



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Burlington House, Piccadilly
London W1J 0BQ, UK

T: 020 7734 4582/ 3307

F: 020 7494 0166

Info@ras.org.uk

www.ras.org.uk

Registered Charity 226545

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MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING 14th DECEMBER 2012

1. INTRODUCTION AND ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Professor F. Honary, Professor B.E. Parsons, Dr. S.A. Mitton, Professor A.M. Cruise, Professor M.A. Barstow, Professor I.A. Crawford, Dr. L. Fletcher, Ms Mandy Bailey, Mr C.E. Barclay, Professor R.J. Davis, Dr. G.H. Jones, Professor D.W. Kurtz, Dr. A. Norton, Dr. S. Peacock, Professor R.E. Spencer, Professor Y. Elsworth and Dr. H.J. Fraser

APOLOGIES: Professor D.J. Southwood, Professor C. Tadhunter, Professor D.W. Hughes, Professor S. Miller

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms P. Mortimer (Executive Secretary) and Dr. R. Massey (Deputy Executive Secretary)

It should be noted that Professor Farideh Honary kindly chaired the Council meeting of the 14th December 2012 in place of the President who was overseas with business. Professor Honary advised that papers on the Astronomy and Geophysics awards had been tabled and also a paper on RAS Council Elections in 2013.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 12th October 2012 were approved by Council. The President will sign them at a later date.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising were covered under other agenda items.

4. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

The President had provided a note to update Council on his activities since the last Council meeting:

4.1 Geophysics Forum.

The first External Geophysics Forum will be held on the 18th January. The agenda will include discussion of the rationale for the forum, REF preparation (with a HEFCE speaker) and Open Access.

Prof. Barry Parsons updated Council on arrangements for the solid earth Geophysics forum that will meet in the early part of 2013. It was agreed that it will be important to ensure there is no confusion between the two groups and that every effort is made to balance calls made for time to key players such as NERC CEO.

4.2 Political engagement.

i) The President and Dep. Exec Sec had engaged with John Womersley and Colin Vincent from STFC on probable allocations of STFC expenditure in FY 2013/14 and the potential impact on various astronomy programmes. They confirmed that the budget over the next few years will lead to a narrowing in the funding profile for astronomy.

During these meeting there was also discussion on astronomy in Europe. There is a group working on "sustainability" of the Astronet structure post-FP7. The current thinking includes a notion of possible Commission support for a standing activity for coordination of Astronet members. This is encouraging and is along similar lines to the idea of a European Astronomy Council proposed by Giles Chichester, MEP.

ii) The President met with Anneli Pauli, the deputy Director General of the Research and Development Directorate of European Commission, (EC), whilst attending an EIROforum 10th anniversary workshop. He used the opportunity to try out the idea of a European Astronomical Council. Mme Pauli was initially sceptical but softened once she realised it there would be limited EC expenditure and it would add "authority". The President intends to contact Robert Jan Smit, the Director General, to discuss this further and thereafter will follow up with Giles Chichester.

iii) The President had given comments and interviews on the outcome of the ESA ministerial council and had written an article for "Research Europe".

iv) The President had attended the "2012 Innovation Debate" at the Royal Society and an IoP event, celebrating the importance of physics to UK industry, at the House of Commons.

4.3 Dungey lecture.

The President had visited Jim Dungey recently who was looking well and forward to the celebratory meetings. The special day event on January 10th will involve a mix of US and UK collaborators on the programme as well as younger researchers. This will be followed by an early evening historical lecture and drinks party, at Imperial, presented and hosted by the President. The first Dungey lecture will be given by Peter Cargill at the RAS Ordinary meeting on Friday 11 January 2013.

5. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

5.1 Treasurers Report

a. OUP transition

The-formal transition from Wiley Blackwell (WB) to Oxford University Press (OUP) is scheduled for the 1st January 2013. Relations and communication with OUP are very good, with regular excellent reporting.

