

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE  
COAL RESEARCH FORUM.**

**(SHORTENED VERSION).**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2007 AT 2.00.pm. AT INTERNATIONAL  
POWER plc., RUGELEY POWER STATION, RUGELEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

**THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.**

Mr. Greg Kelsall, Chairman, (Industry), of the CRF welcomed the approximately 35 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2006 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2006 Annual Meeting, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.17, (2006), on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006), 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 2006 Annual Meeting.

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

Dr. David McCaffrey, (CRF Secretary), reported that 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 Combustion Division held a seminar entitled, “Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Plant – Now and in the Future”, at E.ON plc’s Killingholme Power Station.

In April, the Coal Conversion Division held a seminar jointly with the Coke Oven Managers’ Association, (COMA), entitled, “Carbon Deposits”, at Corus UK Ltd’s Dawes Lane Coke Ovens, Scunthorpe.

In May, the **Forum** Annual Meeting was held at the Coal Authority Headquarters, Mansfield, which included reports from the Divisional Chairmen. The meeting continued with a Coal Preparation Divisional seminar which covered Coal Preparation and Handling, What Needs to be Done, What is being Developed in Industry and What is being Developed at UK Universities.

The **Forum** Autumn Meeting was held in September at the University of Kent and was a three day conference entitled, “6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”. The 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 100 participants where more than a third of the participants were from overseas representing 17 countries. The conference had over 60 oral presentations which for the first time in this series of conferences were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as almost 30 poster presentations.

In November, The Environment Division held a joint seminar with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (Energy Sector), entitled, “Recent Developments in CO2 Capture Research for the UK Power Market” at RWEnpower plc’s Didcot Power Station.

The year 2006 has seen the issue of further three editions of the **Forum** newsletter (January, May and September). The **Forum** website continues to provide information to Members and has been regularly added to and up-dated during the year. During the year, there have been more than 40 **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.

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 which has included the planning of a major revision and up-grading of the **Forum**’s website in early 2007, the contribution of material to the UKERC’s UK Energy Research Atlas and the IEA Clean Coal Centre’s database of current UK coal research projects and the commissioning of an up-dated “Register of Those in the UK with Interests in Coal Research” database. This database will be completed shortly and published on a “Members only” section of the **Forum** website early in 2007.

The **Forum** has commenced the arrangements for the “7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”, to be held on 3-5<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

#### iv) **Report by the Treasurer**

Dr. David McCaffrey, (CRF Secretary), presented the Treasurer's report to the meeting on behalf of Dr Thompson, the CRF Treasurer, who was unable to attend the AGM. The presentation included the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the period 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2006.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2006 showed expenditure resulting from normal CRF operating activities i.e. newsletter services, secretarial and administrative services, cost of mailshots, the rental of the Forum Post Office Box, the website rental fee and Public Liability insurance provisions. There were also some expenses outstanding from the previous year, which included the Forum’s agreed contribution to the costs of the IChemE seminar held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005, and the Forum’s share of the loss made by this event. Additional expenditure was incurred for the catering costs of a divisional meeting, (08/03/06).

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions. This consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 63 Members, (not including 4 subscriptions received during the previous year) making 67 Members, (2 more than for 2005 however, in addition, 1 further Member had now paid his subscription for 2006 since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 making the total number of paid Members for 2006 as 68). Other income included three late Membership payments for 2005, and four advanced Membership payments for the year 2007 and bank/building society interest.

There was, in addition, a contribution from the Coal Utilisation Subject Group of the IChemE towards the preparation of the “Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK” document. There was some additional income resulting from a further surplus from the 2004 Edinburgh

Conference where a lower-than-budgeted-for cost of the 70 copies of the Conference Edition of FUEL was not spent. A small amount of income was received during the year which was the cash surplus from the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Coal Research & Its Applications.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2006.

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).**

**NOMINATED BY**

Mr. Greg Kelsall  
(Chairman, Industry)

Dr. David McCaffrey  
Dr. Alan Thompson  
Prof. John Patrick

Dr. David McCaffrey  
(Secretary)

Mr. Greg Kelsall  
Prof. John Patrick  
Dr. Alan Thompson

Dr. Ruth Poultney  
(Representative from Industry)

Dr. Will Quick  
Prof. John Patrick  
Prof. Mike Bradley

Dr. Will Quick  
(Representative from Industry)

Dr. Ruth Poultney  
Dr. Alan Thompson  
Prof. John Patrick

Dr. Michael Whitehouse  
(Representative from Industry)

Prof Alan Williams  
Dr. Will Quick  
Prof. Denis Dugwell

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 any other business.

