

**Edinburgh Geological Society**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**7pm Wednesday 29 January 2014, Grant Institute**

**Present**

Graham Leslie (Chair) and 48 members as listed in the attached Attendance Sheets.

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Phil Stone, Lilian D'Mello, Kathryn Goodenough, Fiona McGibbon, Anne Burgess and Alastair Lings.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting 30 January 2013**

The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposer: David Stephenson. Seconder: Angus Macpherson.

**President's Report**

The President reported that the Society had had another successful year. The combined Annual Report and Proceedings giving full details had been circulated to members in advance. Membership was healthy despite a small net decrease in numbers, and the Society's financial position had held up well during a period of continuing financial challenge. An excellent programme of 11 lectures took place during the Session 2012-2013, and 9 excursions took place during the summer months.

The President stated that he wished to recognise the efforts of a large number of individuals in bringing forward the activities of the Society. Special thanks were due to Kathryn Goodenough who had put together a superb and diverse programme of lectures during her 4 years in office, but she was now stepping down because of work commitments. Mel Farquharson had stepped in to fill the vacant post of Excursion Secretary in-year and is now formally standing for election. The President thanked Anne Burgess for organising an excellent Long Excursion to the Lake District, and Lilian D'Mello for organising the very successful Long Weekend in Ardnamurchan. Christine Thompson, Angus Miller and others were complimented on bringing the new edition of the Assynt Mecca guide to fruition. In response to demand following its success as a downloadable publication, a hard copy printed version will shortly be available for purchase. In his short time since assuming chairmanship of the Publications Committee, David Stephenson has already re-energised it and a number of new publications are planned. Fiona McGibbon was thanked for her editorship of the Billet. The President especially complimented the Treasurer, Bob Morley, for his achievements in keeping the Society's funds in a healthy state of balance. He expressed his thanks to Bob McIntosh who was stepping down from Council after many years as the Society's Librarian and Archivist. The post was now vacant and he appealed for a volunteer with relevant archive, library and IT experience. Finally he expressed thanks to the Secretary Beverly Bergman for her support.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer reported that unrestricted Income & Expenditure for the year was much as in recent times apart from exceptional donations received by GeoConservation Groups, significant expenditure on Geo-leaflets and the one-off cost of illustrations for the forthcoming Perth and Stirling Guide. Overall surplus of £3,700 arose with approximately one-third in the EGS, and two-thirds in Tayside and Lothian & Borders GeoConservation Groups.

A review of the financial history over the past few years:

- In 2010 Council had been concerned over continuing losses, and seriously considering increasing subscriptions. A £5,000 loss that year was due mainly to need to write down stocks of Field Guides which were selling poorly, but also to £1,000 losses and subsidies for field trips. Since then, income has grown a little and costs have been well contained in spite of inflation.

- The longer view shows significant annual losses for 2008-2010 of £3,000 to £8,000 pa (due mainly, but not entirely, to stock write-downs) followed by modest surpluses enhanced a little by sales of fully depreciated stocks.
- The investment portfolio produces almost £3,000 pa income, and aims to make sufficient capital gains to maintain its purchasing power. This is a sensible strategy and has been achieved in most years except for 2008 which was a disastrous year on the stock exchange, and also 2011 when a loss was sustained – so that overall there has been only a small appreciation in value since 2007.

The effect of these pluses and minuses is that at end September 2013 the Society's unrestricted funds are almost – but not quite – back to where they were at October 2007, even after writing off the now fully-depreciated publications stock for which all future sales will generate income.

### **Website Report**

Angus Miller delivered a presentation on the website, which was proving popular with many page hits and downloads, especially of geoconservation leaflets and Edinburgh Geologist articles.

### **Election of Council Members**

Nominations to Council had been published in the Billet and on the website. The nominations were proposed by John Mendum and seconded by Ian Jackson.

The following were elected:

President	Christine Thompson
Vice-President	David Stephenson
Vice-President	Richard Smith
Immediate Past President	Graham Leslie
Honorary Secretary	Beverly Bergman
Honorary Treasurer	Bob Morley
Membership Secretary	Andrew Rushworth
Excursions Secretary	Mel Farquharson
Lectures Secretary	Graham Leslie
Publications Committee Chair	David Stephenson
Asst Secretary (Planning/Finance)	Lilian D'Mello
Asst Secretary (Billet)	Fiona McGibbon
Asst Secretary (Awards)	Graham Leslie ( <i>interim</i> )
Librarian & Archivist	<i>Vacant</i>
Publication Sales Officer	Angus Miller
Ordinary Members	Angus Macpherson
	Mike Browne
	Phil Stone
	Rhona Fraser
	Colin MacFadyen
Scientific Editors	Rob Duck
	Maarten Krabbendam
Independent Examiner	A Gibson (Gibson McKerrell Brown)

The outgoing President Graham Leslie welcomed the new members of Council and those members appointed to new office, and handed over to the incoming President Christine Thompson.

### **Further Business**

Norman Butcher, who had been President in the Society's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, congratulated the incoming President and noted that she was the first lady to be appointed to that office in the nearly 200 years of the Society's existence. He then gave a brief resume of the history of the Society, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest geological society in the world.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:40 pm and members then heard a lecture entitled "A (Geo)tourist in St Petersburg" presented by Professor Jim Floyd of Heriot-Watt University, who stood in at very short notice when the scheduled speaker was forced to cancel due to illness.