

**REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS (AGM) OF
THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM.**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 10th APRIL 2008 AT 1.30.pm. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTTINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM.**

THE COAL RESEARCH FORUM AGM.

Mr. Greg Kelsall, Chairman, (Industry), of the CRF welcomed the just over 40 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 19th Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2007 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2007 Annual Meeting, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.22, (2007), on 6th July 2007), 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 2007 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 April, the Combustion Division held a seminar entitled, “Recent Developments in Carbon Capture and Storage, (CCS)”, at Imperial College London.

In June, the **Forum** Annual Meeting was held at International Power plc’s Rugeley Power Station, Staffordshire, which included reports from the Divisional Chairmen. The meeting continued with an Advanced Power Generation Divisional seminar entitled, “Zero Emissions Power – Current Developments”, and included a site visit to the Power Station.

The **Forum** Autumn Meeting was held in November at the University of Birmingham and was a joint seminar with the IChemE, Coal Utilisation, Environment and Energy Conversion Technologies Subject Groups and the Energy Institute and was entitled, “Understanding the Low Carbon Economy – A Review of the Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future”.

In November, The Coal Preparation Division held a joint seminar with the Minerals Engineering Society and the South Midlands Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering entitled, “Fuelling Future Energy Needs”, at the University of Nottingham.

The year 2007 has seen the issue of further three editions of the **Forum** newsletter (January, May and September). During the year, the **Forum** website has undergone a major restructuring and revision, and continues to provide information to Members. It 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 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. In particular, several Members of the Forum Executive Committee actively assisted with the organisation of the International Conference on Coal Science 2007, (ICCS&T 2007), held in August 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 which has included, the contribution of further material to the UKERC's UK Energy Research Atlas, (which was published in Spring 2007), and the completion of an up-dated "Register of Those in the UK with Interests in Coal Research" database, which will be made available to Members during 2008.

The **Forum** has continued with the arrangements for the "7th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications", to be held on 3-5th September 2008 at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

iv) **Report by the Treasurer**

Dr. Alan Thompson, (CRF Treasurer), presented the Treasurer's report to the meeting, which included the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the period 01/01/2007 to 31/12/2007.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2007 showed expenditure resulting from normal CRF operating activities i.e. newsletter services, secretarial and administrative services, Treasurer and Webmaster Services, (new for 2007), photocopying costs, the rental of the Forum Post Office Box, the website rental fee and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (Combustion Divisional Meeting, 17/04/07, and the Low Carbon Economy Seminar, 14/11/07). In addition, there were one-off expenses for the updating of the CRF database, prizes awarded at the 2007 ICCS&T, and three student bursaries.

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions. This consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 62 Members, (not including 4 subscriptions received during the previous year) making 66 Members, (1 less than for 2006 however, in addition, 2 further Members had now paid their subscriptions for 2007 since 1st January 2008 making the total number of paid Members for 2007 as 68). Other income included one late Membership payments for 2006, a contribution from the CUSG, IChemE towards PhD student bursaries and prizes, income from seminar fees from non-members, the final surplus from the 6th ECCRIA, (Kent), and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2007. Overall, there had been a significant cash deficit for the year 2007 and this had been the main reason why the Executive Committee has increased the Membership Subscription fees by 20% for 2008, (the last increase in Membership Subscription fees was 8 years ago).

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).

NOMINATED BY

Prof. John Patrick
(Chairman, Academe)

Dr. Alan Thompson
Prof. Colin Snape
Dr. David McCaffrey

Dr. Alan Thompson
(Treasurer)

Dr David McCaffrey
Prof. John Patrick
Dr. Will Quick

Dr. Ed Lester
(Representative from Academe)

Prof. Yong Yan
Prof. John Patrick
Dr David McCaffrey

Dr. Marcos Millan
(Representative from Academe)

Prof. Denis Dugwell
Mr. Brian Smith
Dr David McCaffrey

Prof Yong Yan
(Representative from Academe)

Dr. Ed Lester
Dr. Sebastien Caillat
Dr David McCaffrey

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 any other business.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

Combustion Division, Dr Jon Gibbins

Prof. John Patrick reported on behalf of Dr. Jon Gibbins, who had given his apologies and had already departed from the Meeting to catch a flight for an event to be held on the following day. Prof. Patrick reported that Jon Gibbins' first Divisional Meeting as Chairman, entitled, "Recent Developments in Carbon Capture and Storage, (CCS)", had been held at Imperial College London on 17th April 2007, where Jon Gibbins believed that this subject area continued to be a current and important one. Jon Gibbins had reported that he had found today's Meeting useful and welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings. He had proposed to hold the next meeting of this Division with a similar theme to his first meeting with another Division, possibly the APG Division in early 2009.

