

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL 2009 AT 12.05.pm.
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, LEEDS.**

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 20th Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2008 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2008 Annual Meeting, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.16, (2008), on 17th April 2008), 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 2008 Annual Meeting.

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

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 the University of Nottingham, which included reports from the Divisional Chairmen. The meeting continued with a joint Divisional Meeting between the Combustion, Coal Characterisation and Coal Conversion Divisions, entitled, "Current Developments in Coal Research".

In June, BCURA and the **Forum** held their biennial Research Event, which was held at Imperial College London. This was the third in a series of one-day symposia entitled, "The Presentation of a Selection of Current and Recently Completed Projects Funded through the BCURA/DTI Coal Programme".

The **Forum** Autumn Meeting was held in September at Cardiff University and was a three day conference entitled, "7th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications", (7th ECCRIA). The conference covered all aspects of coal utilisation research currently being carried out in the UK and in other parts of the world and had participants from all of the major UK organisations carrying out coal R&D. The conference was the most successful in this series of conferences so far and was attended by just over 130 participants where more than a third of the participants were from overseas representing 17 countries. The conference had almost 70 oral presentations which were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as almost 30 poster presentations.

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, "Mineral Industry Joint Seminar", at the University of Nottingham.

The year 2008 has seen the issue of further three editions of the **Forum** newsletter (January, May and September). During the year, the **Forum** website has continued to undergo significant revision. It continues 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 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. A fund is available from the **Forum** for the funding of PhD students to attend national and international Conferences, where several awards were made during 2008. In particular, the CRF responded rapidly to an offer from RWEnpower plc. and the Coal Utilisation Subject Group of the IChemE for the joint funding with the CRF of six PhD students to attend the 9th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies held in Washington DC, USA, in November.

The Executive Committee has also been actively promoting several other coal research issues with a number of bodies both in the UK and overseas.

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 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008, which are attached to this Report.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2008 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 and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (the CRF contribution to the cost of the 2007 and 2008 Coal Preparation Divisional Meetings held jointly with the MES, and Speakers expenses for the Low Carbon Economy Seminar, 14/11/07). In addition, there were one-off expenses for eight student bursaries, six for engineering PhD students to attend the 9th Greenhouse Gases Conference, (Washington, USA), (co-funded with RWEnpower plc., and the CUSG of the IChemE), and two to attend the 7th ECCRIA, (Cardiff, Wales), (funded from the CRF Conference account). Dr.Thompson drew to the attention of the meeting that not all of the cheques issued during 2008 had been cashed and thus the outstanding financial commitments had also been included in these accounts.

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions. This consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 65 Members, (1 less than for 2007 however, in addition, 3 further Members had now paid their subscriptions for 2008 since 1st January 2009 making the total number of paid Members for 2008 as 68). Other income included two late Membership payments for 2007, a contribution from RWEnpower plc. and the CUSG, IChemE towards PhD student bursaries, income for two student bursaries from the CRF Conference account, income from seminar fees from non-members, an interim surplus payment from the 7th ECCRIA, (Cardiff), two donations and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2008. Overall, there was a cash surplus for the year, although it was noted that operations of the CRF essentially broke even with the surplus arising mainly from the surplus from the 7th ECCRIA.

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.

<u>CANDIDATE. (POSITION).</u>	<u>PROPOSER.</u>	<u>SECONDEERS.</u>
Mr.G.J.Kelsall (Chairman, Industry)	Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey	Prof.R.Dugwell Dr.A.W.Thompson Dr.G.S.Riley
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey (Secretary)	Mr.G.J.Kelsall	Prof.D.R.Dugwell Dr.A.W.Thompson Dr.W.J.Quick
Dr.T.Beeley (Representative from Industry)	Prof.J.Wiliamson	Mr.G.J.Kelsall Dr.W.J.Quick
Dr.R.M.Poultney (Representative from Industry)	Prof.J.W.Patrick	Prof.M.S.A.Bradley Dr.W.J.Quick
Dr.W.J.Quick (Representative from Industry)	Dr.A.W.Thompson	Mr.G.J.Kelsall Dr.R.M.Poultney

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.David McCaffrey reported on behalf of Dr.Jon Gibbins, who had given his apologies. Dr.McCaffrey reported that Jon Gibbins' second Divisional Meeting as Chairman, entitled, "Current Developments in Coal Research", had been held as part of the joint Divisional Meetings at the 2008 CRF Annual Meeting held at the University of Nottingham on 11th April 2008. Jon Gibbins had reported that he welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings. The following Meeting had been today's joint Meeting with the APG Division where the Combustion Divisional section had been entitled, "Combustion Modelling and Supporting Measurements". He had proposed to hold the next meeting of this Division possibly with another Division, during 2010.

Coal Conversion, Prof John Patrick

Prof.John Patrick reported that the last Divisional Meeting had been held as part of the joint Divisional Meetings at the 2008 CRF Annual Meeting held at the University of Nottingham on 11th April 2008. This Divisional Meeting had had three presentations covering the areas of carbonisation, liquefaction and gasification, where these areas had also been well covered at the 7th ECCRIA Conference held at Cardiff University in September 2008, and where there had been separate sessions on Coal Conversion topics. Prof.Patrick continued that he had recently organised a separate CRF session at the recent British Carbon Group Spring Meeting, "Carbon in Health, the Environment and Energy" conference held in Manchester on 31st March/1st April 2009.

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

Dr.McCaffrey reported on behalf of Prof.Denis Dugwell, who had given his apologies, that the last Divisional Meeting had been held as part of the joint Divisional Meetings at the 2008 CRF Annual Meeting held at the University of Nottingham on 11th April 2008. This Divisional Meeting had had three presentations, and this area had also been well covered at the 7th ECCRIA Conference, where there had been a separate session on Coal Characterisation topics

Dr.McCaffrey continued that Prof.Dugwell had reported that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division that he would organise a joint Divisional Meeting sometime during the next year, where 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, Dr.David McCaffrey reported on his behalf that a meeting of this Division entitled, “Minerals Industry Joint Seminar”, 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 26th November 2008. Dr.McCaffrey described briefly the programme for this event which had covered several topics. 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

Dr.Trudy Beeley 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. She continued that although there had been no Divisional Meetings held during 2008, Dr.Whitehouse had been making plans for a seminar on the Environmental Effects of the Storage of CO₂, jointly with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (Energy Sector), the Geological Society and two of the Subject Groups of the Institution of Chemical Engineers. However, due to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, (DECC), competition on Carbon Capture and Storage, (CCS), the potential speakers were reluctant to speak at this time and therefore this event was cancelled. Current plans are now well advanced for a seminar to be held jointly with the Combustion Engineering Association entitled, “The Integrated Pollution Protection and Control, (IPPC) and the Large Combustion Plant, (LCPD), Directives”, at British Sugar plc’s Holmewood Hall near Peterborough on Thursday 11th June 2009. A Programme will be circulated at the earliest opportunity.

Advanced Power Generation, Mr Peter Sage

Mr.Peter Sage reported that the last APG Divisional Meeting entitled, “Zero Emissions Power – Current Developments”, had been held at International Power plc’s Rugeley Power Station, in June 2007. Mr.Sage reported that he also welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings and had organised today’s joint Meeting with the Combustion Division where the

APG Divisional section had been entitled, “APG-Technologies and Projects Status Update”. He had proposed to hold the next meeting of this Division possibly with another Division, sometime during 2010. 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.

Dr David J A McCaffrey
Secretary of the Coal Research Forum
30th April 2009