

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL 2010 AT 11.30.am.
AT THE E.ON ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, RATCLIFFE-ON-SOAR.**

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 21st Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2009 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2009 Annual Meeting, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.12, (2009), on 1st May 2009), 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 2009 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 March, the Forum organised a session at the British Carbon Group Spring 2009 Meeting, “Carbon in Health, the Environment and Energy”, held at the Manchester Conference Centre.

In April, the **Forum** Annual Meeting was held at the University of Leeds, which included reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with meetings of the Combustion Division, entitled, “Combustion Modelling and Support Measurements” and the Advanced Power Generation Division, entitled, “New Power Plant Developments”.

The **Forum** Autumn Meeting was a joint meeting between the CRF Environment Division and the Royal Society of Chemistry, (RSC), Energy Sector, and was held in September at the University of Nottingham. It was entitled, “Co-firing and Fuel Characterisation”.

The annual Coal Preparation Divisional seminar, usually held in November, and held jointly with the Minerals Engineering Society and the South Midlands Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering, was unfortunately postponed this year to a date to be announced in 2010.

The year 2009 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 undergo 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 almost 30 **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 some awards were made during 2009, which included the funding of PhD students to attend the International Conference on Coal Science

and Technology, (ICCS&T), which in 2009 was held in Cape Town, South Africa. Recipients of these awards are encouraged to provide articles on their impressions of these conferences in the CRF Newsletter.

The **Forum** has commenced the arrangements for the “8th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”, (8th ECCRIA), to be held on 6-8th September 2010 at the University of Leeds.

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 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 the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the period 01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2009 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, photocopying and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (CRF Annual Meeting, (22/04/09, Leeds), and the CRF contribution to the cost of the British Carbon Group Spring Meeting, (31/03/09 to 01/04/09, Manchester), and the CRF Environment Division/Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector Joint Seminar, (15/09/09, Nottingham)). In addition, there was a one-off expense for a bursary for a PhD student to attend an overseas coal conference. Dr. Thompson drew to the attention of the meeting that not all of the cheques issued during 2009 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 where Membership subscriptions for 2009 were received from a total of 69 Members, (1 less than for 2008, however, in addition, 1 further Member had now paid their subscriptions for 2009 since 1st January 2010 making the total number of paid Members for 2009 as 70). Other income included two late Membership payments for 2007, and five late payments for 2008, the final surplus payment from the 7th ECCRIA, (Cardiff), one donations and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2009, where 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.

During discussion of these accounts, it was suggested that less cash should be retained in the current account and that a portion of the assets be invested in higher interest bearing accounts or bonds. The Chairman agreed to raise this matter at this afternoon's CRF Executive Committee Meeting.

Action : GJK.

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).

PROPOSER.

SECONDEES.

Prof. John Patrick
(Chairman, Academe)

Dr. David McCaffrey

Dr. Edward Lester
Dr Ruth Poultney
Dr. Alan Thompson

Dr. Alan Thompson
(Treasurer)

Dr. Will Quick

Dr David McCaffrey
Dr. Edward Lester

Dr. Ed Lester
(Representative from Academe)

Prof. John Patrick

Dr David McCaffrey
Dr. Alan Thompson

Dr. Marcos Millan
(Representative from Academe)

Prof. Denis Dugwell

Dr David McCaffrey
Dr. Alan Thompson
Mr. Brian Smith

Prof Yong Yan
(Representative from Academe)

Dr. Sebastien Caillat

Dr David McCaffrey
Prof. Mohamad
Pourkashanian

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 two matters raised under any other business.

1) In view of the current healthy balance in the Forum accounts, the question was raised as to what these funds should be used for. As noted in Section iv) above, the operations of the CRF essentially broke even with the surplus for 2009 arising mainly from the surplus from the 7th ECCRIA. There was a need to retain some reserves in case, for example, the next ECCRIA made a loss. However, the Chairman agreed to raise this matter at this afternoon's CRF Executive Committee Meeting.

Action : GJK.

2) A number of Members suggested that the "Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK" document should be up-dated and distributed widely to promote the funding of coal research projects in the UK. This position was supported strongly by Members from academe who considered that such promotion should be directed at the EPSRC. Dr. McCaffrey reported that he was already intending to propose the up-dating of this document to the CRF Executive Committee and the Chairman agreed that this matter would be discussed at this afternoon's CRF Executive Committee Meeting.

