



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th May 2015

1. ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Professor Martin Barstow, Professor Mike Cruise, Professor Ian Crawford, Dr Mandy Bailey, Professor Lyndsay Fletcher, Professor Mike Edmunds, Professor Gillian Foulger, Professor James Wild, Professor Andrew Norton, Professor Richard Davis, Professor Paul Murdin, Dr Helen Fraser, Mr Charlie Barclay, Dr Sarah Matthews, Professor Martin Bureau, Miss Jane MacArthur, Dr Sheila Peacock, Dr Stacey Habergham, Professor John Brown and Dr Geraint Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Pamela Mortimer (Executive Secretary) and Dr Robert Massey (Deputy Executive Secretary)

Mr Mark Piper (RAS Finance Manager) and Mr Michael Kyriakides (Senior Accountant) were in attendance for agenda items 1-4, Mr Eddie Finch, (Partner at Buzzacott) was in attendance for agenda item 4.

Professor Steve Miller (Chair of the RAS 200: Sky and Earth Steering group) was in attendance for agenda item 6.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies had been received from Dr Simon Mitton

2. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting of 13th March were approved with minor corrections.

The Executive Secretary noted that a number of post Council notes had been added to the minutes that explained changes to deadlines for various items.

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

The President expressed how pleased he and the Society are that Professor Yvonne Ellsworth has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society. (See <https://www.ras.org.uk/news-and-press/2634-prof-yvonne-elsworth-elected-to-fellowship-of-the-royal-society>)

The President advised that he had been given some thought to how the Society should mark and celebrate the history of Society as part of the bicentennial celebrations.

It was noted that the existing two volumes of the 'History of the Royal Astronomical Society' served a purpose, however, they read like a diary/record of events and that this format should probably not be repeated. It was suggested that the Society should consider options to commission analysis of the history using a range of formats, for example, a scholarly work on historical analysis and a format that will appeal to a wider audience/more popular version.

The Executive Secretary advised that she had had preliminary discussions with OUP on the possibility of making a children's book/video that could be used in education and outreach projects. Dr Sheila Peacock advised that the GSL had recently commissioned a scholarly history and that lessons might be able to be learnt from their experience.

It was agreed that a working group (President, Treasurer, Professor Mike Edmunds, Dr Simon Mitton) would be established to draft a proposal for consideration at the NAM meeting that will be held during NAM.

ACTION: RAS 200: History Working Group

4. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

4.1 Treasurers report

The Treasurer introduced his report. He advised that the audit for 2014 had gone smoothly and that the Society had received an unqualified opinion. He encouraged Council members to ask questions of Mr Eddie Finch, an audit partner at Buzzacott, who would be in attendance later.

He advised that a difference of opinion has arisen at the Finance Committee between one member who believes the Society is badly run financially and the remainder of the committee who have stated that they do not share this view. A list of criticisms has been sent by the dissatisfied member to the President and vice Presidents and one of the honorary auditors. The Treasurer requested that Council discuss this matter when Mr Finch was in attendance and advised that he would withdraw at that point.

It was noted that the Publications Committee had been held on the 28th of April and that there were two issues that Council should be made aware of:

a) At a previous Council meeting, in response to a question from Professor Martin Bureau, it was reported that OUP had estimated the worst case financial outcome from moving GJI and MNRAS to online only. This estimate had assumed that all the costs and incomes from printed copies would be lost and that no institutes which currently had a print subscription moved over to online access only. This issue will be brought back to Council in October when the more precise estimates will be available.

ACTION: Treasurer

b) Council were reminded that the American Astronomical Society (AAS) publishes two journals: Astrophysical journal with a high impact factor and Astronomical journal with a much lower impact factor. It was noted that the AAS had recently announced a restructuring of their publications including a new fast track journal for high impact articles only and the setting up of subject channels for some of the journals. The impact of this on RAS publishing will be monitored. It was noted that provisional planning is underway and that if a substantial change arises then there may be a requirement for the Society to employ additional editorial staff.

It was noted that the grants panel has concluded the work on the February 2015 round, including issuing grants to those faculty who applied for assistance to attend the IAU, as well as offering each department some support towards IAU attendance (1-2K per department.)

There was some discussion on the fairness and transparency of this approach. The President and Treasurer acknowledged that this approach was not optimal but that circumstances had dictated that this was the only way forward; the move towards making funding available to Faculty members should be seen as a positive step.