The first editions Monthly Notices and Geophysics Journal International have gone to press. OUP had advised that at Dec 2012 25 percent of the standardised subscriptions had been received, this is a reasonable level for time of year, (the average across other journals is closer to 15 to 20 percent.) Council will be provided with an update at the February meeting. [NOTE: in early January 2013 OUP advised that approximately 60 percent had been received.]

b. RAS Membership Subscriptions

The online web renewal system has been updated to interface it with a membership database held by the RAS. Several improvements have been incorporated including an option NOT to receive the free diary and options for mail correspondence. A reduction in postage costs may result.

For reasons unknown, in 2007, a change on nomenclature concerning the range of RAS membership subscriptions available had arisen and been recorded in AGM and Council papers, this was in contrast to the standard nomenclature that had been used in correspondence with the membership from that time to date. It was agreed that in future the RAS will use the terminology of Rates (rather than Categories). The current Rates are:

Rate 1

- Fellows who, on 2013 Jan 1 or at the time of their election in 2013, are full-time students at undergraduate level or higher (or part-time postgraduate students enrolled on a research degree), and are studying astronomy, geophysics or a related subject.

Rate 2

- Fellows who completed full-time education less than 5 years before 2013 January 1

Rate 3

- Fellows who completed full time education more than 5 years before 2013 January 1

c. NAM 2012

The NAM at Manchester was a scientific success and as the combined meeting with Deutsche Astronomische Gesellschaft was successful in generating a bigger attendance than expected. It also worked well financially. Agreement has been reached with Manchester that they can retain approximately £15k of surplus, which will be used in pursuit of their astronomical programme.

The agreement with host institutes is that they have to cover any modest losses but if a modest surplus is created, they can retain this. It was agreed that £15k is considered as being at the top end of modest.

d. Operations Plan.

Council noted the updated Operations Plan.

e. Student Summer Bursaries

It was noted that the fixed sum offered for student bursaries has been increased to £1200, to reflect inflation, but that the total number offered per year will be restricted to 25 (38 were funded last year in the wake of the Nuffield Scheme closing) and that awards will be restricted to a maximum of one per supervisor.

5.2 Finance Committee Minutes

The Treasurer introduced the minutes from the Finance Committee that had met on 6th November 2012.

There was discussion on the need or otherwise for an ethical investment policy. At the 2012 AGM a member had asked from the floor whether the Society had an agreed investment policy. This question, subsequently followed up by letter was discussed at the Finance Committee with the investment manager, Alan Goodwin.

The current position is that the Society holds its investment in Newton managed funds, invested in their Growth and Income Fund for Charities. Investment is spread over about 100 well known companies chosen by Newton and the only restriction on this fund is that there be no investment in Tobacco companies. Newton do, however, monitor the companies for the possibility of reputational damage to investors.

Newton do offer a “Socially Responsible Investment Fund” for clients who wish to take that option but noted that they cannot withdraw an investment in an individual company of concern and retain the low cost format of these investment schemes.

It was noted that the Society is bound by the Charity Commissions rules and guidelines for trustees. These state that the Trustees must make decisions aimed at maximising the benefits derived from the Society’s assets but they can construct an “ethical” investment policy avoiding particular companies/sectors if:

- A. A particular investment conflicts in practice with the Society’s charitable objectives,
- B. There is evidence that such an investment would alienate a substantial fraction of the membership creating a significant net financial loss, or
- C. Such an investment policy would not produce significantly lower financial returns.

In particular the charity commissioners state “ trustees are not free to use their charity's investment powers to reflect their individual moral beliefs at the expense of the charity.”

At present, the Society does not have a formally written investment policy, (rather it follows the guidance given by the charity commissioners).

It was agreed that it would be prudent to draft a simple formal policy to reflect the principles set out above. This will be presented to Council for approval at the February meeting.

ACTION: Treasurer

Council also noted the following key points :

- The investment portfolio had performed well in recent months, exceeding the benchmarks by a significant amount.
- Market testing of the audit function will be undertaken in early 2013; the successful bidder will be announced for approval at the AGM in May 2013.
- The Finance Committee propose that half of the increased income available from the publishing contract funds should be saved to underpin the transition to Open Access publishing and half should be spent improving the Societies activity; prioritising capital spend over recurrent spend so as not to increase the baseline expenditure.

6. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

6.1 RAS Away Day

Council noted that the RAS Away Day will be held over the 13th and 14th June, the location will be confirmed but is likely to be on the South Coast.

It was noted that diary restrictions had precluded an Away Day in Spring 2013.

6.2 Library Committee Membership

Council noted that that the library Committee had not previously submitted a recommendation to Council for the composition of the Committee for 2012 – 2013.

Council agreed that composition of the Committee for 2012 – 2013 should continue with the membership prior to May 2012 and approved the following:

LIBRARY COMMITTEE 2012 – 2013

Dr. S. Mitton	(2013) [Chair]
Dr P. Browning	(2013)
Prof. I. Howarth	(2013)
Mr. M. Hurn	(2014)
Mr. G. Hurst	(2013)
<u>Ex Officio:</u>	
Dr I Crawford (Senior Secretary)	
Jennifer Higham, (RAS Librarian) [Secretary of Library Committee]	

6.3 Report of the Committee on Diversity in Astronomy and Geophysics (CDiAG) for the RAS Council

Dr. Lyndsay Fletcher introduced the report from CDiAG that had met on 9th November 2012.

a. Terms and Membership of the Committee.

The committee had drafted Terms of Reference and were seeking to ensure that the membership reflected the revised wider remit of the committee, comments and suggestions were sought from Council on this, that can be provided out of committee. The final version will be presented to Council for approval at the February meeting.

ACTION : Dr. Lyndsay Fletcher

b. Developing a Diversity Strategy for the RAS

Council noted that a diversity strategy will be developed for discussion in the first half of 2013.

c. Daphne Jackson Fellowship

Council noted that Dr. Hilary Kay, the first RAS-supported Daphne Jackson Fellow, has now taken up her post. Also that the OU is currently supporting a Fellowship in the area of astrochemistry and plans to support two fellowships next year, a three year Fellowship (jointly funded by STFC) and a Fellowship in planetary science.

d. Women speakers on astronomy and geophysics

It was noted that CDiAG has an ongoing concern that often women are under-represented as speakers during RAS specialist and monthly meetings, as well as in other academic and public events.

It was agreed that the Society should write to University Points of Contact to promote this and seek further women speaker volunteers, the RAS database should be updated accordingly.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Secretary

e. NAM 2013

It was noted that CDiAG are planning to organise a Women's Lunch at Nam 2013.

f. Marking the centenary of the admittance of women to fellowship of the RAS- 2015

CDiAG expressed their gratitude to Professor David Hughes for highlighting the fact that the 100th anniversary of the admission of women (in their own right) as Fellows of the RAS will be in 2015. The RAS preceded other learned societies in admitting women as fellows.

It was agreed that this significant occasion should be celebrated in a substantial way, perhaps as a national initiative involving schools. CDiAG would make further proposals. In addition to the above ideas included a workshop, a themed series of public lectures, a special dinner, an update of the booklet 'Girls with a vision', displaying portraits of female astronomers at the National Portrait Gallery.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE : Professor Hughes advised that Annie Maunder was elected to full fellowship of the RAS on 10th November 1916, as such the 100 year celebration will be in 2016.]

6.4 Progress report: improvements to the Electronic Infrastructure

The Deputy Executive Secretary advised that the work carried out by Whitwam Audio Visual Limited to upgrade the audiovisual equipment in the Lecture Theatre, Reception Office, Fellows Room and Council Room had been completed successfully to the satisfaction of RAS staff and hopefully wide range of users.

For the new broadband link, the RAS is working with University College London (UCL) and BT to upgrade the existing domestic level copper wire Internet connection in BH to an uncontended, symmetric optical fibre link that will connect BH into the JANET network and offer upload and download data speeds of 100 MBps. The first part of this work, to reconnect an older fibre, has been completed by BT. UCL, who are leading the project advise that BT still need to install an alarm circuit and carry out further line tests. On completion of this phase, the project will be handed over to UCL entirely who will supply the router. They anticipate that they will install and commission the new link in the middle of February.

