

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

HELD ON TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2014 AT 1.40.pm.
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, NEAR COVENTRY, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.

Mr. Greg Kelsall, Chairman (Industry) of the CRF, welcomed the approximately 40 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 25th Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

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

The minutes of the year 2013 Annual Meeting, held on 10th April 2013 at Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.17, (2013), on 19th April 2013), were formally approved without modification.

ii) **Review of Actions**

Mr. Kelsall noted that there was one action arising from the report of the year 2013 Annual Meeting.

The Executive Committee had been asked by the Meeting to consider the payment or part payment of the publication fee to publish papers in prestigious journals, (believed to be about £1,000 per paper). This matter had been discussed by the Executive Committee but it was felt, given the CRF's limited resources, that this matter was outside of their remit, thus completing this action.

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

The Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2013 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 Cranfield University and included the election of Executive Committee Members and reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a meeting of the Environment Division entitled, "The Emissions Control of NO_x, SO_x and Particulates", and included a visit to the Energy Technology Centre at Cranfield University.

During 2013, the **Forum** has co-sponsored a number of events with other organisations. In February, the **Forum** co-sponsored a two-day workshop entitled, "13th Annual APGTF Workshop : Carbon Capture and Storage – a Showcase of UK Research and Development", which was held at the 1VS 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 2013", 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. Also in May, the **Forum** co-sponsored a Technical Meeting organised by the British Flame Research Committee, (BFRC), entitled, "Combustion Diagnostics, Control, Computational Methods & Process Optimisation", which was held at the University of Kent, Canterbury. In September, the **Forum** co-sponsored an event entitled, "Know your Enemy : Avoiding Project Failure and Cost Increases through Bulk Material Characterisation", organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, (IMEchE), at their Headquarters in Westminster, London.

In October, the **Forum** provided significant financial sponsorship for the 2013 Coal Science Lecture, which is now organised by the Biomass and Fossil Fuel Research Alliance, (BF2RA). This lecture entitled, “How the Advanced Structural Characterisation of Coal has Benefitted Coal Utilisation” was presented by Prof. Colin E.Snape of the University of Nottingham at The Institute of Physics, London.

Also in October, the **Forum** organised and arranged on behalf of BF2RA, a “BF2RA/CRF Research Event” for the presentation of a selection of projects funded through the BF2RA Research Programme. This event was held at the University of Nottingham and was similar to the series of one-day symposia previously organised by the **Forum** on behalf of the British Coal Utilisation Research Association, (BCURA).

In November, the Forum awarded a prize for the best fossil fuel poster at the RSC Energy Sector’s Early Career Chemists’ Event held at the UK Energy Research Centre in London.

The year 2013 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 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.

The **Forum** is at an advanced stage in their plans for the “10th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”, (10th ECCRIA), to be held in September 2014 at the University of Hull.

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 01/01/2013 to 31/12/2013.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2013 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 Cranfield University, BFRC/CRF Seminar, Kent, MES/CRF Seminar, Kegworth, and BF2RA/CRF Seminar, Nottingham). In addition, there were some other expenses, which included a poster prize, some travel expenses, and sponsorship for the 2013 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 58 Members, (3 less than for 2012), 2 late payments for 2012 and 4 advanced payments for 2014. Other income included non-members seminar fees, the

final surplus payment from the 9th ECCRIA, (Nottingham), and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2013. Overall, there was a small cash surplus 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 9th ECCRIA.

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
Mr.R.M.Davidson

Dr.A.W.Thompson
(Treasurer)

Dr.G.J.Kelsall
Dr.M.Millan
Prof.Y.Yan

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

Dr.T.Beeley
Dr.M.Millan
Dr.W.J.Quick

Dr.M.Millan
(Representative from Academe)

Dr.A.W.Thompson
Prof.E.H.Lester
Prof.J.W.Patrick

Prof.Y.Yan
(Representative from Academe)

Dr.W.Nimmo
Dr.A.W.Thompson
Dr.R.M.Poultney

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

Prof. Jon Gibbins reported that although there had been no meetings of this Division during 2013, the seminar today at the University of Warwick was a Combustion Divisional seminar entitled, "Combustion for Low Carbon Power Generation".

Prof. Gibbins continued that he had no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, where he was considering a seminar with another CRF Division during 2015. Prof. Gibbins 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 Conversion, Prof John Patrick

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Prof. Patrick, who was not present for ill health reasons. Dr. McCaffrey 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 would be well covered at the 10th ECCRIA Conference to be held at the University of Hull in September 2014. In addition, Dr. McCaffrey continued that consideration was being given to an “Underground Gasification and Related Technologies” seminar either as part of the 2015 CRF Annual Meeting or in September 2015. He also commented that Prof. Patrick 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 and there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, coal characterisation would be well covered at the 10th ECCRIA held at the University of Hull in September 2014, (where of the 117 abstracts, 35 of the presentations and 11 of the posters covered coal characterisation aspects). 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. Prof. Lester had noted that the ICCS&T would be held on 9-13th November 2015, so a potential seminar could be to invite the UK speakers at this event to present their papers at a one day CRF seminar, as had been done previously. 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 2013”, had been held on 9th May 2013 at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Nottinghamshire. 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 7 excellent papers presented.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the next meeting of this Division, entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2014”, would be held on 15th May 2014 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.13, (2014), on 16/03/14.

Environment, Dr Bill Nimmo

Dr. Nimmo reported that the last meeting of this Division, entitled, “The Emissions Control of NO_x, SO_x and Particulates”, had been held on conjunction with the CRF 2013 Annual Meeting at Cranfield University in April 2013.

Dr. Nimmo reported that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, consideration was being given to a seminar on “The Control of Mercury and Trace Element Emissions”, either as part of the 2015 CRF Annual Meeting or in September 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, (2013), meeting of this Division, which Mr. Sage had described at last year's CRF Annual Meeting, had been entitled, "13th Annual APGTF Workshop : Carbon Capture & Storage – a Showcase of UK Research and Development", and had again been organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, and had taken place on 20th-21st February 2013 again at the DECC conference facility, Victoria Street, London.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the last meeting of this Division had been entitled, "14th Annual APGTF Workshop : The Role of Fossil Fuel Power Plant in Providing Flexible Generation" and had again been organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, and had taken place on 12th-13th 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 he and Mr. Sage had organised and arranged on behalf of BF2RA, a "BF2RA/CRF Research Event" for the presentation of a selection of projects funded through the BF2RA Research Programme at the University of Nottingham in October 2013.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that Mr. Sage had reported that 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.

Dr David J A McCaffrey
Secretary of the Coal Research Forum
10th April 2014