Council noted the financial and legal status of the Society, as set out below:

RAS Financial and Legal Status	Level of Materiality	Report for May 2015
Transfers in and out of Reserves	£50k	No transfers since last report. Investment assets at March 2015 were £6,935,960
Unplanned changes in Cash holdings	£20k	No unplanned changes since last report. £2,783,264 bank balances but preparations are nearly complete to transfer £2.5 M to a range of higher interest bearing accounts.
Heritage Assets	One heritage item	No change
Lease	Any change	No change
Debts	£5k	No change
Legal Agreements	Any change	No change, but rent review under legal debate as reported
Insurance	Any change	No change

It was noted that expenditure of between £2.5k and £3.5k is planned to bring the emergency lighting in Burlington House up to date to be compliant with new standards.

Council noted the Operations Plan.

RAS Operations Plan 2015	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Notes for 2015
Inflation Factors: RPI	1.03	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	
: Membership	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.02	
: Investment	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	
:Capital Growth	1.010	1.010	1.005	1.005	1.005	
Expenditure on Activities						
Donations	-10,000	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000	
Scientific Meetings	6.8					
Direct Expenditure	80,564	46,176	47,100	48,042	49,002	Extra funds for Venue Cymru in 2015
Apportioned Expenditure	25,702	22,588	23,574	24,668	25,777	
Apportioned Salaries	51,083	52,104	53,146	54,209	55,294	
Income	-2,592	-2,644	-2,697	-2,751	-2,806	
Net Expenditure	154,756	118,225	121,123	124,169	127,267	
Community Travel And Research	6.1					
Direct Expenditure unrestricted	204,799	180,343	183,950	187,629	191,381	Grants, fellowships, extra for IAU 2015
Direct Expenditure restricted	60,000	61,200	62,424	63,672	64,946	
Apportioned expenditure	22,846	20,079	20,954	21,927	22,913	
Apportioned Salaries	45,407	46,315	47,241	48,186	49,150	
Income	0	0	0	0	0	
Net Expenditure	333,052	307,937	314,569	321,415	328,390	
Education	4.2					
Direct Expenditure	18,540	18,911	19,289	19,675	20,068	New money for Education grants
Apportioned expenditure	15,706	13,804	14,406	15,075	15,752	
Apportioned Salaries	31,217	31,842	32,478	33,128	33,791	
Income	-2,500	-2,550	-2,601	-2,653	-2,706	
Net Expenditure	62,964	62,006	63,572	65,225	66,905	
Publication	57.0					
OUP Publication Costs	949,027	910,967	946,050	964,971	984,270	
OUP Publication Income	-3,896,731	-3,739,868	-3,888,129	-3,600,000	-3,500,000	
RAS Publication Income	-18,675	-19,049	-19,429	-19,818	-20,214	
Editorial Boards	133,091	135,753	138,468	141,237	144,062	
Direct Expenditure	35,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	A&G enhancement
Apportioned expenditure	214,292	188,336	196,550	205,678	214,919	
Apportioned Salaries	425,913	434,431	443,120	451,982	461,022	
OUP Surplus payment	1,018,362	971,624	1,016,896	894,076	846,356	
Net Expenditure	-1,139,721	-1,097,805	-1,146,475	-941,874	-849,585	
Public Policy	5.7					
Direct Expenditure	30,473	31,082	31,704	32,338	32,985	
Apportioned expenditure	21,418	18,824	19,645	20,557	21,481	
Apportioned Salaries	42,569	43,420	44,289	45,174	46,078	
Income	0	0	0	0	0	
Net Expenditure	94,460	93,326	95,637	98,070	100,544	
Outreach	4.9					
Direct Expenditure	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	Diversity ambassador
Apportioned expenditure	18,562	16,314	17,025	17,816	18,617	
Apportioned Salaries	36,893	37,631	38,384	39,151	39,934	
Income	-2,500	-2,550	-2,601	-2,653	-2,706	
Net Expenditure	62,955	61,395	62,808	64,314	65,845	
Library	7.6					
Direct Expenditure	60,007	61,207	62,431	63,680	64,954	
Apportioned expenditure	28,557	25,098	26,193	27,409	28,641	
Apportioned Salaries	56,759	57,894	59,052	60,233	61,437	
Income	-6,753	-6,888	-7,026	-7,166	-7,310	
Net Expenditure	138,570	137,311	140,650	144,156	147,722	
Membership	3.8					
Direct Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	
Apportioned expenditure	14,279	12,549	13,096	13,705	14,320	
Apportioned Salaries	28,379	28,947	29,526	30,116	30,719	
Gift Aid	-25,100	-25,602	-26,114	-26,636	-27,169	
Subscription Income	-305,391	-308,445	-311,529	-314,645	-320,938	
Net Expenditure	-287,833	-292,551	-295,021	-297,460	-303,068	
Governance	3.8					
Trustees and Fees	86,165	87,888	89,646	91,439	93,268	
New Initiatives	58,000	366,000	366,000	367,000	33,000	Int Comm, Amateurs, Lectures RAS200
Apportioned expenditure	14,279	12,549	13,096	13,705	14,320	
Apportioned Salaries	28,379	28,947	29,526	30,116	30,719	
Income	0	0	0	0	0	
Net Expenditure	186,823	495,384	498,268	502,260	171,307	
Net Income for year	605,781	329,693	369,374	153,627	383,719	
Total Salaries	746,599	761,531	776,762	792,297	808,143	
Total Income in year (excl OUP)	421,019	421,185	426,425	431,738	440,273	
Total income in year with OUP	4,317,750	4,161,053	4,314,554	4,031,738	3,940,273	
Total outgoings (excl OUP)						
Investment Income unrestricted	156,362	165,866	175,354	184,893	190,211	
Investment Income restricted	45,444	44,055	44,153	44,008	43,835	
Reserves at Year start						
Unrestricted Undesignated	5,289,268	5,678,363	5,906,529	6,131,194	6,227,622	
Unrestricted Designated	2,264,457	2,614,952	2,861,147	3,113,448	3,282,927	
Restricted	2,195,357	2,202,754	2,207,637	2,200,404	2,191,742	
Heritage Assets	9,510,681	9,510,681	9,510,681	9,510,681	9,510,681	
Fixed Assets	1,364,798	1,364,798	1,364,798	1,364,798	1,364,798	
Total Liquid Assets	11,113,880	11,860,868	12,340,112	12,809,844	13,067,088	
Reserves at Year End						
Unrestricted Undesignated	5,678,363	5,906,529	6,131,194	6,227,622	6,462,690	
Unrestricted Designated	2,614,952	2,861,147	3,113,448	3,282,927	3,547,561	
Restricted	2,202,754	2,207,637	2,200,404	2,191,742	2,181,589	
Heritage Assets	9,510,681	9,510,681	9,510,681	9,510,681	9,510,681	
Fixed Assets	1,364,798	1,364,798	1,364,798	1,364,798	1,364,798	
Total Liquid Assets	11,860,868	12,340,112	12,809,844	13,067,088	13,556,638	
Running Costs						
Burlington House Costs						
Income from BAS	-12,527	-12,778	-13,033	-13,294	-13,560	
Computers and IT	36,050	36,771	37,506	38,257	39,022	
Rent and Rates	93,045	87,778	97,332	108,391	119,550	Increasing rent+legal fees in 2015
Utilities	26,128	26,651	27,184	27,727	28,282	
Office services and Insurance	104,980	107,080	109,221	111,406	113,634	
Office Refurb/ Health/Safety	59,342	14,629	14,922	15,220	15,524	Provision for reception window 2015
Depreciation Building	103,716	105,790	107,906	110,064	112,266	
Income(hire of rooms)	-34,981	-35,681	-36,394	-37,122	-37,865	
Net Expenditure	375,753	330,240	344,644	360,649	376,853	
Salaries						
Total Salaries	746,823	761,759	776,995	792,535	808,385	