6.5 Review of Burlington House computers and servers

Council agreed that the IT working group is re-established to consider the following:

- A. Updating RAS staff computers
- B. Improvements to the RAS Main Server
- C. Improvements to RAS webserver
- D. Additional service to support community websites.

Professor Spencer, Chair of the IT working Group will report, making recommendations to Council, at the February 2013 meeting.

6.6. RAS Council Elections 2013

a. Election of President

There was substantive discussion on the how to best manage the election of the President. The background is set out below:

- In the past, the appointment of President was decided by the outgoing President in private consultation with others (many years ago) and more recently by a more open decision of Council.
- In 2009 the Presidential Election Committee, (PEC) was introduced to make non binding suggestions to Council. The PEC made suggestions to Council (3 or 4 names), Council debated the merits of the individuals suggested and agreed on the appointment of their chosen individual as President. The position of President was not put on the ballot paper-there being only one candidate.

- There has been some criticism levied from the membership that the above arrangements were not democratic and had a sense of decisions being taken in smoke filled rooms.
- **For the elections in May 2013, the Society is in uncharted territory in having received two nominations (with first and second proposers) for the position of President from the membership.**
- The bye laws state that as nominations (with first and second proposers) were received in the given time frame then they will appear on the ballot list unless subsequently withdrawn.
- The bye laws state that at its regular meeting in February **the Council shall prepare the Balloting List**, according to the requirements of Bye-laws 20, 22, 26, 27 and 28, including nominations made under Bye-law 23 and nominations made by Council members at the meeting.
- The bye laws do not address the idea of there being a ballot held for the position of President, as in past years candidates were reluctant to come forward, so the need for elections did not arise.
- The PEC has suggested three names (one of which is one of the individuals nominated by the membership)
- The workings of the PEC as an entity is not covered by the bye laws, however as Fellows the individuals on the PEC are entitled to make suggestions to Council. The PEC has been called upon previously as nominations have never been received from the membership.
- After early discussions, the recommendation of the President, Officers and Executive to Council was that Council should not undermine the democratic process by suggesting alternative candidates. This was not agreed.
- Members of the PEC were keen ensure that their suggestions were given the opportunity to be considered by Council for endorsement as Council's nomination. Professor Steve Miller, a member of the PEC, had provided a explanation of his position by email, this was tabled at the meeting.

Key discussion points:

- Ms. Mandy Bailey proposed that in addition to the two names nominated by the membership, Council considers the three names suggested by the PEC and chooses one, this name is also shown on the ballot paper. A vote was taken and carried on this proposal.

- There was much debate about the merits of having the phrase ‘endorsed by Council’ set out against one candidate- would it benefit or be to the disadvantage of the chosen individual?
- The bye laws as currently drafted do not address preparing a ballot for an election for President, as such Council felt it had leeway to agree a way ahead.
- The PEC is an ad hoc entity that does not have clear direction.

The following was agreed by Council:

- Council would consider the merits of the three suggestions proposed by the PEC and agree on the preferred candidate following the same procedure as it has since 2009. The name of this individual would be chosen by Council before they were aware of the names of the Fellowship nominations. The name will appear alongside the names of the two individuals nominated by the Fellowship.
- If Council’s preferred candidate should be the same as one nominated from the Fellowship the two nominations will appear on the ballot.
- In order to ensure that no bias is introduced the ballot paper will not detail the proposers of any of the Presidential candidates.
- In future the PEC would only be established if suitable candidates were not proposed from the Fellowship by the November deadline. Informal approaches would be made to individuals in January. Council would agree the balloting paper in February as usual.

b. Balance of Council

Professor Ian Crawford reminded Council that Officers were tasked with reviewing the balance of Councillor nominations for diversity. There were 6 nominations for G positions of which 2 were female, this was thought to be a reasonable ratio.

