

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM, (TWENTY SEVENTH).

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL 2016 AT 12.15.pm.
AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON.

THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.

Dr. Will Quick, Chairman (Industry) of the CRF, welcomed the approximately 45 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 27th Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2015 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2015 Annual Meeting, held on 15th April 2015 at the University of Leeds, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.17, (2015), on 2nd May 2015), were formally approved without modification.

ii) **Review of Actions**

Dr. Will Quick noted that there were no actions arising from the report of the year 2015 Annual Meeting.

iii) **Report by the Chairman/Secretary**

The Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2015 as follows :-

During the last calendar year, the **Forum** has continued to pursue and achieve its objectives and has organised a number of coal research events. In April, the **Forum** Annual Meeting was held at the University of Leeds, which included the election of Executive Committee Members and reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a meeting of the Coal Conversion Division entitled, “Underground Coal Gasification, UCG”.

In May, the **Forum** co-sponsored a seminar entitled, “Minerals Engineering 2015”, which was held the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, East Midlands, and which highlighted recent developments and practical applications across the minerals extraction and processing industries. This event was organised by the Minerals Engineering Society in association with the Coal Research Forum, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and the South Midlands Mining & Minerals Institute.

In October, the **Forum** provided significant financial sponsorship for the 2015 Energy Science Lecture, which is now organised by the Biomass and Fossil Fuel Research Alliance, (BF2RA). This lecture entitled, “Challenges for Flexible Operation of Conventional Power Plant: Materials Solution” was presented by Prof. Rachel Thomson, Dean of the School of Aeronautical, Automotive, Chemical and Materials Engineering (AACME) at Loughborough University and was presented at the Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate, London.

Also during October, the Forum co-sponsored and co-organised a seminar entitled, “Carbon Capture and Storage: What Role for R&D in Delivering Cost-competitive CCS Projects in the UK in the 2020s?”, jointly with the Advanced Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), the Carbon Capture and Storage Association, (CCSA), the UK Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre, (UKCCSRC) and the Knowledge Transfer Network, (KTN). This event was held in Westminster, London.

The year 2015 has seen the issue of a further three editions of the **Forum** Newsletter (January, May and September). During the year, the **Forum** website has continued to provide information to Members and has been regularly added to and up-dated during the year, where many of the presentations from the above **Forum** events can now be viewed on the website. During the year, there have been almost 40 **Forum** E-mailshots. The **Forum** has also actively assisted with the promotion of, and publicity for, several other coal research events and funding opportunities in the UK, Europe and worldwide, through several **Forum** E-mailshots.

A fund is available from the **Forum** for the funding of PhD students to attend national and international Conferences, where the recipients of these awards have provided articles on their impressions of these conferences for the CRF Newsletter. In addition, in February, the Forum awarded a prize for the best fossil fuel poster at the RSC Energy Sector's Early Career Chemists' Event held at Rolls-Royce plc, Derby.

The **Forum** is at an advanced stage in their plans for the "11th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications", (11th ECCRIA), to be held at the University of Sheffield on 5th to 7th September 2016.

The Executive Committee has also been actively promoting several other coal, biomass and other fossil fuel research issues with a number of bodies both in the UK and overseas and has continued to provide an information service to Members.

iv) **Report by the Treasurer**

Dr. Alan Thompson, (CRF Treasurer), presented the Treasurer's report to the meeting, which included a summary of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the period 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2015 showed expenditure resulting from normal CRF operating activities i.e. newsletter services, secretarial and administrative services, treasurer and webmaster services, the rental of the Forum Post Office Box, the website rental fee, rental of a storage facility for the CRF records and related costs and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (AGM and seminar at the University of Leeds and the MES/CRF Seminar, Kegworth). In addition, there were some other expenses, which included some student travel and subsistence bursaries for students to attend conferences, a CRF student poster prize, some travel expenses and sponsorship for the 2015 Coal Science Lecture, (now organised by BF2RA) and the Carbon Capture and Storage event, (organised by the CCSA).

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions from a total of 58 Members, (4 more than for 2014), and 4 late payments for 2014. Other income included the final surplus payment from the 10th ECCRIA, (Hull), non-member's seminar fees and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2015, where overall, there was a significant cash deficit for the year, although it was noted that the normal operations of the CRF would have made a larger deficit but for the final surplus arising from the 10th ECCRIA Conference and the one-off final interest payment from the HSBC bond when it matured. The Scottish Widows Club & Association account had been closed due to the poor interest rate provided.

As a direct result of the predicted deficit for 2015 and the previous small deficit for 2014, the CRF Officers had reviewed the CRF Membership subscription rates and had taken the decision to increase these subscriptions by 16.7% for 2016, given that there had not been an increase in CRF Membership subscriptions since 2008.

Dr. Thompson continued that that over the years, several CRF Members had made requests to make their Membership payments by credit card. In the past, this had always been a problem due to the relatively low number of transactions per year and the minimum monthly turnover required by the credit card company. However, the CRF had now made an arrangement through Maggi Churchouse Events, (MCE, the Conference Manager for the 10th and 11th ECCRIA Conferences), to set up a CRF Membership credit card payment facility through her website. This system was now on-line and has already been used for outstanding 2015 and earlier subscriptions. As a result of the extra charges for credit card payments, a surcharge of 5% had been introduced for credit card payments only, (but not for cheque or direct bank transfer payments), which only partially covered these charges. The CRF Officers have agreed that this facility would be trialled for a year and then reassessed in December 2016.

v) **Election for Vacancies on the Executive Committee.**

There were five vacant positions on the Executive Committee, (Chairman, (Academe), Treasurer, and 3 x Representatives from Academe), for which the following nominations had been received.