4.2 2014 Annual audit

The President welcomed Mr. Finch and invited him summarise the results of the audit and to present his audit opinion. The Treasurer left the room for discussion on this item.

It was noted that the format of the accounts was largely unaltered over previous years but that the presentation will differ significantly next year to align with the new Statutory Reporting Requirement that will be introduced in 2016. In summary, the Society received an unqualified audit opinion and was considered to be a going concern.

The President summarised the background around a member of the Finance Committee raising reservations on how the financial business of the Society is being managed. Council discussed this matter. It was noted that:

- The Society's funds are noticeably stronger over recent years as a consequence of signing the publishing contract signed with Oxford University Press.
- The Society received an unqualified audit opinion in 2013 and will receive an unqualified audit opinion for 2014.
- Nothing negative of any consequence has happened to the Society's funds, reputation or financial status despite the fact that the Society was running with a higher risk when there was a change of finance personnel. This is evidence that the Society's financial management through that period was effective.
- Mr Finch had been aware of the issues raised and felt that there was nothing raised that would cause him to change his opinion on the accounts for 2013 or that affects his view of the 2014 accounts.
- Mr Finch stated that the Society has followed an entirely satisfactory course of action in regards to financial management over the past couple of years.
- The Society now has (since April 7th 2015) 1.5 FTE fully qualified and effective financial staff; this provides the opportunity to improve financial reporting to well above what has been achieved over the previous ten (and more) years. Improvements are planned for 2015.