**REPORTS FROM DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN**

**Combustion Division, Dr Jon Gibbins**

Dr. Jon Gibbins reported that he had taken over the Chairmanship of this Division from Dr. Alan Thompson in Autumn 2006. He continued by describing the Divisional meeting organised by his predecessor, (Alan Thompson), at E.ON plc's Killingholme Power Station on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Dr. Gibbins also described briefly his first Divisional Meeting as Chairman which was held at Imperial College London on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Dr. Gibbins commented on the similar subject matter, (carbon capture and storage), of the Environment

Divisional Meeting, (November 2006), his own Combustion Divisional Meeting, (April 2007), today's APG Divisional Meeting and another meeting to be held in Autumn 2007 which he believed highlighted the importance of this subject area.

### **Coal Conversion, Prof John Patrick**

Prof. John Patrick reported on the Divisional meeting held jointly with the Coke Oven Managers Association, (COMA) at the Corus UK Ltd's Scunthorpe facilities on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006. This event had consisted of an afternoon visit to the coking plant followed by an evening event with two presentations on "Carbon Deposits". This event had been relatively well attended, (about 40 participants), although only a few Coal Research Forum Members had attended. Prof. Patrick reported that there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, however, 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 Denis Dugwell**

In the absence of Prof. Denis Dugwell, who had given his apologies, Dr. McCaffrey reported that there had been no Divisional Meetings held during 2006 and that there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, largely due to the relatively small number of researchers working in this area. However, this area was well covered by the "6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications" held at the University of Kent in September 2006 where there had been a separate session on Coal Characterisation. Similarly, this area would be well covered at the forthcoming 2007 ICCS&T to be held at the end of August 2007 at the University of Nottingham. Prof. Dugwell had stated that 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**

In the absence of Mr. Andrew Howells who had given his apologies, Mr. Douglas Jenkinson of the Minerals Engineering Society reported that a meeting of this Division had been held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006 at the Coal Authority Headquarters which had been attended by about 40 participants. He described the programme for this event which had covered Coal Preparation and Handling, What Needs to be Done, What is being Developed in Industry and What is being Developed at UK Universities. He continued that plans were currently in hand to amalgamate the half day seminar usually held in the Autumn by the Southern Group of the Minerals Engineering Society with the next Coal Preparation Divisional Meeting as a full day seminar. It was felt that this would be more advantageous to both bodies than running separate events and it was hoped that the combination of industry based papers that the MES normally arrange with the Academic input through the Coal Research Forum will make for an interesting, informative day with an attendance worthy of the speakers. The provisional date for this meeting is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 to be held at the University of Nottingham and, as usual, both the MES and CRF will be informing their respective Members of the detail nearer the time.

### **Environment, Dr Michael Whitehouse**

Dr. Michael Whitehouse described the programme for the Environment Divisional Meeting which had been held jointly with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (Energy Sector), entitled, "Recent Developments in CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Research for the UK Power Market" on 15<sup>th</sup>

November 2006 at RWEpower plc's Didcot Power Station.

Dr. Whitehouse continued that he was currently making plans for the next Divisional Meeting in Spring 2008, jointly with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (Energy Sector), the Geological Society and the Institution of Chemical Engineers at a venue in London entitled, "Environmental Issues associated with the Storage of CO<sub>2</sub>". Dr. Whitehouse was currently awaiting the confirmation of presentations from some organisations and would be issuing a programme at the earliest opportunity.

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

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Mr. Peter Sage that during 2006, the APG Division had not held any events, the previous event being the joint Divisional Meeting held in association with the CUSG and ECTSG of the IChemE on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at the London Offices of the IChemE.

Dr. McCaffrey continued on behalf of Mr. Peter Sage by describing briefly today's APG Divisional Meeting, "Zero Emissions Power – Current Developments", held at International Power plc's Rugeley Power Station, which had been well received attracting just over 40 participants.

### **6<sup>th</sup> UK Meeting on Coal Research and its Applications.**

Prof. John Patrick, in his role as Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee, described the three-day "6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications", which had been held on 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at the University of Kent. This conference had covered all aspects of coal utilisation research currently being carried out in the UK and Europe and had attracted participants from all of the major UK organisations carrying out coal R&D, several European organisations, as well as participants from worldwide. Although numbers had been a little down from the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference, this conference had been one of the most successful in this series of conferences so far and was attended by just over 100 participants where more than a third of the participants were from overseas representing 17 countries. The conference had over 60 oral presentations which for the first time in this series of conferences were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as almost 30 poster presentations.

**Dr David J A McCaffrey**  
**Secretary of the Coal Research Forum**  
**21<sup>st</sup> June 2007.**