

The 167th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society

Held on Wednesday 16th May 2018 at 13:00hrs
IMechE, One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ

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

MINUTES

Welcome from the President

Ellie Highwood declared the Annual General Meeting (AGM) open and reminded guests that only members of the Society can vote. Printed copies of the official documents were available for members to reference on the day, but all can be found on the Society's website.

Minutes and Actions

Ellie requested that the minutes of the AGM (17th May 2017) be adopted as a true record of events; they were proposed for adoption by Peter Burt and seconded by Derek Swannick. There were no actions from the 2017 meeting.

Election of Officers and Members of Council

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

Officers of the Society

Vice President	Jon Petch	Met Office
Treasurer	Jennie Campbell	Consultant
General Secretary	Shanti Majithia	Consultant

Ordinary member of Council

Helen Rossington MeteoGroup

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws

Liz presented the proposed changes to the By-Laws following the Fellowship Review and related recommendations that had been approved by Council. This list was circulated in a Notice to Members:

- BY-LAWs 4, 5, 8, 9, 11b, 14, 34, 41, 47-49, 55, 63, 67, 69, 70, 71, 77 and 79-81: The membership category Associate Fellow to be replaced by Member.
- BY-LAW 17: The establishment of the Fellowship Committee with full delegated responsibility from Council for awarding fellowships.
- BY-LAW 18: Joining the Society as a Member is an administrative process carried out by HQ staff.
- BY-LAW 21: There should continue to be a requirement to have two referees appointed by the applicant but only one has to be an existing Fellow.
- BY-LAW 31: There should no longer be a requirement to be a Fellow to be designated as a Chartered Meteorologist.

The adoption of the changes to the By-Laws were proposed by Ross Reynolds and seconded by Neil Wells.

Highlights from 2017

Liz gave a presentation about some of the Society's activities from 2017, referencing particularly successful areas regarding outreach, as well as the implementation of a new Strategic Plan. The presentation is available on the Society's website. The following Officers and Council Members retired from office in 2017, with our grateful thanks for their significant contributions:

- **Jennie Campbell**
- **Julian Mayes**
- **Richard Essery**
- **Brian Golding**
- **Rebecca Venton**

Ellie reiterated thanks to the retiring officers and also to those who have supported the Society in 2017 and continue to do so.

Report of Accounts

Alan Radford, Treasurer, presented the Society's 2017 accounts which were adopted by proposer David Pick and seconded by Anna Ghelli.

The re-election of Porter Garland as the Society's auditors was also supported, proposed by Chris Collier and seconded by David Warrilow.

Questions from Members

A member asked about the size of the Society's overseas membership – this currently makes up around 20% of our total membership. The Society has been making reciprocal arrangements with other meteorological organisations such as the AMS, AMOS and CMS to increase the Society's reach and hopefully increase the international membership base.

A question was raised regarding the open access for journals and planned timelines for implementation, as well as what impact this could have. There is an open access strategy which is constantly under review, and the Atmospheric Science Letters were moved to open access in 2016. Other organisations who have made a similar change appeared to have a drop in submissions, but fortunately in the first 12-18 months our submissions remained steady. No official timeline has been set to start moving other journals online, but when the decision is made the transition tends to take 18 months. We have also been looking to broaden the portfolio to have other open access journals available, potentially another one or two so that there is a fuller variety available for authors and readers.

The Society's policy work has been included in the strategy as we would like to improve the amount we do in this area; Liz noted that the current activity focus has mainly been on UK Government support. Our main focus at present has been around climate science activity; Liz Bentley and David Warrilow have had meetings with ministers to discuss the Society's work and how we can support them in any way to take things forward.

Any Other Business

Notice of Any Other Business was to be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive by close of business on the 4 May 2018; nothing was received. Ellie formally closed the AGM at 14:00hrs.