

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2011 AT 1.30.pm.
IN THE COATES BUILDING, THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.**

THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.

Mr. Greg Kelsall, Chairman, (Industry), of the CRF welcomed the approximately 45 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 22nd Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2010 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2010 Annual Meeting, held on 14th April 2010 at the E.ON Technology Centre, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.10, (2010), on 16th April 2010), were formally approved without modification.

ii) **Review of Actions**

Mr. Kelsall noted that there were three actions arising from the report of the year 2010 Annual Meeting.

1) During discussion of the 2009 accounts, it had been suggested that less cash should be retained in the current account and that a portion of the assets be invested in higher interest bearing accounts or bonds. Mr. Kelsall reported that this matter had been addressed and that the 2010 accounts would show that less cash was now held in the current account, thus completing this part of the action. Regarding higher interest investments, the Treasurer would address this matter in his annual report below.

2) The Meeting had noted that there was a healthy balance in the Forum accounts and questions were raised as to what these funds should be used for. Mr. Kelsall reported that the Executive Committee had considered this matter and that there had been a greater effort to promote the student travel and subsistence bursaries offered to PhD students to encourage them to attend national and international conferences. This had so far met with limited success and it was intended to promote these bursaries further.

3) In addition to 2) above, a number of Members had suggested that the “Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK” document should be up-dated and distributed widely to promote the funding of coal research projects in the UK. Mr. Kelsall reported that the Executive Committee had commissioned Dr.A.J.Minchener to up-date of this document to produce a 5th Edition. There had been two rounds of consultation with Members, (Summer 2010 and October 2010, the second to consider the first draft of this document), and the final version of this document had been completed and issued in January 2011 as a CRF E-mailshot and was also on the CRF website. Further distribution to appropriate parties, (e.g. the EPSRC), was currently in progress.

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

The Chairman summarised the events of the previous year and the Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2010 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 E.ON Engineering Ltd., Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts., which included reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a joint meeting of the Environment and Combustion Divisions, entitled, “Ash and By-product Utilisation”, and which included a visit to Ratcliffe Power Station.

In September, the **Forum** held its biennial three day conference at the University of Leeds entitled, “8th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”. This conference covered all aspects of coal utilisation research currently being carried out in the UK and had participants from all of the major UK organisations carrying out coal R&D. The conference was one of the most successful in this series of conferences so far and was attended by just over 130 participants, where more than a third of the participants were from overseas representing 18 countries. The conference had almost 80 oral presentations, which were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as over 30 poster presentations.

In October, the **Forum** co-sponsored a seminar organised by the Minerals Engineering Society, entitled, “Who will keep the Lights on?” held in Nottingham, which included a wide spectrum of presentations on the range of UK power generation options, (fossil fuel, nuclear and renewables, etc.).

The **Forum** Autumn Meeting was a joint meeting between the CRF Combustion Division and the Royal Society of Chemistry, (RSC), Energy Sector, and was held in November at the University of Leeds. It was entitled, “Technical and Economic Aspects of Co-combustion of Biomass”.

The year 2010 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 undergo revision. It continues 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 just over 30 **Forum** E-mailshots. The **Forum** has also actively assisted with the promotion of and publicity for several other coal research events 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 some awards were made during 2010. These included the funding of PhD students to attend the 8th ECCRIA, (please see above), with the recipients of these awards providing articles on their impressions of these conferences for the CRF Newsletter.

The Executive Committee has commissioned the up-dating of a fifth edition of a “Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK” document. The up-dated Fifth Edition of this document was completed in January 2011 and was published on the **Forum** website and issued as a **Forum** E-mailshot.

The **Forum** has commenced the arrangements for the “9th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”, (9th ECCRIA), to be held in September 2012 at the University of Nottingham.

The Executive Committee has also been actively promoting several other coal 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 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2010 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, photocopying and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (CRF Annual Meeting, (14/04/10, Ratcliffe-on-Soar), and the CRF Combustion Division/Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector Joint Seminar, (10/11/10, Leeds)). In addition, there were some one-off expenses including the first part of the fee for the preparation of the up-dated 5th Edition of the "Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK" document prepared by Dr.A.J.Minchener. Dr. Thompson drew to the attention of the meeting that not all of the cheques issued during 2010 had been cashed and thus the outstanding financial commitments had also been included in these accounts.

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions. This consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 65 Members, (4 less than for 2009). Other income included two late Membership payments for 2009, and two advanced payments for 2011, non-members seminar fees, an interim surplus payment from the 8th ECCRIA, (Leeds), and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2010. Overall, there was a cash surplus for the year, although it was noted that the normal operations of the CRF would have made a loss but for the interim surplus arising from the 8th ECCRIA.

Dr. Thompson reported that he had in part completed the action on Mr. Kelsall, which had been to ensure that less cash would be retained in the current account and more would be retained in the Deposit Account to obtain more interest. Dr. Thompson continued that the part of the action to determine whether it was possible to invest a portion of the assets in a higher interest bearing account or an investment bond had been investigated. The main problem here had been that many of the accounts that were open to individuals were not available to clubs and societies. Dr. Thompson agreed to keep this action open.

