



*Advancing
Astronomy and
Geophysics*

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING 12th OCTOBER 2012

1. PRESENT Professor D.J. Southwood, Professor F. Honary, Professor B.E. Parsons, Dr. S.A. Mitton, Professor C. Tadhunter, 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, Professor D.W. Hughes, Dr. G.H. Jones, Professor D.W. Kurtz, Dr. A. Norton, Dr. S. Peacock, Professor R.E. Spencer, Professor Y. Elsworth, Dr. H.J. Fraser, and Professor S. Miller

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms P. Mortimer (Executive Secretary) and Dr. R. Massey (Deputy Executive Secretary), Mrs. J. Higham (Librarian for agenda item 6.2)

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 8th June 2012 were approved with a minor change.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising were covered under other agenda items.

4. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

4.1 Bernard Lovell

The President noted the sad passing of Sir Bernard Lovell, a past President of the RAS, Gold Medal winner, outstanding astronomer and household name and advised that his passing would be marked at the Ordinary meeting with a one minute silence.

4.2 Peter Hingley

The President also noted the sad passing of Peter Hingley, RAS librarian from 1980 to 2012. A book of condolences has been opened and placed outside the library in Burlington House (BH.) The book will be closed after the AGM in May 2012 and presented to the family along with the portrait of Peter (currently hanging outside the Librarian's office) painted by a member of staff (Valerie Denis.) Sue Bowler, Editor of A&G, is drafting an obituary that will appear in the December issue. The President invited Council to provide ideas on any further permanent memorial to the Chairman of the Library Committee, the Executive Secretary or himself.

4.3 Astronomy Forum

It was noted that a summary of the Astronomy Forum held on the 17th September in the RAS was provided under agenda item 7.1 and that electronic links to the presentations made will be posted on the RAS website. Professor Ralph Spencer told Council that a forward projection of STFC programmatic funding for 2015 had been presented at a recent Astronomy Advisory Panel (AAP) town meeting that showed a 10% cut in the astronomy budget, which together with a 10% increase in ESO contribution would severely reduce funding available for other operations. Dr. Helen Fraser had attended the AAP meeting and confirmed that a slide showing a pie chart for the 2015 funding scenario saw ELT, ALMA and SKA dominating the budget leaving little money for other activities. There was concern that this was not mentioned at the Astronomy Forum (or at a recent meeting of the Solar System Advisory Panel.) Prof. Martin Barstow advised that STFC Council regularly looks at the balance of the programme aiming to achieve the broadest and most effective programme possible. He noted that the budget for the next few years was as yet unknown; the position on the timing of the next CSR still being unclear.

It was agreed that this is an important issue for Council to be aware of and respond to as necessary. Council members were asked to keep the Deputy Executive Secretary informed of any emerging information and that he would ask STFC to explain the origins of the information presented at the AAP meeting.

ACTION : Council members and Deputy Executive Secretary

Update: Notes and presentations from the September Astronomy Forum can be seen at <http://www.ras.org.uk/ras-policy/astronomy-forum>

4.4 Geophysics Forum

The President updated Council on progress to establish Geophysics fora. There will be an external Geophysics Forum and a Solid Earth Geophysics Forum. On 14th September he had spoken with Duncan Wingham, CEO of NERC, who agreed with the approach but insisted that NERC institutes and agencies (e.g. National Oceanographic Centre (NOC), British Antarctic Survey (BAS), British Geological Survey (BGS), Met Office, RALSpace and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) should also be invited.) Heads of the relevant departments have been contacted and an External Geophysics Forum will be arranged in the next couple of months.

Professor Barry Parsons explained that the Solid Earth Geophysics Forum will include the BGS and Geophysics Hazards groups in Edinburgh and that he hopes to arrange a meeting during the Christmas academic break.

The President explained that he had responded to the consultation on the merger of NOC and BAS. MIST and UKSP had also responded. The RAS response had been a neutral statement that stressed that maintenance of science capacity was the most important criterion the RAS would like to be involved in any future discussions.