Council agreed the following:

- They are fully supportive of the Treasurer in his role within the management of the Society's finances.
- The President should write to the member of the Finance Committee to provide a summary of the discussions held and decisions taken at Council and to direct that future efforts (by all involved, RAS staff and Treasurer, with the support of the Finance Committee) should strive to move forward and realise the improvements planned.

The President thanked Mr Finch for attending.

4.3 Approval of Financial documentation

Council approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014.

Professor Paul Murdin requested that the following additional sentence is added to the letter of representation from the Society to Buzzacott.

"We note that your audit report gives you and us reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement caused by fraud."

Council agreed that the President should sign the letter of representation, with this amendment included.

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

5.1 Arrangements for AGM 2015

Council noted the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary meeting:

5.2 Final version of the draft revised Byelaws

Council noted the revised set of Byelaws of the Royal Astronomical Society that would be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting later that day.

5.3 Honorary Auditors report

Council noted the Honorary Auditors report for 2014/15 and that they were grateful to Dr David Waltham and Professor Paul Crowther for producing the report.

5.4 Improvements to the RAS reception

The Executive Secretary reminded Council that work to install the window in the reception at Burlington House would begin on the 9th May 2015.

5.5 Library Committee minutes

Council noted the minutes of the Library Committee meeting held on the 14th April 2015.

5.6 Herschel House Trust

Council noted that on their behalf the Executive Secretary will sign the deed of variation to allow Bath Preservation Trust to become the sole trustee of the Herschel House Trust and take on full responsibility for the governance of the Herschel Museum of Astronomy in Bath, 2015.on the 31st July

5.7 Lease and rental negotiations

The Executive Secretary updated Council on the ongoing deliberations that the Courtyard Societies are having with the landlord over the lease and rental charges for premises in Burlington House.

5.8 International policy

The Executive Secretary introduced this item, Council were reminded that they had seen a presentation on OAD engagement at the February meeting and considered a paper by Phil Charles, Chair of the International Committee at the March meeting. The discussion at the Council meeting in March was wide ranging and identified a number of specific concerns with the proposals for engagement with OAD (lack of human capital and administrative support to implement all that is proposed, difficulties in corralling UK university staff to engage and possible problems with accreditation and International Property issues in preparing course content) and it had been agreed that Council should take a step back and revisit what the Society's aims for international engagement are.

Council deliberated on the matter, key comments included:

- The need for a strategic approach; engagement with the IAU should be one of many varied strands of work. The focus should not be on any single continent.
- Proposal to extend the visiting experts scheme, with the Society targeting known individuals to seek their views.
- The Society should discuss this matter with the IOP who have some experience working in Africa.
- Possibility to work with local communities overseas, e.g. India and to establish a RAS chapter of the Indian Astronomical Society
- Engagement should span both Astronomy and Geophysics programmes

It was agreed that the Treasurer would meet with Professor Phil Charles to discuss options for international engagement to be approved by Council.

ACTION: Treasurer

5.9 NAM updates

Dr Mandy Bailey and Professor Mike Edmunds provided an update on arrangements for NAM 2015. Highlights include that, 451 abstracts had been submitted, 120 to 150 posters are expected, a good number of students (58) were planning to attend the conference dinner, the teacher training day was proving popular, arrangements for the community session were progressing well, the budget looks reasonable.

The Executive Secretary advised that she had received a quote Nottingham Conferences to host a NAM at the University of Nottingham on the 27th to 1st July 2016. The University of Hull had offered to host the 2017 NAM and University College London to host the 2018 NAM. It was noted that the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer would visit both venues in the next month.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: The Executive Director and the Treasurer visited the University of Nottingham on the 16th June and have arranged to visit the University of Hull on 23/24th July 2015.]

6. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Update on RAS 200: Sky and Earth.

Professor Steve Miller updated Council on the RAS 200: Sky and Earth programme and on the organisations to receive awards under the first tranche of the RAS 200: Sky and Earth programme.