Action : AWT.

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

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

CANDIDATE.
(POSITION).

PROPOSERS.

Mr.G.J.Kelsall
(Chairman, Industry)

Dr.W.J.Quick
Mr.P.W.Sage
Dr.R.M.Poultney

Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey
(Secretary)

Dr.A.W.Thompson
Dr.A.J.Minchener.

Dr.M.Millan
Dr.W.J.Quick

Dr.T.Beeley
(Representative from Industry)

Prof.J.R.Gibbins
Prof.E.Lester
Mr.F.Wigley

Dr.R.M.Poultney
(Representative from Industry)

Prof.J.W.Patrick
Mr.G.J.Kelsall
Prof.Y.Yan

Dr.W.J.Quick
(Representative from Industry)

Dr.A.W.Thompson
Dr.A.R.Jones
Mr.G.J.Kelsall
Prof.E.Lester

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

Mr. Kelsall reported that this would be his fourth term of office as Chairman (Industry) and announced his intention to step down from this position in two years time, to give other Industrial Members the opportunity to take on the role.

vi) **Any Other Business**

There were no matters raised under any other business.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

Combustion Division, Prof Jon Gibbins

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Prof. Jon Gibbins that there had been two Combustion Divisional seminars during 2010. The first of these had been a joint Meeting with the Environment Division, which had been entitled, “Ash and By-Product Utilisation”, and which had been held on 14th April 2010 at E.ON Engineering Ltd., Ratcliffe-on-Soar. The second of these entitled, “Technical and Economic Aspects of Co-combustion of Biomass” had been a joint meeting with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (RSC), Energy Sector, and had been held on 10th November 2011 at the University of Leeds. For both of these events, Prof. Gibbins had given a special thanks to Dr.McCaffrey and Dr.Quick, who had played leading roles in organising the programmes for these events, and for the November seminar to Prof. Pourkashanian for chairing and hosting this event. Prof. Gibbins had welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings and meetings with other bodies and considered that “Oxyfuel Combustion” would be a suitable topic for the next Divisional Meeting to be held in autumn 2011 or early 2012.

Coal Conversion, Prof John Patrick

Prof. John Patrick reported that during the last year, coal conversion had been well covered at the 8th ECCRIA held at the University of Leeds in September 2010. He continued that the last meeting of this Division had been today’s seminar on “A Review of Recent Development in Coal Conversion”, which had reviewed recent developments in liquefaction and gasification, as well as including an up-date on UK Government policy on carbon capture and storage.

Prof. Patrick reported that there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, where he would welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was always open to suggestions for topics for such meetings.

Coal Characterisation, Prof Ed Lester

Prof. Ed Lester reported that during the last year, coal characterisation had had been covered at the 8th ECCRIA held at the University of Leeds in September 2010. He continued that the last meeting of this Division had been today's seminar on "What We need to Know about Coal", which had reviewed what coal traders, utilities and equipment manufacturers needed to know about coal.

Prof. Lester reported that there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, where he would welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was always open to suggestions for topics for such meetings.

Coal Preparation, Mr Andrew Howells

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Mr. Andrew Howells that the last meeting of this Division had been entitled, "Who Will Keep the Lights On?", and had been organised by the Mineral Engineering Society with the CRF and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. This event had been a 2-day conference, and had been held in Nottingham on 14th/15th October 2010.

The next event, provisionally entitled, "The UK Minerals Industry and the Use of their Products in Everyday Life", was planned for Thursday 13th October 2011 at the Yew Tree Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Nottinghamshire and would again be a joint event between the Mineral Engineering Society, the CRF and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. A Programme and further detail will be published in due course.

The CRF has been approached by representatives of the Solids Handling and Processing Association, (SHAPA), regarding a joint seminar with the Coal Preparation Division and the Material Handling Engineers Association, (MHEA). Mr. Howells is currently in discussions with these bodies regarding a possible future seminar on "Coal Handling and Processing "

Environment, Dr Trevor Drage

Dr. Trevor Drage reported that during the last year, coal environmental matters had been well covered at the 8th ECCRIA held at the University of Leeds in September 2010. Dr. Drage reminded the Meeting that the last event held by this Division had been the joint Meeting with the Combustion Division, which had been entitled, "Ash and By-Product Utilisation", and which had been held on 14th April 2010 at E.ON Engineering Ltd., Ratcliffe-on-Soar.

Dr. Drage continued that there were currently plans for a seminar to be held jointly with the Combustion Engineering Association, (and possibly the Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector), entitled, "The European Industrial Emissions Directive", currently planned for autumn 2011. However, there had been some difficulties regarding the organisation of this event and it may need to be put back to 2012.

Advanced Power Generation, Mr Peter Sage

Mr. Peter Sage reported that he was considering holding the next meeting of this Division possibly with another Division, to carry out a review and update of the major UK projects and initiatives in advanced power generation, currently planned for late 2011 or early 2012.

It was suggested that this seminar could also include related activities outside of the UK. Mr. Sage also stated that he would welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was always open to suggestions for topics for such meetings.

Dr David J A McCaffrey
Secretary of the Coal Research Forum
3rd May 2011