The response will be put on the RAS website. **ACTION : Deputy Executive Secretary**

Update: The NOC / BAS response can be seen at http://www.ras.org.uk/images/stories/ras_pdfs/NERC/bas-noc-merger-response-RAS.pdf

It was noted that the RAS has for many years had little engagement with NERC but has now successfully got a good line of communication open through the CEO.

4.5 UK Space Action Network

The President and Executive Secretary had a successful meeting with SPAN when they attended a regular SPAN meeting on 11th July. SPAN is currently supported by the UKSA but is by no means an advisory body. As the RAS and SPAN have familiar and overlapping communities, SPAN had approached the RAS to gear up its lobbying power. It was agreed that there would be greater coherence in considering policy issues, (sharing drafts of lobbying position papers etc) in a similar way to how the RAS works alongside the Institute of Physics and other learned societies. Interaction is easily achieved through existing cross representation, three RAS Council members (Richard Davis, Barry Parsons & Mike Cruise) are members of SPAN. The RAS also offered occasional use of BH facilities. It was noted that Alan Smith of the Mullard Space Science Laboratories is the new Chairman of SPAN.

4.6 Political engagement

The President met with Tom Harris, MP for Glasgow South, at the end of the summer. Mr Harris is a keen astronomer and is an enthusiastic dark sky campaign supporter. This useful connection should be maintained and encouraged by extending an offer of a visit to BH.

The President and Executive had a very fruitful meeting with Giles Chichester, MEP for South West England earlier that week. In addition to discussing issues such as the European Research Council, EU Framework Programme, and EU policy on Open Access the discussion had centred on how to establish a European forum for debate of political issues relevant to Astronomy. Mr Chichester is interested to persuade the European Commission to facilitate this forum. He will try to establish the correct point of contact in Brussels and arrange an exploratory meeting with interested parties. It was agreed that this meeting should be truly international, as such we would seek to get German engagement and the President could secure ESA engagement. It was noted that it was important to do this alongside the EAS (European Astronomical Society) and not undermine their position.

4.7 Nature Article

At the June Council meeting the President had briefed that he had been invited to write an article for Nature, where he would discuss the changing negotiating power of the UK, as it loses UK-led scientific programmes, such as the STFC Island telescope sites. Whilst the article was published on 23rd Aug 2012 and was well received he regrets that during the editorial process mention of the Island sites was removed, possibly having been seen as too parochial an issue.

4.8 James Dungey lecture

The president expressed his thanks to all who had been involved in arranging the James Dungey lectures that will be held in January 2013 in the Geological Society lecture theatre to celebrate Professor Dungey's 90th birthday. A dedicated meeting will be held on the 10th January in the Geological Society. The G specialist meeting held on the 11th January is on an STP topic and the first James Dungey lecture will be given at the ordinary meeting that day. Details of presenters were being finalised in consultation with the MIST Council.

5. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

The Treasurer had provided a summary paper of financial matters arising and ongoing over the summer period, covering Open Access, RAS long term investment planning, NAM 2012, and philanthropic donors. There were two items for approval under agenda item 5.1: financial delegations and approval for an out of town meeting, entitled 'Rutherford's Geophysics' proposed by Professor Aftab Khan. A separate paper (agenda item 5.2) additionally sought approval for another out of town meeting as a memorial for David Axon.

The Treasurer advised that the RAS position on Open Access will be published in an article in A&G in December.

Discussion focused on the need for a RAS policy on funding out of town meetings. Professor Clive Tadhunter declared a conflict of interest as he is involved in the organisation of the David Axon meeting and withdrew from discussions.

It was agreed that, if approved, one day out of town meetings should receive £3K, (£2K to fund speakers, (akin to RAS Specialist meetings), and £1K towards venue hire etc.) As such the RAS would provide £3K to Professor Aftab Khan for his proposed out of town meeting and £6K for the Davis Axon Memorial meeting as it is to be run over 2 days. It was agreed that this Policy would be put on the RAS website.