Council noted that the RAS 200 grants scrutiny panel had met on the 24th April and deliberated on the final 14 proposals. The following six projects were chosen to receive funding under the first tranche of RAS200 Sky and Earth awards to be made:

1. Care for Carers, who want to formulate an astronomy respite scheme for young carers (Scotland). £22300 per annum, 2 years in the first instance = £50,000
2. Eisteddfodau, who will include astronomy and geophysics into the youth and national sections of their literary festival (Wales). £100,000.
3. National Space Centre Creative, who will create a new full dome planetarium show to celebrate Holst 'The Planets', along with music from the Philharmonic Orchestra. £100,000.
4. Workers Education Association who will formulate adult education for astronomy and geophysics. £100,000.

5. The Princes Trust who will work with challenging young people to educate them using astronomy and geophysics. £100,000.
6. National Autistic Society who will get a smaller grant to act as an autism consultant with some of the above winners, to make their projects accessible for people on the spectrum. £10,000.

Council noted that expenditure under the first tranche would be £460,000.

It was noted that the formal announcement would take place at the start of the Ordinary meeting later that day.

Council welcomed the diverse range of interesting projects chosen (both in terms of outreach and geographical spread) and thanked all those involved for their hard work, with particular thanks to the Deputy Executive Secretary and the Education, Outreach and Diversity Officer and the two retiring members of Council, Dr Helen Fraser and Dr Andrew Norton who were also standing down from the RAS 200 steering group. It was agreed that replacements members for the Steering group would be sought from the new Council.

ACTION: Executive Secretary

Council discussed the need to carry out independent evaluation of the projects; the grants scrutiny panel has made a strong recommendation 10% of the budget should be spent on evaluation. It was agreed that this was essential and that Council should agree whether the cost for this should come out of the RAS 200: Sky and Erath programme budget or be funded separately. A paper should be drafted for consideration in the Autumn.

ACTION: Deputy Executive via RAS Steering group.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: The Treasurer authorised spend up to £50k to evaluate the first tranche of RAS 200 projects and the overall scheme.]

6.2 Nurse Review of Research Councils

Council noted the Nurse Review of Research Councils.

6.3 BIS Consultation on Support for Postgraduate Study

The Deputy Executive Secretary summarised the responses that he had received so far (from Council, the wider Fellowship, the British Geophysical Association and the Challenger Society that broadly centred upon problems with the career development loans including, residency issues and it being difficult to collect repayments when individuals move overseas, no account is taken of career breaks and concern about the arbitrary less than 30 age limit. Council agreed with these concerns and raised the following related issues: whether or not the loans were limited to those studying full time or whether they were available to part time students; the latter to be encouraged, is a distinction in regards to eligibility made between taught or research masters.

The consultation response is available at:

https://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/ras_pdfs/Policy%20Papers/BIS_consultation_on_postgraduate_funding.pdf

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1 PMC Summary

Council noted the summary of the Publications Management Committee held on 19th April 2015. Dr Sheila Peacock critiqued the PMC response to the need for the Society to adopt an ethical policy for geological sampling. The PMC had proposed that rather than singling out one activity and/or journals, the requirement that people act responsibly should be covered in the Society's code of ethics and suggested that a statement to say that authors are obliged to act responsibly should be added to Section B of the Editorial Code of Practice.

http://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/Publications/editorial_code_of_practice.pdf

Dr Peacock and Professor Gillian Foulger did not feel this was a strong enough response.

It was agreed that they should furnish the PMC with evidence that this issue is of particular relevance to GJI authors and ask them to reconsider their position.

ACTION: Dr Peacock and Professor Gillian Foulger

8. OTHER

8.1 Officers Reports

Council approved the following candidates proposed for Fellowship:

Surname	First Name	Town/University	Sponsor
Ahmad	Yusef	Isle of Wight	Andrew Norton
Ainscoe	Eleanor	Oxford	B.E. Parsons
Almoubayyed	Husni	Glasgow Newcastle -Under -	Declan Andrew Diver
Al-Sadooni	Ameerah	Lyme	Jacco van Loon
Bartlett	Sophie	Abingdon	Paul Roche
Ben Slama	Mehdi	London	Simon William Good
Bond	Aaron	Pontypridd	Sarah Roberts
Braddock	Martin	Radcliffe-on-Trent University of	David John Martin
Browett	Stephen	Southampton	Robert Fear
Campbell	Grace	Cambridge	B.E. Parsons
Campbell	Gail	London	Roger O'Brien
Cappell	Georgina	Solihul	Sarah Roberts
Clayton	Matthew	Oxford	Phlipp Podsiadlowski
Contenta	Filippo	University of Surrey	Douglas C. Heggie
Dodkins	Rupert	Stafford	Steven Balbus
Donnelly	Taryn	Beeston	Andrew Norton
Eddolls	Graeme	Rosneath	Dr Nicolas Labrosse
Edmonds	Martin	Plymouth	Membership Committee
Elridge	Lucy	London	Membership Committee
Enwere	Maximus	University of Sussex University of	Stephen Wilkins
Ferguson	Annette	Edinburgh	John Peacock
Ferreira	Joao	Edinburgh	John Peacock
Green	Lewis	Staffordshire	A. Evans
Henson	Monique	Manchester	Scott Kay
Hillier	Andrew	Cambridge	Giulio Del Zanna
Hodge	Michael	Cardiff University	B. E. Parsons
Howell	Andrew	Cambridge	B. E. Parsons
Hutton	Joseph	Aberystwyth	Huw Morgan

