

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL 2012 AT 12.10.pm.
AT DRAX POWER STATION, NEAR SELBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE.**

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 23rd Annual Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) **Report of the year 2011 Annual Meeting**

The minutes of the year 2011 Annual Meeting, held on 13th April 2011 at the University of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.12, (2011), on 13th May 2011), were formally approved without modification.

ii) **Review of Actions**

Mr. Kelsall noted that there was one action arising from the report of the year 2011 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Thompson reported that he had investigated whether it was possible to invest a portion of the CRF's assets in a higher interest bearing account or an investment bond. Despite the fact that many of these types of accounts were only open to individuals and were not available to clubs and societies, Dr. Thompson had opened a Scottish Widows Club & Association 7 day notice account and an HSBC 3.5 year Investment Bond, both of which gave a considerably higher rate of return than the Nottingham Building Society account, thus completing his action.

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

The Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2011 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 the University of Nottingham, which included the election of Committee Members and reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a joint meeting of the Coal Conversion Division entitled, "A Review of Recent Developments in Coal Conversion", and the Coal Characterisation Division entitled, "What We Need to Know About Coal".

In September, the **Forum** Autumn Meeting was a one-day seminar entitled, "The European Industrial Emissions Directive", which had been held at Imperial College London jointly with the CRF Environment Division, the Combustion Engineers Association, (CEA), and the Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector, (RSC ES). With 10 high quality presentations, this seminar covered the most important environmental legislation in Europe for several decades, combining several other previous Directives including the Large Combustion Plant Directive, the Integrated Pollution Protection and Control Directive and other Directives. This event was well attended with over 70 registered participants, mainly from industry.

In October, the **Forum** co-sponsored a seminar entitled, “UK Minerals – Engineering Innovation for a Sustainable Future”, which was held at Kegworth, East Midlands, and which included a wide spectrum of presentations on the minerals production industries in the UK and overseas. This event was organised by the Minerals Engineering Society and association with the Coal Research Forum, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and the South Midlands Mining & Minerals Institute.

The year 2011 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 30 **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 some awards were made during 2011, and where the recipients of these awards have provided articles on their impressions of these conferences for the CRF Newsletter.

In 2010, the Executive Committee commissioned the up-dating of a fifth edition of a “Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK” document. The up-dated Fifth Edition of this document was completed in early 2011 and has been published on the **Forum** website and issued as a **Forum** E-mailshot.

The **Forum** is at an advanced stage in their plans for the “9th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”, (9th ECCRIA), to be held on 10th-12th September 2012 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 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 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2011.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2011 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 at Stoke Orchard for the CRF records, and Public Liability Insurance provisions. There were also some Seminar Expenses, (European IED Seminar, (22/09/11, Imperial College London), and the MES/CRF/IoM3 Joint Seminar, (13/10/11, Kegworth)). In addition, there were some other expenses, which included a student travel bursary, some one-off travel expenses, the return of seminar fees collected by the CRF on behalf of the RSC Energy Sector, and the final payment for the preparation of the up-dated 5th Edition of the “Coal Research and Engineering Needs in the UK” document prepared by Dr.A.J.Minchener.

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions which consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 58 Members, (7 less than for 2010), and an advanced Membership payment for 2012. Other income included contributions for the

European IED seminar from the CEA and the RSC Energy Sector, non-members seminar fees, an advanced rental payment for the storage of BCURA's records at Stoke Orchard, the final surplus payment from the 8th ECCRIA, (Leeds), and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2011, where overall, there was a 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 8th 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
Dr.R.M.Poultney
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey

Dr.A.W.Thompson
(Treasurer)

Dr.W.J.Quick
Dr.M.Millan
Dr.T.Beeley
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey

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

Dr.T.Beeley
Prof.Y.Yan
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey

Dr.M.Millan
(Representative from Academe)

Dr.A.W.Thompson
Prof.E.H.Lester
Prof.D.R.Dugwell
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey

Prof.Y.Yan
(Representative from Academe)

Prof.M.Pourkashanian
Dr.S.Caillat
Prof.E.Lester

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**

In answer to a question on what were the CRF's intentions regarding their funds, Mr. Kelsall replied that in addition to the student bursaries, the CRF were intending to make a significant contribution towards the 2012 Coal Science Lecture, (now organised by BF2RA), and were considering various annual prizes. He invited suggestions from Forum Members as to how to best use CRF funds to promote coal/CRF and reported that the Executive Committee would review the potential options.

Action : the CRF Executive Committee.

REPORTS FROM DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN

Combustion Division, Prof Jon Gibbins

Prof. Jon Gibbins reported that the last meeting of this Division had been entitled, “Technical and Economic Aspects of Co-combustion of Biomass” and had been a joint meeting with the Royal Society of Chemistry, (RSC), Energy Sector, held in November 2010 at the University of Leeds.

The following Meeting had been today’s Meeting entitled, “Oxyfuel Combustion” at Drax Power Station. Prof. Gibbins continued that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, he was considering a similar event for 2013. He 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

Prof. John Patrick reported that the last meeting of this Division had been held in April 2011 at the University of Nottingham and had been entitled, “A Review of Recent Developments in Coal Conversion”, which had reviewed recent developments in liquefaction and gasification, as well as including an up-date on UK Government policy on carbon capture and storage.

Prof. Patrick continued that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, coal conversion would be well covered at the 9th ECCRIA to held at the University of Nottingham in September 2012. He 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 Characterisation, Prof Ed Lester

Prof. Ed Lester reported that the last meeting of this Division had been held in April 2011 at the University of Nottingham and had been entitled, “What We need to Know about Coal”, which had reviewed what coal traders, utilities and equipment manufacturers needed to know about coal.

Prof. Lester continued that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, coal characterisation would be well covered at the 9th ECCRIA to held at the University of Nottingham in September 2012. He 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 Preparation, Mr Andrew Howells

Mr. Andrew Howells reported that the last meeting of this Division had been entitled, “The UK Minerals Industry and the Use of their Products in Everyday Life”, and had been held in October 2011 at the Yew Tree Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Nottinghamshire. This seminar had been held jointly between the Mineral Engineering Society, the Coal Research Forum and the South Midlands Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

The next meeting of this Division, entitled, “Minerals Engineering 2012”, was planned for Thursday 24th May 2012 at the Hilton East Midlands Airport Hotel, near Derby, East Midlands, and would again be a joint event 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 issues as CRF E-mailshot No.18, (2012), on 27/03/12.

Environment, Dr Trevor Drage

Dr. Trevor Drage reported that the last meeting of this Division, entitled, “The European Industrial Emissions Directive”, had been held jointly with the Combustion Engineering Association and the Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector at Imperial College London in September 2011. This had been a highly successful event with over 70 participants.

The next meeting of this Division, provisionally entitled, “The Emissions Control of NOx, SOx and Particulates”, was planned Spring 2013, possibly jointly with the CRF Annual Meeting, at a venue to be determined.

Advanced Power Generation, Mr Peter Sage

Mr. Peter Sage’s reported that the last meeting of this Division had been entitled, “Carbon Capture & Storage – Can the UK Maintain a Leadership Role?”, and had been organised jointly with the Advance Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF), as a two day event, which took place on 13-14th March 2012 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.

Mr. Sage continued that although there were no specific plans at present for the next meeting of this Division, he was considering 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
30th April 2012