ACTION : Treasurer

Council noted the current signatories to the Societies bank accounts and approved a £1K delegated financial authority for the Executive Secretary.

6. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

6.1 OUTLOOK : Improvements to RAS Corporate Governance and supporting systems

The Executive Secretary introduced the paper and explained that the recommendations proposed had arisen from her review of existing management systems and in response to issues raised by the honorary auditors in their 2012 report.

Council noted that a number of key management systems need to be updated or established in BH to improve RAS corporate governance in particular in:

- Health and Safety management and training
- First aid and fire training
- Staff management, appraisal and training plans
- Executive reporting to Council
- The role of the honorary auditors
- Disabled access to Burlington House

Council approved the following:

- Alastair Barrett from 'What No Safety Services Ltd' will be employed to produce an audit of Health & Safety policy and documentation, review supporting systems and create an action plan.

- In response to the above the RAS Health and Safety policy will be reviewed by January 2013.
- Compliance with Health, Safety and Fire regulations shall be considered when preparing the RAS risk register.
- The RAS will take out an annual subscription to ‘Croner i human resources’ (an online information service that provides instant access to changing employment legislation and HR best practice.)
- The Executive Secretary should research options to provide BH with disabled access and seek approval from the Treasurer to purchase the necessary equipment.

Council noted that:

- “Quick win” health and safety in house responses have been implemented
- Staff will receive first aid and fire warden training
- All staff now have up to date job descriptions
- Annual objectives and training plans have been introduced for all staff
- Arrangements for covering staff absence are in place for most posts
- Annually, the Executive will provide an outlook paper on Corporate Governance and Management Systems to Council, (October meeting)
- The Executive will provide evidence (of risk the Society is managing in regards to compliance with relevant legislation e.g. Health and Safety) for assessment during the annual deliberations to update the RAS risk register.
- That the Honorary auditors will visit BH and meet with key staff over the year of their appointment rather than the previous arrangement of a condensed one or two day visit.
- The honorary auditors will be asked to check that the Executive have systems in place to support good governance, such as an effective staff management and appraisal system and up to date safety, first aid and fire procedures and to report any omission extraordinarily.
- David Boyd and Paul Ruffle, the honorary auditors for 2013, are content with the proposed approach.

6.2a Outlook: RAS library

Dr. Simon Mitton introduced the paper, written by the RAS librarian and approved by the Library Committee. The librarian, Jennifer Higham was in attendance for this item.

Council welcomed the paper that set out the actions required to improve the security and preservation of the RAS library archive and artefact collections, the researcher experience in BH and to clear the Annexe. The paper also set out a strategic future plan.

Council approved the following (with the caveat that costed plans will need approval by the Treasurer):

Action	Timescale	Approximate cost
Fixing of lighting	Short term	£500

Skip hire	Short term	£500 per skip
Hire of crates	Short term	£1500
Removal of furniture and metal shelving	Short term	£4000
Removal of unwanted material	Short term	£6000
	ANNEXE TOTAL	£12,500

Regular part-time library assistant	Short term	£400 per month
Security and environment improvements to Spencer and Archive Rooms	Short term	£5000
Additional Main Library PCs/laptops*	Short term	£1000
Additional book supports and handling material	Short term	£250
Student internship (8 weeks over summer)	Summer 2013	£3000
	TOTAL	£15,050*

New lighting for reading room	Medium term	Costed proposal to follow
Heritage artefact cataloguing software	Medium term	Costed proposal to follow

The potential cost of £30K for off site storage was not considered for approval at this meeting.

The Treasurer noted that expenditure on the library, improvements to corporate governance (discussed during agenda item 6.1) and improvements to the IT infrastructure (to be addressed under agenda item 6.5) will be approximately £100K. Whilst he was content that all of these actions are necessary for the Society to progress we should continue to strive for financial prudence, particularly in regards to annual running costs. Capital expenditure is, at present, easier to fund.