Action : GJK.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

Combustion Division, Dr Jon Gibbins

Prof. Jon Gibbins reported that the last Divisional Meeting had been the joint Meeting with the APG Division where the Combustion Divisional section had been entitled, "Combustion Modelling and Supporting Measurements", held in April 2009 at the University of Leeds.

The following Meeting had been today's joint Meeting with the Environment Division which had been entitled, "Ash and By-Product Utilisation". Prof. Gibbins thanked Dr. McCaffrey and Dr. Quick for the organisation of today's meeting, where he welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings. Prof. Gibbins proposed to hold the next meeting of this Division possibly with another Division, during 2011.

Coal Conversion, Prof John Patrick

Prof. John Patrick reported that the last Divisional Meeting had in effect been the separate CRF session at the British Carbon Group 2009 Spring Meeting, "Carbon in Health, the Environment and Energy" conference held in Manchester on 31st March/1st April 2009. Prof. Patrick reviewed the history of the series of ECCRIA conferences organized by the CRF, where coal conversion would be well covered by the 8th ECCRIA to be held at Leeds in September 2010. Prof. Patrick reported that there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, however, he was considering a seminar to review recent developments in the areas of carbonisation, liquefaction and gasification, particularly liquefaction, where there had been a renewal of interest in this area, possibly with another Division. 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.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that although there had been no Coal Characterisation Division activities since then, Prof. Dugwell was planning a joint Divisional Meeting and this remains the objective for the coming year. Prof. Dugwell would welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and is always open to suggestions for topics for such meetings. Prof. Dugwell has noted that his own coal research activities have now effectively ceased with his retirement, so he considers that it may now be time to think of a new Divisional Chairman. However, if a suitable candidate is not forthcoming, he is willing to continue a little longer with the organisation of the next Divisional Meeting.

Coal Preparation, Mr Andrew Howells

Mr. Andrew Howells reported that the last meeting of this Division entitled, "Minerals Industry Joint Seminar", had been held jointly with the MES Southern Group and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining at the University of Nottingham on Wednesday 26th November 2008. Mr. Howells continued that although there had been plans to hold a similar event on 25th November 2009 at the Coal Authority HQ, he had not been able to confirm the speakers for this event and hence it had had to be postponed. The intention was for the next Divisional Meeting to be held as part of a 2-day conference organised by the Mineral Engineering Society in Nottingham on 14th/15th October 2010 to be entitled, "Who Will Keep the Lights On?".

Environment, Dr David McCaffrey, (Acting Chairman).

Dr. McCaffrey reminded the Meeting that the last event held by this Division had been entitled "Co-firing and Fuel Characterisation", which had been held on 15th September 2009 at the University of Nottingham. The following Meeting would be today's joint Meeting with the Combustion Division entitled, "Ash and By-Product Utilisation". He continued that

the previous Divisional Chairman, Dr. Michael Whitehouse had expressed a wish to stand down, where Dr. McCaffrey had stood in as Acting Chairman to organize, together with Dr. Quick, today's Divisional Meeting. Dr. Trevor Drage of the University of Nottingham had agreed to take up this duty and this appointment would be confirmed at this afternoon's CRF Executive Committee Meeting.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that there were currently plans for a seminar to be held jointly with the Combustion Engineering Association, (and possibly the Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector), entitled, "The Integrated Pollution Protection and Control, (IPPC) and the Large Combustion Plant, (LCPD), Directives", currently planned for early 2011.

Advanced Power Generation, Mr Peter Sage

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Mr. Peter Sage, who had given his apologies, that the last APG Divisional Meeting had been the joint Meeting with the Combustion Division where the APG Divisional section had been entitled, "APG-Technologies and Projects Status Update", held in April 2009 at the University of Leeds. Mr. Sage had reported that he also welcomed the format of joint Divisional Meetings, where he was considering holding the next meeting of this Division possibly with another Division, where an update of the UK major projects and initiatives would be timely, sometime during late 2010 or early 2011. Mr. Sage had 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
15th April 2010