

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013 AT 12.20.pm.**  
**AT CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY, CRANFIELD, BEDFORDSHIRE.**

## **THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.**

Mr. Greg Kelsall, Chairman (Industry) of the CRF, welcomed the approximately 50 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

### **i) Report of the year 2012 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2012 Annual Meeting, held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Drax Power Station, Near Selby, North Yorkshire, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.23, (2012), on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012), were formally approved without modification.

### **ii) Review of Actions**

Mr. Kelsall noted that there was one action arising from the report of the year 2012 Annual Meeting.

There had been an action on the Executive Committee regarding the CRF's intentions regarding proposals for the use of their funds, beyond the annual operational costs. Mr. Kelsall replied that in addition to the student bursaries, the CRF had made a significant financial contribution towards the 2012 Coal Science Lecture, (now organised by BF2RA), and were planning various annual prizes. For example, the CRF has provided 3 x £100 prizes for the RSC Early Career Chemists Event for the best three posters on any fossil fuel subject. He invited suggestions from Forum Members as to how to best use CRF funds to promote coal and the CRF's objectives and reported that the Executive Committee would review further potential options.

Prof. Williams suggested that the scope of conferences/seminars to which students could apply for travel and subsistence bursaries should be widened. However, it was pointed out that the scope already included any conference/seminar with a coal and energy theme and that all applications would be considered on their merits, (it could not be recalled that an application from a Member organisation for such a bursary had ever been rejected). The main problem was that there were not enough applications for these funds.

Prof. Williams also suggested that the CRF should consider the payment or part payment of the publication fee to publish papers in prestigious journals, (believed to be about £1,000 per paper). Mr. Kelsall stated that this would be discussed by the Executive Committee but felt that this was outside of their remit.

**Action : the CRF Executive Committee.**

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

The Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2012 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 March, the **Forum** co-sponsored a two day workshop entitled, "Carbon Capture and Storage – Can the UK Maintain a Leadership Role?", which was held at the 1VS Conference Centre, Westminster, London, 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 April, the **Forum** Annual Meeting was held at Drax Power Station, which included the election of Committee Members and reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a meeting of the Coal Combustion Division entitled, "Oxyfuel Combustion", and which included a visit to Drax Power Station as part of the **Forum's** series of Industrial Presentations to Academe.

In May, the **Forum** co-sponsored a seminar entitled, "Minerals Engineering 2012", which was held at the Hilton East Midlands Airport Hotel, 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.

There were plans in May to hold a Technical Meeting organised by the British Flame Research Committee, (BFRC), jointly with the **Forum** entitled, "Combustion Diagnostics, Control, Computational Methods & Process Optimisation", to be held at the University of Kent, Canterbury. However, unfortunately this event was postponed by the BFRC to a date in May 2013.

In September, the **Forum** held its biennial three day conference at the University of Nottingham entitled, "9<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 about 115 participants, where more than half of the participants were from overseas representing 18 countries. The conference had over 70 oral presentations, which were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as 15 poster presentations.

In October, the **Forum** provided significant financial sponsorship for the 2012 Coal Science Lecture, which was organised this year for the first time by the Biomass and Fossil Fuel Research Alliance, (BF2RA). This lecture entitled, "Clean Coal: New Global Challenges and Potential Opportunities" was presented by Dr.A.J.Minchener OBE at The Institute of Physics, London.

The year 2012 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 50 **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 some awards were made during 2012, and where the recipients of these awards have provided articles on their impressions of these conferences for the CRF Newsletter.

The **Forum** is at the early stage of their plans for the "10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications", (10<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA), to be held in September 2014 at a venue to be confirmed.

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 services 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

01/01/2012 to 31/12/2012.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2012 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 at Stoke Orchard for the CRF records, (which included a one-off setting up cost), and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (AGM and seminar at Drax), and the MES/CRF/IoM3 Joint Seminar, (24/05/12, East Midland Hilton Hotel). In addition, there were some other expenses, which included three student travel bursaries, three poster prizes, some travel expenses, and sponsorship for the 2012 Coal Science Lecture, (now organised by BF2RA).