It was agreed that Council should receive a paper on 'Further improvements for the RAS library' at the October 2013 meeting.

ACTION : Librarian.

There was discussion on the suggested disposal criteria for Annexe material, how the RAS library may facilitate access to journals for Fellows who do not have access at work and the need to create a guide for library users. The President directed that these issues fall within the

remit of the Library Committee and that Council members should make representations to this Committee, as required.

It was noted that future plans propose the purchase and use of a display cabinet (at a cost of approx £30K) and that this might be an opportunity for sponsorship.

Council members were invited to tour the Library Annexe after the Council meeting.

6.2b Membership of the library committee

The Chairman of the Library Committee will present a short paper for the approval of council at the December meeting. This will set out the proposed membership of the committee and of a task force established to support them during the forthcoming period of major change.

ACTION: Library Committee Chairman

6.3 Outlook : Friends and Public lectures

The Executive Secretary introduced the paper that set out proposals for the future management of the 'Friends of the RAS' and management of the public lectures for the academic year 2012/13 and thereafter.

Council agreed the following in regards to Friends:

- Where possible there will be 6 Friends-Only meetings annually (scheduled on a set day of the chosen month and held in the RAS lecture theatre), 2 external visits and 2 evening functions (e.g. book launches) per year.
- Marcus Hope will arrange visits and secure speakers (with the advice of RAS staff.) The programme will be published in advance.
- The RAS Friends membership year will remain from January to January. Membership rates will remain at £35 for individuals and increase to £45 for a couple.
- The Friends website needs an overhaul. Marcus Hope will call for a volunteer from the RAS Friends membership to assist with the management of the Friends including website maintenance.

Council agreed the following in regards to Public lectures:

- Public lectures will be held monthly from October to May.
- If possible, they will be held in a venue capable of taking 150 + people.
- They will be wholly public lectures with Friends unable to book in advance.
- In 2012/13 the Public lectures will be held in Fyvie Hall, University of Westminster, thereafter use of the Geological Society will be sought.

It was noted that Council is very pleased with the success of the Friends of the RAS and there was concern to ensure that this success was retained, the position with respect to advance booking for public lectures should be kept under review.

6.4 Membership Committee report

The Executive Secretary introduced a paper by the Membership Committee that sought approval for amendments to the criteria for early career and student membership of the Society and a note of the Membership Committee meeting held on 25th May 2012.

Council were content with the proposed amendments but concerned that they could not be implemented until January 2014 unless an Extraordinary General Meeting was called to endorse the changes. A motion to hold an EGM on the day of the November meeting was called and the vote carried.

POST COUNCIL NOTE:

The following information came to light in the week commencing 15th October 2012:

- Arrangements for a November EGM were proving difficult because of a very full agenda at the meeting.
- Holding the EGM in December was not possible because of restrictions imposed by RAS by-laws on the notification of rates (agreed at the AGM in May unless amended by an EGM) need to be sent out to Fellows before the end of November, (Bye-Law 52).
- The Chairman of the Membership committee confirmed that when they made the proposal for Council approval they had intended for the changes to be approved at the AGM as part of the standard business, and expressed concerns about forging ahead with a rushed EGM.

In response, the President asked Council (by email, out of committee) to revisit their decision. On 17th of October Council agreed to not hold an EGM but to proceed as originally planned with the amendments being put to the AGM in May 2013 for approval.

6.5 Progress Report: Improvements to electronic infrastructure

Professor Ralph Spencer, Chair of the IT and Communications working group, summarised progress made in addressing the electronic infrastructure problems in BH. Council had approved a paper out of committee for:

- An audiovisual upgrade provided by Whitwam at a cost of £23.5k + VAT
- A broadband upgrade provided by UCL Janet at cost of £36.9k + VAT for three years.

