuels or tobacco.

The management of investments is delegated by Council to a professional Fund Manager. The portfolio is kept under regular review, in addition the House Committee formally reviews performance of the portfolio twice a year and Council reviews investments at least annually. The choice of Fund Manager is kept under annual review in line with performance and the Society's investment requirements.

The Fund Manager is committed to the evaluation and reporting on the environmental, social and governance scores or the direct investments which are held. ESG factors and benchmarking form an important part of this investment policy and strategy.

## **Choice of Investments**

Within the policy laid out above, investments may be made in cash deposits, bonds, equities, property and other alternatives. This may be done in such proportions as to keep within the Society's agreed level of exposure to investment risk (The portfolio is currently managed within a risk level of 3 out of 6 – the lower end of medium risk). The Fund Manager shall 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 revenues to support the Society's development programme and to mitigate the Society's other major risks.

Where investment is made in equity shares 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 anyone 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 market sector should represent more than 25% of the total portfolio value.

### **Cash Flow Requirements**

Council, when considering the budget, shall identify the likely demand for withdrawing funds from the investments over the next financial year and this shall 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 recommendation of the Society's Chief Financial Officer and with the specific approval of The Treasurer.

### **Trustee Liability**

Charity trustees are responsible for the efficient management of the organisation's assets and may be held personally liable for the financial state of their charity. Delegation and effective performance monitoring of the management of the funds to suitably qualified professionals adequately discharges that responsibility.

The Society carries trustee indemnity insurance against claims of up to £1m (excluding cases of wilful fraud). It is important that all those Trustees and Fellows involved in managing the Society's funds are seen to take and act upon relevant professional advice and ensure that the Society Investment Policy is adhered to.

## **Annex H: REPORTS FROM OTHER REPRESENTATIVE BODIES**

### **Science Council**

The Science Council is a membership organisation for professional bodies and learned societies across science, bringing together a range of disciplines and sectors to reflect the multi-disciplinary practice of science in today's society. The Science Council plays an important role in ensuring public trust and confidence in the scientific workforce and transparency in the process of science. The Science Council's registers (CSci and RSci) provide independent peer-led recognition of achievement and evidence of the profession. The organisation was formed over 20 years ago from an informal network of professional science bodies; the Science Council's membership now stands at 34 organisations. It brings the science community together to harness its collective expertise in the pursuit of professional excellence and uses that expertise to inform public policy. The Science Council set standards for professional registration of scientists and science technicians and fosters debate and the exchange of ideas across the network. It also supports member organisations to be more effective in meeting the needs of the science community and attracting the next generation into fulfilling science careers. The Science Council was established under Royal Charter in October 2003 and the current Chief Executive is Della Freeth. Prof Carole Mundell's term as President ended in 2023.

The Science Council has four key themes in its current strategy: registers and licenses; community and membership; policy and influence; and EDI. The Society continues to be a Member of the Science Council.

### **General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo)**

GASCo is a body aimed at facilitating good communication of relevant safety information amongst private flyers. It comprises umbrella organisations in general aviation, such as the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, British Balloon and Airship Club, British Gliding Association, British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association. The Society is a member of GASCo.

In 2023 the Society continued its participation in GASCo through virtual and face to face meetings. In terms of Council engagement, 2023 was a quieter year than 2022. GASCo ran its annual General Aviation Weather Decision Making seminar in conjunction with the Met Office in October.

Sadly, in December 2023 an inquest into a light aircraft accident in the Swiss Alps in 2019 led to a Coroners formal "Report to Prevent Future Deaths" addressed to the Civil Aviation Authority in relation to training needs around mountain flying where meteorology is a known factor. This was the subject of the joint GASCo and Royal Meteorological Society seminar in 2022 and is an area to be considered again in light of this recommendation to the CAA.

### **UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC)**

There were 4 meetings during 2023, all hybrid (face-to-face and online). Bob Lunnon attended all four meetings (three face-to-face, one online).

At the March meeting there was considerable discussion of a near-accident in Paris (which occurred in 2023) when an aircraft had been given an incorrect airport level pressure, causing the aircraft to nearly hit the ground in poor visibility. There was also a report of an aircraft being 700 feet lower than it should have been because there was no temperature correction to the on-board pressure measurement. It was also reported that there are more "level busts" (when aircraft are cleared by Air Traffic Control to ascend to a certain (pressure) level and overshoot it) on days when there is low pressure at mean sea level (PMSL).

At the June meeting it was reported that 55 flights were grounded at Gatwick on one day in 2023, because of cumulonimbus activity.

At the September meeting there was some discussion of turbulence causing injuries to cabin crew. It was reported that most injuries in turbulence occur because the cabin crew are not strapped in. It was highlighted that forecasts should be used to determine when to illuminate the seat belt sign so that, hopefully, by the time any turbulence occurs, everyone is strapped in.

There were no reports of incidents caused by meteorological factors in the December meeting.



## European Meteorological Society (EMS)

### EMS Membership and RMetS Representation

The European Meteorological Society (EMS) is an Association of 38 Meteorological Societies representing about 10,000 individual members across Europe. In addition, EMS has 30 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services, international institutions, research and education institutions, and commercial companies.

The Society is a permanent member on the EMS Council. The RMetS Chief Executive is the current EMS President taking up the 3-year term of office in September 2023 and the RMetS General Secretary is the Society's representative on the EMS Council. The aim of the EMS is to advance the science, profession and application of meteorology, and of sciences related to it, at the Europe-wide level, for the benefit of the whole population.

The EMS General Assembly convenes representatives of all the Member Societies at least once a year and decides on constitutional and financial matters of the EMS, hears the report of the Council and the statement of the EMS's auditor.

The following meetings have taken place:

- 50<sup>th</sup> EMS Council on 28-29 March 2023 in Wageningen, The Netherlands
- 51<sup>st</sup> EMS Council on 3 September 2022 in Bratislava, Slovakia

Shanti Majithia, General Secretary, and Prof Liz Bentley, the Society's Chief Executive, attended both meetings which were chaired by Bert Holtslag, EMS President.

### EMS Annual Meetings

The [EMS Annual Meeting 2023](#) was on 3-8 September was attended by 633 participants from 43 countries: 523 onsite in Bratislava and 110 online from across the globe.

The EMS has a sustainable meetings policy ([www.emetsoc.org/events/ems-annual-meetings/future-venues/ems-sustainable-meetings-policy/](http://www.emetsoc.org/events/ems-annual-meetings/future-venues/ems-sustainable-meetings-policy/)) which has recently been updated.

### EMS Silver Medal Award

Sarah Jones was selected as the recipient of the EMS Silver Medal 2023. This award recognises her significant contributions to the understanding and modelling of tropical systems and extra-tropical transitions, her outstanding leadership merits for the benefit of the European and international community and beyond, and her strong involvement with the Young Earth System Science community.

## International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS)

The International Forum of Meteorological Societies (IFMS) is an organisation that aims to foster and encourage communication and exchange of knowledge, ideas and resources among the world's meteorological societies. It is an association of around 40 meteorological societies and related organisations. The IFMS has a Council comprised of officers and representatives from the six WMO regions. Prof Liz Bentley, the RMetS' Chief Executive, stepped down from the IFMS Council in September 2023 after representing the WMO Region VI on Council for over 10 years. The Council meets every few months via teleconference.

The IFMS hosts webinars on Education and Training, and Creating National Met Societies, which are available on the IFMS website [ifms.org](http://ifms.org).

In 2023, the IFMS led on the establishment of the African Regional Meteorological Society, AfMS, (similar to the EMS but across the African continent).