There were 16 nominations for A positions of which only 2 were female, given there is such a large pool it was thought not to be constructive to add any further nominations from Council. It was noted that there are 4 male Councillors stepping down in May 2012.

Prof. Crawford raised his concern about Planetary Science being underrepresented.

Prof. Barry Parsons requested a breakdown on the demography of the society, by main research classifications. It was agreed that the diversity committee would address this.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Secretary

6.7 Use of Burlington House outside normal hours

The Executive Secretary introduced the issues around use of Burlington House (BH) for events outside of normal office hours.

Over the years an expectation has arisen that BH can be made available in the evenings or weekends. From a staffing perspective the RAS is not set up to work out of hours and such arrangements rely on the goodwill of principally one staff member who is keen for a more effective solution to be established.

It was noted that the Executive Secretary will work with the Treasurer to consider and cost alternative options.

It was noted that there is the potential opportunity for the Society to generate income were it to purposefully promote the use of facilities (improved lecture theatre, council room, library etc) out of hours. It was agreed that fuller consideration would need to be given to this (business cases prepared etc) and should follow discussion at the RAS Away Day in June.

7. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Council noted the RAS response to the **BIS consultation on Science and Society Strategy**.

7.2 Council noted the RAS response to the **Migration Advisory Committee consultation**.

In response to questions on reimbursement of travel expenses for Council members who attend events in support of various scientific activities, the Treasurer clarified that Council members will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence if Council has previously agreed their attendance/have asked them to speak on behalf of Council at the event.

7.3 Research Excellence Framework 2014: Research Users

Council noted and were grateful to the Fellows who had volunteered to serve as Research Users as part of the REF 2014 process.

7.4 Impact of Astronomy and Geophysics publications

Council noted that the Society had successfully secured £5K from both STFC and NERC in support of the publications on the Impact of Astronomy and Geophysics respectively.

7.5 Council noted the paper on **the ESA Ministerial and Chancellor's autumn statement**.

7.6 Council noted the **Education Committee Minutes**. Mr. Charlie Barclay, Chair of the Education Committee, highlighted the need for further female representation on the Education Committee and sought proposals. It was thought that the committee would benefit from the expertise of a female teacher. Dr. Sheila Peacock advised that she had been trawling for solid earth geophysicists to partake in various RAS Committees; Council were grateful and welcomed this.

8. PUBLICATIONS

8.1 Publications update

Council approved the appointment of Professor Omer Blaes as a new editor for Monthly Notices.

Council noted the following:

- The transition to OUP is going well. The Society has sent gifts to the Wiley production team as tokens of appreciation for all their work over the years.
- OUP are providing the prize money (£1500) for the annual GJI student award for the best student paper. This year there are 3 winners who will share the prize, normally used as a contribution to the cost of attending a conference.
- OUP have kindly agreed to co-sponsor the drinks reception to be held at the American Astronomical Society's Winter meeting in January 2013.

9. OTHER

9.1. Medals & Awards 2012 (A & G Committee Chairs)

Council approved the suggested award winners and reserve candidates.

[Note: the Award winners were posted on the RAS website on 11th January 2013.]

9.2 Patrick Moore Medal

The Chair of the Patrick Moore Medal Committee and the Deputy Executive Secretary presented their report to Council, which then approved the suggested award winner and reserve candidate.

It was agreed further efforts to be made to promote this medal, including making contact with the producers of Stargazing: LIVE and creating a redesigned poster for use at the Association of Astronomy Education conference in January 2013.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Secretary

Dr Peacock agreed to approach Paul Denton, who organises the School Seismology Project supported by the RAS, to ask him to suggest teachers that could be nominated for their work in geophysics.

ACTION: Dr Peacock

9.3 Improvements to medals and awards process (A & G Committee Chairs)

The Chair of the G Committee introduced this report, which set out a range of ways in which the medals and awards nomination and approval process could be improved. Council agreed to the changes set out in the report, including:

- In the first instance nominations will be sufficient for the Service Award, Group Award and Honorary Fellowships (and at the request of Council this will also apply to named lecturers). Additional supporting material will only be requested if required.