It was noted that Whitwam would be visiting BH on 15th October 2012 to begin the process and that the UCL JANET link will take 40 –60 working days to install.

Note: At the Council meeting in June it was agreed that the working group should develop an electronic infrastructure strategy for Burlington House and that Council should annually review the position and consider any necessary improvements.

ACTION: IT and Communications Committee

6.6 No Title

It should be noted that, in error, an agenda item with this number did not exist.

6.7 RAS Council elections 2013

The Executive Secretary introduced a paper for discussion on options to manage the RAS Council elections in 2013 taking into account an error made during the 2012 election process. The error and related bye-laws are set out below.

- In 2011 a Councillor was removed (for lack of attendance at Council meetings), a replacement was found for the period until the AGM in 2012 and a replacement sought at the 2012 elections. Bye law 21 directs that the replacement shall be elected to complete only the remainder of the normal term of office, in this case for the final year of the original three year term.
- Bye law 20 directs that we have to appoint 4 Councillors each year. However, only 3 councillors are due to roll off council his year. This oddity has arisen because of an error made during the 2012 Council election process where 5 councillors were elected each for a 3 year term when one of the newly appointed Councillors should have been appointed for one year only (as directed by bye law 21)
- Bye law 31 directs that any partial terms of office as Councillor are assigned to those elected with the smallest number of votes. On this occasion the candidate with the lowest number of votes should have been elected for the one year term (to the end of the term of the councillor elected in 2010) and would be due to roll off Council this year.
- Bye law 12 directs that the RAS Council must have a President, a Treasurer, three Secretaries, four Vice-Presidents and twelve Councillors.

Bye Law 21 was not followed, rather 5 full term Councillor positions were advertised and balloted (as appointments for 3 years). The error was not spotted by the Executive, Council or scrutineers at the time. The election was declared valid, the Society elected 5 councillors for 3 years and the councillors accepted these appointments - all in good faith.

Following much discussion on possible solutions Professor Steve Miller kindly volunteered to resign one year early. This would help, in the short term, to address the problem of having to appoint 4 Fellows (to follow the bye laws) when only 3 were due to roll off Council because of the error made in 2012. The President thanked Prof. Miller for his sacrifice and proposed a vote to accept his offer that carried. The five Councillors appointed in 2012 refrained from voting, as there was a conflict of interest.

POST COUNNCIL NOTE:

Prof. Miller's resignation provided the opportunity to start to address the error made during the 2012 process however additional action is required, including a number of short term appointments for Councillors (for 1 or 2 years), over the next few years to bring the process back on track. The aim is to have 4 Councillors leaving Council each year after serving a 3 year term and 4 Councillors being appointed for 3 year terms each year.

A decision paper was put to Council by email out of committee. On 18th October Council agreed to the following approach:

2013

Four Councillors elected, three for a 3 year term, one for a 1 year term.

2014

Four people roll off Council enabling four Councillors to be elected, three for a 3 year term and 1 for a 2 year term.

2015

Five people roll off Council enabling five Councillors to be elected, four for a three year term and one for a 2 year term.

6.8 NAM 2013

The Deputy Executive Secretary reminded Council that the NAM will be held in St. Andrews this year on 1st to 5th July, a Council meeting will be held on the Friday of that week in St. Andrews. Progress is ongoing with changes to the LOC and SOC complete, a preliminary budget is expected shortly.

Professor Ian Crawford reminded Council that as the NAM is not being held in April this year there will be a normal A&G meeting day in BH on the 12th April.

6.9 RAS Away Day

The President had held preliminary discussions with Officers and the Executive on possible business to consider at a RAS Council Away Day (such as, long term financial planning, international membership package, future of RAS Research Fellowships.) It was agreed that there is more than sufficient business to warrant an Away Day, that should be held outside of London in the Spring. Dates to be agreed.

7. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Astronomy Forum

There was no substantive discussion on this item over that minuted under President Business (agenda item 4.3)

7.2 International issues

a. American Astronomical Society (AAS)

The President, Treasurer and Executive Secretary met with Kevin Marvel the CEO of the American Astronomical Society on 11th Sept and discussed emerging policy issues (such as the impact of Open Access) and opportunities to collaborate.

Council approved the following collaborative efforts:

- Reinstating the RAS receptions at the AAS winter meetings
- Reciprocal invitations to top Astronomy Award winners to present at each other's conferences (AAS winter meeting and NAM)
- Further collaborative work on author workshops

It was agreed that the RAS should approach the AGU to similarly host a RAS event.

b. European Astronomical Society (EAS)

The Executive Secretary had attended EWASS in July and met with the President of the EAS and international colleagues to discuss the possibility of the EAS being configured to support policy with Brussels. A working group has been set up and a meeting arranged for 22 to 25th January to try and take this forward. It should be noted that the President of the EAS is opposed to any change to the structure of the EAS from an individual membership organisation to a federation of national astronomy societies.

7.3 Impact of Astronomy and Geophysics publications

The Deputy Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to STFC and the Astronomy community for providing around 80 responses to support the astronomy publication and sought a similar level of engagement from the geophysics community. NERC have agreed to support the geophysics publication. Sue Bowler, editor of A&G, will be calling for examples of the impact of geophysics shortly. It is hoped that both publications will be available by Spring 2013.

7.4 Updates on visa and immigration issues and Science and Technology Select Committee report (engagement with MPs)

Council noted the updates.

8. PUBLICATIONS

Council noted the following:

- David Flower is the new Editor-in-Chief for MNRAS, he has been in post since July. David was already a scientific editor on the MNRAS Board.
- Kim Clube, RAS Editorial Manager, ran the Author/referee workshop in Beijing. About 200 people attended the workshops that were very well received. Each attendee was given a book (A Guide to Effective Publishing in Astronomy) and a certificate of attendance.
- There will be a cost increase for the Observatory in 2013. For 2013, the price (including postage) to institutions in the UK will be £80 and that to individuals (who undertake not to re-sell or donate their copies to libraries) will be £20.
- Working relationships with OUP are going very well. OUP have agreed to take on the smaller awards previously supported by Wiley Blackwell such as the GJI student awards.

9. OTHER

9.1 Medals and Awards 2012

Professor Farideh Honary updated Council on progress on the Geophysics awards. The G Awards group had held a teleconference and discussed more nominations for the Service award. There had been a low level of application for the Winton Capital Award. This has been re-advertised on the RAS website for both A and G.

There were two strong candidates for the James Dungey lecture, Stan Cowley and Peter Cargill. The G committee recommended that Prof. Stan Cowley be awarded the James Dungey's first Lecture and Prof Peter Cargill to be the reserved candidate and to be approached if needed.

Update: Stan Cowley was unable to accept the invitation for reasons of health, Peter Cargill has kindly accepted.

Professor Clive Tadhunter advised that the A Awards committee were making similar progress and a good list of nominations had been received, with the exception of the nominations for the Winton Capital award.

It was agreed that the information on the RAS website should provide more detail on criteria for application and clarify the differences between the awards aimed at mid career scientists and those of life time achievement such as for the Gold medals. It was agreed that the respective Chairs of the A and G Awards Committee would review existing paperwork for use next year.

ACTION: Chair of A and G Awards Committees.

9.2 RAS Research Fellowships

Council noted the plan for the 2013 RAS Research Fellowships. The President will chair the selection panel this year and hand over to the President-elect the following year. He reiterated that the long term plan to support these Fellowships needs to be agreed and could be considered at the RAS Away day (agenda item 6.9). Other discussion topics such as eligibility criteria could also be discussed then. A further panel member, possibly required to advise on specific geophysics topics, will be sought after an initial appraisal of the applications received this year.