CANDIDATE.
(POSITION).

PROPOSERS.

Prof.J.W.Patrick,
(Chairman, Academe)

Dr.A.W.Thompson.
Prof.C.E.Snape.
Prof.E.H.Lester.

Dr.A.W.Thompson,
(Treasurer)

Prof.J.W.Patrick.
Dr.D.J.Roddy.
Dr.W.J.Quick.
Dr.M.Milan.

Prof.E.H.Lester,
(Representative from Academe)

Prof.J.W.Patrick.
Dr.T.J.Beeley.
Dr.W.J.Quick.

Dr.M.Milan,
(Representative from Academe)

Prof.J.W.Patrick.
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey.
Dr.A.W.Thompson.

Prof.Y.Yan,
(Representative from Academe)

Prof.J.W.Patrick.
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey.
Dr.W.Nimmo.

The candidates for the positions of Chairman (Academe), Treasurer and the three vacant positions for Representatives from Academe were therefore elected unopposed.

vi) **Any Other Business**

There were no matters raised under this item.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

Combustion Division, Prof Jon Gibbins

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf Prof. Jon Gibbins, (who had given his apologies and who had recently moved from the University of Edinburgh to the University of Sheffield), that the last meeting of this Division had been the seminar at the University of Warwick entitled, “Combustion for Low Carbon Power Generation”, in April 2014.

Prof. Gibbins had provided a briefing note for this report, which Dr. McCaffrey read out as follows. A joint meeting on Biomass Energy with CCS (BECCS), with joint-funding from the UKCCSRC/Biomass Hub BioCAP project, had been planned for late 2015/early 2016 but this had had to be postponed following the announcement of the withdrawal of funding from the UK CCS Commercialisation Programme. It was felt that the audience would have been reduced given the uncertainties surrounding CCS and that the participants’ time was also being directed towards responding to the changed circumstances. The UK CCS policy situation is, however, stabilising and also BECCS is emerging as a major area of contention following the Paris COP21 agreement. Preliminary planning for a Divisional meeting in the latter half of 2016 is therefore being taken forward.

Dr. McCaffrey also reported that Prof. Gibbins would always welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Divisional meetings.

Coal Conversion, Prof John Patrick

Prof. John Patrick reported that the last meeting of this Division had been the seminar at the University of Leeds entitled, “Underground Coal Gasification, (UCG)”, in April 2015.

Prof. Patrick continued that there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, however, coal conversion would again be well covered at the 11th ECCRIA Conference to be held at the University of Sheffield in September this year, (2016). He also commented that he would always welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Divisional meetings.

Coal Characterisation, Prof Ed Lester

Prof. Lester reported that although there had not been a meeting of this Division for sometime, today’s seminar at Imperial College London was a Coal Characterisation Divisional seminar entitled, “The Analysis and Characterisation of Coal for Utilisation”. He continued that coal characterisation would also be well covered at the 11th ECCRIA Conference to be held at the University of Sheffield in September this year, (2016). He would also welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Divisional meetings.

Coal Preparation, Mr Andrew Howells

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Mr. Andrew Howells, (who had given his apologies), and who had provided him with a briefing note for this report. He reported that the last meeting of this Division, entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2015”, had been held on 14th May 2015 at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Leicestershire. This seminar had again been held jointly between the Mineral Engineering Society, the Coal Research Forum and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. Attendance at this event had been increasing each year, with 62 delegates for this event, making it the most successful of these events for several years, where there were 8 excellent papers presented.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the next meeting of this Division, entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2016”, would be held on 26th May 2016 again at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Leicestershire. This seminar would again be held jointly between the Mineral Engineering Society, the Coal Research Forum and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, and would again be free to members of the supporting bodies. A Programme and details of this event had been issued as CRF E-mailshot No.8, (2016), on 16/04/16.

Environment, Dr Bill Nimmo

Dr. Nimmo reported that although there had not been a meeting of this Division during 2015, today’s seminar at Imperial College London was an Environment Divisional seminar entitled, “The Control of Mercury and Trace Element Emissions”. He continued that environmental issues would also be well covered at the 11th ECCRIA to be held at the University of Sheffield September this year, (2016). Dr. Nimmo also reported that he was considering a Divisional seminar on “Industrial Carbon Capture and Storage” for late 2017/early 2018. He continued that he would also welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Divisional meetings.

Advanced Power Generation, Dr Robin Irons

Dr. McCaffrey reported that Mr. Sage had recently resigned as Chairman of this Division. He continued that following discussions between the CRF Officers, the Chairmanship of this Division was offered to and accepted by Dr. Robin Irons of Uniper Ltd., in January this year, (2016).

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Dr. Irons, (who had given his apologies), that the last meeting of the division had been entitled, “14th Annual APGTF Workshop : The Role of Fossil Fuel Power Plant in Providing Flexible Generation”, organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, and had taken place on 12th-13th March 2014 at the DECC conference facility, Victoria Street, London. This event had reviewed and up-dated the major UK and overseas projects and initiatives in the field of advanced power generation.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that although there were no specific plans in place for the next Divisional meeting, it had been suggested that there could be another joint event with the APGTF and possibly others, where the next meeting of this Division could be entitled, “Advanced Power Generation within Environmental Constraints”, as either a stand alone one day seminar or one day of a two day event, date and venue to be determined. He concluded that given that Dr. Irons had only recently taken over this role that he needed some time to formulate his plans, where he would always welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Divisional meetings.

Dr David J A McCaffrey
Secretary of the Coal Research Forum
23rd April 2016