The process will be monitored to ensure that a nomination only is typically sufficient information to judge these awards.

- Nomination forms will be provided as web forms with specific criteria.
- Unsuccessful nominations will be divided into two categories in the awards meetings. Those that are not sufficiently strong will be rejected and will not roll over for the next award round; those which are or could be sufficiently strong will be rolled over to the next round (to a maximum of three rounds).
- Council agreed that the Fowler Award can be awarded to researchers who have completed their PhD work (rather than started their PhDs, as was previously the case) in the last 10 years.
- The Winton capital award is only for post-docs. Council agreed that the definition of PhD completion should be the date of the viva, but that committees could exercise flexibility in this matter.
- Council agreed that nominations for the Jackson-Gwilt Medal could be changed, such that once in every five rounds nominations are only sought and considered for history of astronomy and for the other rounds, nominations are only sought and considered for the other areas covered by this Medal. The changes were approved, subject to investigation by the Treasurer that they do not contradict the stipulations of the Medal bequest.
- Council agreed that the oceanography remit of the Price Medal should be removed, subject to the rules of the Medal bequest.

ACTION: Treasurer to investigate the details of the bequests and report back to February Council.

9.4 RAS Research Fellowships 2013

The Deputy Executive Secretary updated Council on the recruitment of RAS Research Fellows for 2013.

The fellowship round is well under way. 45 applications were received. The standard is very high. Longlisting has been done. Requests for outside references have gone out. Shortlisting will be done in mid-Jan. Interviews are planned for 31 January 2013.

9.5 Officers' reports

Council noted the reports by officers and approved the following as Fellows:

Surname	First Name	Town/ University	Sponsor
Asvestari	Eleanna	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Athanasίου	Athos	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Barnes	David	Epsom	Keith Smith

Bush	Stephen	East Grinstead	Dr Katherine Joy
Carley	Eoin	Trinity College Dublin	Dr David Tsiklauri
Carlyle	Jack	MSSL	John Leonard Culhane
Chatzistergos	Theodosios	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Coleman	Gavin	Chatham	Dr David Tsiklauri
Collier	Christine	London	Andrew Norton
Coxon	John	University of Leicester	Thomas Conlon
Davidge	Helen	Aylesbury, Bucks.	Stephen Serjeant
Finnegan	James	Co. Armagh	M.E. Bailey
Fleming	Graham	London	Membership Committee
Foster	Alice	MSSL	Dr David Tsiklauri
Gilbert	Andrew	Hoddesdon	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Gillam	Patrick	London	M.M. Dworetsky
Goldsmith	Kathryn	Wells	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Hakas	Jarle	London	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Harper	Joseph	Leicester	A.J. Norton
Hornsey	Christopher	Abingdon	Prof. V. Nakariakov
Lock	Robert	Nottingham	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Morosan	Diana	Dublin	Dr David Tsiklauri
On	Alvina	London	Keith Smith
O'Toole	Thomas	Oxford University	David Peter Robinson

Parisi	Laura	University of East Anglia	Ana Ferreira
Pasini	Dina	University of Kent	M.J. Burchell
Potts	Nicola	Milton Keynes	Colin Pillinger
Selzer	Luke	University of Warwick	Prof. V. Nakariakov
Shukla	Amaresh	Croydon	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Siry	Isra	The American University of Shajah	Membership Committee
Stanier	Adam	University of Manchester	Dr David Tsiklauri
Arena	Claudio	London	Ian Howarth
Awiphan	Supachai	Manchester	Eamonn Kerins
Batcheldor	Daniel	West Melbourn, Florida	Terry D. Oswalt
Bilton	Lawrence	Lincoln	Andrew Norton
Birkett	Kerry	London	Geraint Jones
Blake	Brian	Leytonstone	Andrew Norton
Claydon	Jennifer	Natural History Museum	Sara Russell
Curran	Natalie	Manchester	Katherine Joy
Dean	Stephen	East Cowes, Isle of Wight	Andrew Norton
Donnelly	Taryn	Beeston	Andrew Norton
Exton	Andrew	Scarborough	John Harper
Felici	Mariana	Holmbury St. Mary	Geraint Jones