9.3 Officers Reports

Council agreed the following as Fellows (note: those listed as sponsored by ‘Membership Committee’ have applied through route 2):

Surname	First Name	Town/ University	Sponsor
Al Zoubi	Louay Hatem	Giza, Egypt	Membership Committee
Alexander	Caroline	Edinburgh	Roger G. Clowes
Alsing	Justin	Imperial College London	D.L. Clements
Anderson	Teresa	The University of Manchester	Philippa Browning
Berryman	Tom	London	Ian Howarth
Birchall	Michael	Australian Astronomical Observatory	R.D. Cannon
Blake	James	Leicester	Prof. Stanley WH Cowley
Chan	Sio Lon	London	MM Dworetzky
Chaudry	Ahsan-ul-haq	Ilford	M.M. Dworetzky
Corneille	Philip	De Haan Aan Zee, Belgium	Andrew R Green
Cuda	Francesco	Basingstoke	Dr Silvia Dalla
Datta	Arjun	Bullard Laboratories, Cambridge	David Lyness
Dhawan	Suhail	London	Ian Howarth

Duffy	Carleen	Isleworth	A.J. Norton
Enderby	John Stephen	Chorley	Membership Committee
Esau	Claire	Milton Keynes	Lee James Summers
Eve	David	Pembury	Prof. Ian Robson
Graf von der Pahlen	Jan	London	Dr David Tsiklauri
Harris	Georgina	Sale	Dr Althea Wilkinson
Jeffrey	Natasha	University of Glasgow	Graham Woan
Jones	Timothy	Brentwood	Margaret J. Penston
Kaviraj	Sugata	Oxford	C.J. Lintott
Kelly	Adrian	St. Albans	Mandy Bailey
Lang	Simon	London	Gordon Harding
Lara	Xavier	43392 Castellvell del camp, Spain	Dr R. Clowes
Londhe	Vikram	Pune, India	Membership Committee
MacArthur	Jane	London	Nicholas Howes
Martin	Alexander	Armagh	Christopher Simon Jeffery
Myerscough	John	St. Albans	Mandy Bailey
Nabiyev	Shaig	Qafqaz University Campus	Membership Committee
Parnell-Turner	Ross	Bullard Laboratories, Cambridge	David Lyness
Perkins	Harley	Weybridge	R.L. Davies
Romero	Jorge	Monelos, Mexico	Membership Committee
Sandhu	Jasmine	Leicester	Prof. SWH Cowley
Savage	Katherine	London	Paola Caselli
Silvester	James	Scottish Dark Sky Observatory	David Warrington
Sommerfeld	Anthony	London	Membership Committee
Steady	Sandy	University of Ulster	John Russell Evans
Stubbs	Susan	Bradford	Andrew Norton
Thompson	Dana	Otley	A.J. Norton
Verdon	James	University of Bristol	Michael Kendall
Wraight	Karl	Rainham	Andrew Norton
York	Alan	Pembrokeshire	Mandy Bailey

10. AOB

10.1 Award to Ian Ridpath

The Executive Secretary advised that Dr. William Gutsch, President of the Board of Directors of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific would present the Klumpke-Roberts Award (for outstanding contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of astronomy) to Mr. Ian Ridpath, (FRAS) at the Ordinary meeting following Council.

10.2 2020 Celebrations in conjunction with the Royal Academy.

The Executive Secretary explained that the Royal Academy of Arts has a sponsor who will support an annual sculpture in the courtyard of BH. On a rotational basis the sculpture will be aligned to the interests of the other societies around the courtyard. For the RAS this will be in 2012 to celebrate our bicentenary.

10.3. North Korea and the IAU

The President had been approached by George Miley, a Vice President of the IAU, to ask if the RAS could assist in supporting North Korean Astronomy students to study in the UK. Whilst it may be a worthwhile endeavour to support this initiative it was agreed that this should be done with caution. The Executive Secretary has sought the advice of the FCO. It was proposed that the RAS could provide free copies of our journal to North Korean institutes and agreed that the library committee should consider this.

Council rose at 15 25

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D. J. Southwood
President

08 March 2013