

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015 AT 12.30.pm.**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, LEEDS.**

**THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.**

Mr. Greg Kelsall, Chairman (Industry) of the CRF, welcomed the approximately 30 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2014 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2014 Annual Meeting, held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Warwick University, Warwickshire, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.15, (2014), on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014), were formally approved without modification.

ii) **Review of Actions**

Mr. Greg Kelsall noted that there were no actions arising from the report of the year 2014 Annual Meeting.

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

The Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2014 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 Warwick University and included the election of Executive Committee Members and reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a meeting of the Combustion Division entitled, "Combustion for Low Carbon Power Generation".

During 2014, the **Forum** has co-sponsored a number of events with other organisations. In March, the **Forum** co-sponsored a two-day workshop entitled, "14th Annual APGTF Workshop : The Role of Fossil Fuel Power Plant in Providing Flexible Generation", which was held at the IVS Conference Centre, Westminster, London, and which highlighted recent developments in this field. This event was organised by the Advanced Power Technologies Forum, (APGTF), in association with the Coal Research Forum. In May, the **Forum** co-sponsored a seminar entitled, "Minerals Engineering 2014", 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 early September, the **Forum** held its biennial three day conference at the University of Hull entitled, "10<sup>th</sup> 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 most 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 120 participants, where more than a third of the participants were from overseas representing 14 countries. The conference had over 80 oral presentations, which were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as over 20 poster presentations.

In October, the **Forum** provided significant financial sponsorship for the 2014 Coal Science Lecture, which is now organised by the Biomass and Fossil Fuel Research Alliance, (BF2RA). This lecture entitled, “Coal and Biomass – Synergies and Opportunities” was presented by Dr. Nigel Burdett, Head of Environment at the Drax Group, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate, London.

The year 2014 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 over 30 **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.

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 01/01/2014 to 31/12/2014.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2014 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 Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (AGM and seminar at Warwick University and the MES/CRF Seminar, Kegworth). In addition, there were some other expenses, which included some travel expenses, some student travel and subsistence bursaries for students to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> ECRIA Conference and sponsorship for the 2014 Coal Science Lecture, (now organised by BF2RA).

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions. This consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 54 Members, (4 less than for 2013), 4 late payments for 2011, 2012 and 2013 and 2 advanced payments for 2015 and 1 advanced payment for 2016. Other income included the interim surplus payment from the 10<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA, (Nottingham), a donation from BCURA for the storage of their records and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2014, where overall, there was a small cash deficit for the year, although it was noted that the normal operations of the CRF would have made a loss but for the final surplus arising from the 10<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA. The total assets at 31/12/14 included the funds in the Nottingham Building Society, the Scottish Widows Club & Association account, (due to the poor interest rate, funds were transferred to the Nottingham Building Society account), and the HSBC Investment Bond.

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).**

Dr.W.J.Quick  
(Chairman, Industry)

**PROPOSERS.**

Dr. D.J.A.McCaffrey  
Dr.A.W.Thompson  
Dr. G.S.Riley

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

Dr.A.W.Thompson  
Dr.W.Nimmo  
Prof.Y.Yan  
Prof.E.Lester  
Dr.A.J.Minchener.

Dr.T.Beeley  
(Representative from Industry)

Dr. G.S.Riley  
Prof.J.W.Patrick  
Prof.E.Lester  
Dr.W.J.Quick

Dr.G.S.Riley  
(Representative from Industry)

Dr. D.J.A.McCaffrey  
Dr.T.Beeley  
Dr.W.J.Quick

Dr.D.Roddy  
(Representative from Industry)

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

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

Dr. McCaffrey continued that Prof. Gibbins was currently considering a joint seminar with another CRF Division in late 2015 related to CCS/combustion topics on the various options for Biomass Energy with CCS, (BECCS), the theory and practice. A provisional date and location for this seminar was, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015, at the Edge, the University of Sheffield. 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 although there had been no meetings of this Division during 2014, today’s seminar at the University of Leeds was a Coal Conversion Divisional seminar entitled, “Underground Coal Gasification, (UCG)”.

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 11<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA Conference to held at the University of Sheffield in September 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**

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Prof. Lester, who had provided him with a briefing note for this report. He reported that although there had not been a meeting of this Division last year, coal characterisation had been well covered at the 10<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA held at the University of Hull in September 2014. He also commented that Prof. Lester would welcome the opportunity for a joint seminar with another CRF Division, with half of the day on coal characterisation, where a working title would be “The Analysis and Characterisation of Coal for Utilisation”. Prof. Lester 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 provided him with a briefing note for this report. He reported that the last meeting of this Division, entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2014”, had been held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 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, where there were 8 excellent papers presented.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the next meeting of this Division, entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2015”, would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 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.11, (2015), on 25/02/15.

### **Environment, Dr Bill Nimmo**

Dr. Nimmo reported that although there had been no meetings of this Division during 2014, there were provisional plans in place for the next meeting of this Division on “The Control of Mercury and Trace Element Emissions”, to take place in Autumn 2015. He also commented that he would always welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for this future Divisional meeting.

### **Advanced Power Generation, Mr Peter Sage**

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Mr. Peter Sage that last year’s, (2014), meeting of this Division, which had been described at last year’s CRF Annual Meeting, and had been entitled, “14<sup>th</sup> Annual APGTF Workshop : The Role of Fossil Fuel Power Plant in Providing Flexible Generation”. It had again been organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, and had taken place on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 again 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 Mr. Sage had reported that due to funding changes for the APGTF, it had not been possible to hold a similar seminar in early 2015. However, together with Mr. Sage, Dr. McCaffrey reported that he was pursuing arrangements for a one day seminar with the APGTF in late October/early November later this year at a London venue. He concluded that Mr. Sage 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, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**