Gall	Elisabeth	München	Francis Keenan
Gillone	Melissa	University of Birmingham	Richard Pearson
Good	Simon	Ealing	Dr Robert J. Forsyth
Hanson	Andrew	Wirral	Andrew Norton
Harvey	Michael	Brighton	Roger Hutchins
Heng	Ik Siong	University of Glasgow	Graham Woan
Hibbert	Ricky	Rickmansworth	Prof. Michael Smith
Holberg	Jay	University of Arizona	Prof. Martin A. Barstow
Kerr	Graham	Glasgow	Lyndsay Fletcher
Livadiotis	George	Southwest Reseach Institute, Texas	Membership Committee
Lygo	Matthew	Stockport	Andrew Norton
Malik	Karim	Queen Mary, University of London	Ian Huston
Marshall	Charlotte	Nottingham	Peter John Sarre
Mortimer	James	The Open University	Colin Pilinger
Nelmes	Susan	HMNAO, UK Hydrographic Office	Steven A. Bell
Prema	Paresh	HMNAO, UK Hydrographic Office	Steven A. Bell
Price	Mark	University of Kent	MJ Burchell
Ramkissoon	Nisha	Canterbury	M.J. Burchell

Roux	Pierre-François	Massy, France	Guillame Daniel
Sansom	Anne E.	University of Central Lancashire	Roger G. Clowes
Slade	Mervyn	Brightlingsea	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Sulaiman	Ali	London	M.K. Dougherty
Szczepanski	Michal	Bromley	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Thomas	Alice	Nottingham	Professor Peter Sarre
Vanon	Riccardo	Imperial College London	D.L. Clements
Whittaker	James	HMNAO, UK Hydrographic Office	Steven A. Bell

It was noted that there were some typographical errors in the second list of Fellows who have resigned candidates for membership, namely the exchange of dates of birth and dates of nomination on page three of the November report and Council asked for these to be corrected.

ACTION: Membership Secretary

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Sir Patrick Moore

The leading item of any other business followed the death of Sir Patrick Moore. In the days following his death, the Executive Secretary had received a number of suggestions for ways in which the Society might commemorate his life and work.

Councillors considered some of these and put forward further suggestions:

- Sir Patrick's name could recognise outstanding achievement in outreach by e.g. amateur astronomers and that this inspires people to pursue a career in science in general
- The RAS should liaise with the British Astronomical Association and the Society for Popular Astronomy (Sir Patrick established this as the Junior Astronomical Society)
- The RAS could invite public donations in his memory
- We should acknowledge his controversial views in our decision making process
- Naming a star would be inappropriate, but a lunar crater would be fitting

Council agreed to create a working group, convened by the Deputy Executive Secretary, to develop these ideas further, commenting on their appropriateness and outlining funding

requirements. The group will report back to Council early in 2013, where a final decision can be made. Prof. Davis, Prof. Barstow, Prof. Cruise (RAS Treasurer), Dr Jones and Dr Fraser agreed to become members of the group.

ACTION: Deputy Executive Secretary / working group

10.2 Harrison RAS Regulator

Professor Spencer asked for an update on the Harrison regulator, on permanent loan from the RAS to Royal Museums Greenwich, following a project to disassemble and analyse the device.

ACTION: Executive Secretary

10.3 Tweeting in Ordinary meetings

Prof. Kurtz asked whether tweeting from laptops during Ordinary meetings could be restricted as the glare from screens impedes the view of presentations. Attendees who needed to do this could be encouraged to do so from the back of the lecture theatre.

ACTION: President to ask audience at Ordinary meetings to comply with this suggestion.

Council rose at 3 p.m.

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D. J. Southwood
President

08 March 2013