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions, which for 2012 consisted of a total of 61 Members, (3 more than for 2011), and 4 late payments for 2011. Other income included non-members seminar fees, an interim surplus payment from the 9<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA, (Nottingham), and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2012, 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 9<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA. In addition to the NatWest current account, the CRF's assets were now deposited with the Nottingham Building Society, the Scottish Widows Club & Association 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).**

**PROPOSERS.**

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

Prof. C.E.Snape  
Dr. M.Wang  
Mr. P Rogers

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

Dr.A.W.Thompson  
Dr.A.J.Minchener.  
Mr. P.W.Sage  
Dr.G.S.Riley

Dr.T.Beeley  
(Representative from Industry)

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

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. R.M.Poultney  
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 although two years ago he had announced his intention to step down as Chairman (Industry) at this meeting, to give other Industrial Members the opportunity to take on the role, he noted that his role had changed within Alstom and he now felt that he could continue in this position.

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 of Prof. Jon Gibbins that the last meeting of this Division entitled, "Oxyfuel Combustion" had been held in April 2012 at Drax Power Station.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that although Prof. Gibbins had no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, he was considering a seminar for Spring 2014. He also commented 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. Patrick reported that although there had not been a meeting of this Division last year and there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, coal conversion had been well covered at the 9<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA to held at the University of Nottingham in September 2012. 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 last year and there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, coal characterisation had been well covered at the 9<sup>th</sup> ECCRIA held at the University of Nottingham in September 2012. 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 Preparation, Mr Andrew Howells**

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Mr. Andrew Howells, who had provided him with a briefing note. He reported that the last meeting of this Division, entitled, "Minerals Engineering 2012", had been held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the Hilton East Midlands Airport Hotel, near Derby, East Midlands, and had been held jointly between the Mineral Engineering Society, the Coal Research Forum and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the next meeting of this Division, entitled, "Mineral Engineering 2013", would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Nottinghamshire. 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. A Programme and details of this event had been issued as CRF E-mailshot No.10, (2013), on 08/03/13.

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

Dr. Nimmo introduced himself as the new Chairman of this Division, having taken over from Prof. Trevor Drage in February this year. He continued that the last meeting of this Division, entitled, “The Emissions Control of NOx, SOx and Particulates”, was today’s event at Cranfield University.

Dr. Nimmo reported that the next meeting of this Division would be in about 18 month’s time, where 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**

Mr. Peter Sage reported that last year’s, (2012), meeting of this Division, which he had described at last year’s CRF Annual Meeting, had been entitled, “Carbon Capture & Storage – Can the UK Maintain a Leadership Role?”, and had been organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, which took place on 13-14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the DECC conference facility, Victoria Street, London.

Mr. Peter Sage reported that the last meeting of this Division had been entitled, “13<sup>th</sup> Annual APGTF Workshop : Carbon Capture & Storage – a Showcase of UK Research and Development”, had again been organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, and had taken place on 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 again at the DECC conference facility, Victoria Street, London. Mr. Sage described the highlights of this event, which had reviewed and up-dated the major UK and overseas projects and initiatives in the field of advanced power generation.

Mr. Sage continued that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, he would be pursuing a similar event to the above with the APGTF for next year. He concluded that he would always welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Divisional meetings.

### **Joint Seminar with the British Flame Research Committee, (BFRC)**

Dr. McCaffrey reported that a Technical Meeting, organised by the British Flame Research Committee, (BFRC), jointly with the CRF entitled, "Combustion Diagnostics, Control, Computational Methods & Process Optimisation", would be held at the University of Kent, Canterbury on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013. A Programme and details of this event had been issues as CRF E-mailshot No.11, (2013), on 13/03/13.

**Dr David J A McCaffrey**  
**Secretary of the Coal Research Forum**  
**19<sup>th</sup> April 2013**