

2018 Annual General Meeting

Charles Darwin House
Thursday 6 September 2018 at 4.15pm

Present: The President, General Secretary, Treasurer and 52 members of the Society

In attendance: The Chief Executive

Introduction by the Chair

The President from the Chair welcomed attendees to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). He declared the meeting quorate and open after a show of hands of Full, Full Concessionary, Post Graduate Student and Honorary Members.

He noted that as with recent years, the papers had been posted to all eligible members on request and made available on the Society's website. He confirmed to the meeting that all motions presented at the AGM had been endorsed by Council and any motion submitted by any other person would need to have a proposer and a seconder. He reminded attendees that anyone addressing the AGM was asked to clearly state their name and affiliation and that those eligible to vote at the AGM were Full, Full Concessionary, Post Graduate or Honorary Members of the Society.

As was customary at the AGM, the Chief Executive summarised the achievements of the Society over the reporting period. The following areas were highlighted:

In 2017, the Society's new strategy 2018-2022 was launched, with three objectives:

- **Members' Communities**
The events programme offered members many networking opportunities across the year:
 - The Annual Conference 2017 in Edinburgh had been the largest ever, with registration for the event having to close early for the first time.
 - The Focused Meeting programme had gone from strength to strength with Members' submitting a high number of proposals
- **Championing Microbiology**
 - The Society had launched the policy led *Unlocking the Microbiome* report and held a hugely successful launch of the report at the Royal Society. The report was continuing to prove influential.
- **Long term sustainability**
 - The Society had achieved a break-even operating outturn a year ahead of Council's financial plans.

Three main activities were highlighted for 2018, as examples of progress in implementing the new strategy:

- A new journal *Access Microbiology* had just been launched, with an innovative Editorial Board of Early and Mid-Career editors with Editor Mentors, and which would publish a variety of material that would not generally be accepted by more established titles
- A project looking at the *State of Microbiology* across the UK and Ireland was underway, with Charles Dorman leading the project team.
- Plans were underway for the Society's 75th Anniversary (2020) activities, one of which is a plenary session at the 2020 Annual Conference organised by a group of former Fleming Prize winners and chaired by Sir Paul Nurse.

Members were also asked to feedback to the Society staff; to Council members and Committee members regarding its activities, reminding everyone that this was one way that members can help to shape their Society.

The Chief Executive also noted that 2018 would see the Society capitalise on its successful move to London in 2013 by moving into new dedicated premises, and members would be provided more information on this when new premises had been identified.

1. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved *nem con* by a show of hands.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3. Financial Report

3.1 Receiving of the Annual Accounts

On the commendation of the Treasurer, the annual accounts for 2017 were received by the membership by a show of hands. The Chair invited comment from the room. There were no comments

3.2 Appointment of Auditor

The Chair proposed the reappointment of Kingston Smith as the Society's auditors for another 12 months and to delegate authority for their remuneration to Council. The proposal was accepted by a show of hands, subject to the observation from Prof Brown that it was good practice to re-tender audit services periodically.

3.3 Approval of membership subscription rates

The Chair presented the paper detailing a proposed increase for membership subscription rates from September 2018. The subscription rates were approved *nem con* by a show of hands.

4. New Members of Council, Committees and Divisions 2018

The Chair announced the incoming members of Council for 2019:

Judith Armitage, President

Amy Richards, Chair of the Early Career Microbiologists' Forum

Charles Dorman, Elected Member

David Blackburn, Elected Member

Deirdre Devine, Elected Member

The Chair confirmed that the names of all other incoming Committee and Division members were available on the Society's website and in the papers for the meeting.

The Chair thanked the outgoing members of Council who would step down at the end of 2018.

5. Any other business

Former President and Honorary Member Nigel Brown requested that thanks were formally extended to the previous and current Treasurer and to all staff for the improved financial position of the Society. The proposal was agreed by acclamation.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 4:48pm.