Coal Conversion, Prof John Patrick

Prof. John Patrick reported that although there had been no Divisional Meetings held during 2007, that the areas covered by this Division, (carbonization, liquefaction and gasification), had all been well covered by the 2007 ICCS&T Conference held at the University of Nottingham in August 2007. Prof. Patrick continued that three presentations would be made in the Coal Conversion Division's section of today's joint Divisional Meetings. 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. Prof. Patrick reminded the Meeting that this area would be well covered by the “7th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications” to be held at Cardiff University in September 2008, where there would be separate sessions on Coal Conversion topics.

Coal Characterisation, Prof Denis Dugwell

Prof. Denis Dugwell reported that, as with the Coal Conversion Division, there were now relatively few researchers in the UK working in these areas. He continued that although there had been no Divisional Meetings held during 2007, this area had been well covered by the 2007 ICCS&T Conference held at the University of Nottingham in August 2007. Prof. Dugwell continued that three presentations had been made in the Coal Characterisation Division’s section of today’s joint Divisional Meetings. Prof. Dugwell 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. Prof. Dugwell reminded the Meeting that this area would be well covered by the “7th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications” to be held at Cardiff University in September 2008, where there would be a separate session on Coal Characterisation topics.

Coal Preparation, Mr Andrew Howells

In the absence of Mr. Andrew Howells who had given his apologies, Dr David McCaffrey reported on his behalf that a meeting of this Division entitled, “Fuelling Future Energy Needs”, had been held jointly with the MES Southern Group and the South Midlands Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nottingham on Wednesday 21st November 2007. Dr. McCaffrey described briefly the programme for this event which had covered a wider range of topics than usual. He continued that due to the success of this format, Mr. Howells was planning to hold similar events in the future jointly with other bodies, and, as usual, both the MES and CRF will be informing their respective Members of the detail nearer to the time of the event.

Environment, Dr Michael Whitehouse

Mr Iftikhar Khan reported on behalf of Dr. Michael Whitehouse, who had given his apologies, on the further development of the plans for the next Environment Divisional Meeting. He continued that although there had been no Divisional Meetings held during 2007, (the last Divisional Meeting had been held in November 2006 at Didcot Power Station), plans were currently now well advanced for a seminar entitled, “The Environmental Effects of the Storage of CO₂”, to be held jointly with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (Energy Sector), the Geological Society and two of the Subject Groups of the Institution of Chemical Engineers. Although originally planned for Spring 2008, this event was now scheduled to take place at the Geological Society’s venue in London, (Burlington House, Piccadilly), on Thursday 23rd October 2008, where the Energy Institute may also be a joint partner in this event. Mr. Khan reported that 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

Mr. Peter Sage reported that during 2007, there had been one APG Divisional Meeting entitled, "Zero Emissions Power – Current Developments", held at International Power plc's Rugeley Power Station, which had been well received and had attracted just over 40 participants. Mr. Sage reported that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, he had found today's Meeting useful and welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings. He therefore wished to pursue the proposal made by Dr. Gibbins above to hold the next meeting of this Division with a zero emissions power theme, which he considered continued to be a relevant and current topic, jointly with the Combustion Division in early 2009. Mr. Sage continued that such a meeting would then be timely, particularly in view of the stage of development at that time where the results of the CCS Demonstrator Competition would be known. 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.

7th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications, (7th ECCRIA).

Prof. John Patrick, in his role as Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee, reported on the preparations for the three-day "7th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications", which would be held on 3rd-5th September 2008 at the Cardiff University. This conference would cover all aspects of coal utilisation research currently being carried out in the UK and Europe and was expected to attract participants from all of the major UK organisations carrying out coal R&D, several European organisations, as well as participants from worldwide. The conference would have over 60 oral presentations which would be presented in two parallel sessions, as well as many poster presentations.

Dr David J A McCaffrey
Secretary of the Coal Research Forum
14th April 2008