Kawate	Tomoko	Queens University Belfast	David Jess
Kinrade	Joe	Lancaster	S.V. Badman
Kirk	James	Lemington Spa	Peter Wheatley
Kirkby-Kent	Jessica	Newcastle Uder Lyme	B. E. Parsons
Kuszlewicz	James	Oakley	William Chaplin
Leonard	Catherine	Oxford	Pedro Ferreira
May	Andrew	Harrowgate	Colin Forsyth
McDiarmid	Mandy	County Down	Andrew Norton
McNab	Fergus	Edinburgh	B.E. Parsons
Meade	Paul	Tyne and Wear Imperial College London	Roy Alexander
Mejnertsen	Lars	London	Jonathan Eastwood
Michel	Sylvain	Cambridge	B. E. Parsons
North	Thomas	Melton Mowbray	William Chaplin
Pomeroy	Richard	Guilford	Roger Clowes
Pugh	Chloe	University of Warwick	Anne Marie Broomhall
Riedl	Simon	University of Potsdam University College London,	B.E Parsons
Roberts- Borsani	Guido	London,	Ian Howarth
Sanghai	Viraj	London	Alexander Leithes
Schaller	Matthieu	Durham	Carlos Frenk
Schewtschenko	Jascha	Durham University	John Lucey
Schofield	Mathew	Birmingham	William Chaplin
Schonhut	Jessica	Bordon	Dr Mark Gallaway
Shaham	Marium	Essex	Roger Clowes
Sides-Crump	Jennifer Kevin	Wakefield	Andrew Norton
Smith	Stephen	Dunboyne University of Nottingham	Peter J Williamson
Socolovsky	Miguel	University of Nottingham	Berta Margalef Bentabol Prof. Alfonso Aragon- Salamanca
Tabor	Martha	Nottingham	
Talbot	David	Derby University of	Eric DeBlackmere
Tarr	Michael	Portsmouth	Robert G. Crittenden
Usher	Helen	Cardiff	Paul Roche
Watson	Jason	Oxford	Jocelyn Bell Burnell
Wedmore	Luke	Robertsbridge	Peter Grindrod
Whitehorn	Brian	Woking	Dr Paul A Daniels
Young	Simon	Glasgow	Andrew J Norton

8.2 2014 RAS Thesis Prizes

Council noted that:

The Michael Penston Thesis Prize for 2014 was awarded to **Dr Guido Pettinari from the University of Portsmouth** (now at the University of Sussex) for his thesis “The intrinsic bispectrum of the Cosmic Microwave Background”. The joint runners up were **Dr David Harvey from the University of Edinburgh** (now at Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne, Switzerland) and **Dr Boris Leistedt of University College London**.

The Keith Runcorn Thesis Prize 2014 was awarded to **Dr Hannah Christensen, University of Oxford** for her thesis “Stochastic Parametrisation and Model Uncertainty”, and the runner up was **Dr Grace Nield, Newcastle University** with her thesis “The Effect of Late Holocene Ice-Mass Changes on Glacial Isostatic Adjustment in West Antarctica”.

It was noted that the standard had been extraordinarily high.

8.3 Minutes of the A&G meetings of March & April

Council approved the Minutes of the A&G Ordinary meetings for March & April 2015.

9. Any Other Business

- a) Mr Charlie Barclay advised Council that the Education, Outreach and Diversity Committee are planning to propose a RAS 200 Outreach Medal; a paper will be presented to Council in October.

ACTION: Mr Charlie Barclay

- b) It was noted that applications to host Specialist Discussion meetings had been twice oversubscribed; the details would be released shortly.

Council rose at 14:20



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Professor M. Barstow

8th July 2015