

CONSULTANCY GROUP

Minutes of the Twenty-first Annual General Meeting

Held at 13.45 on Wednesday 23rd May 2012 in the Council Room, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London WC1. The AGM took place during an ordinary meeting of the Forum on the topic of 'Networking' with 20 participants.

Apologies for absence

Mr N Baker	Dr G Bignold	Dr A Cash
Dr R J Collicott	Mr D George	Mr C Gittings
Mr M Milchard	Dr J Parkes	Dr K Rabone
Dr H E Rosenberg	Mr I Wootton	Mr C Evans

The Chairman began the meeting by presenting Tim Cox with a long service award certificate and commemorative plate from the RSC in recognition of the fact that he had served as Hon. Treasurer for 15 years and had served on the CG committee since the Consultancy Group was formed.

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting on 25th May 2011

The minutes had been distributed to members in advance of the AGM in accordance with the rules of the Group. Bruce Green proposed formal acceptance, seconded by John Sidwell, and they were agreed by the members.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising were raised.

Report of the Committee

The Chairman invited the acting Hon. Secretary to summarise the Annual Report that had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The acting Hon. Secretary referred particularly to the fact that the group has been in existence for two decades and membership had grown steadily over the period; it currently stands at 499 members. The current economic pressures present opportunities for new consultants and also for the Group to support those entering the field. With this in mind, there are plans to develop a retraining workshop for consultancy to be held later in the year, hopefully linked to the RSC's 'Chemcareers' initiative.

Honorary Treasurer's report

Mr Tim Cox outlined the financial statement for 2011-12 that had previously been circulated to members. Overall he declared the finances to be sound. However he drew attention to the fact that while the reserves were substantial, the current low interest rates were generating much less income than hitherto although funds have been transferred to an RSC deposit account with the relatively high rate of 2%. Reiterating his view of a healthy financial position for the group, Mr Tim Cox proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Dr Stephen Bounds and it was approved by the members.

Election of Committee Members

The Secretary stated that the regulations of the Group allow for a Committee comprising a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary with up to six ordinary members in addition to the Officers. In accordance with the rules of the Group, Dr Colin Hewlett and Tim Cox had reached the end of their three year terms. Under the rules, while both were eligible for re-election, only Dr Colin Hewlett was standing as a Committee nominee; Dr Stephen Bounds had been co-opted onto the Committee during the year and is

proposed to fill the position of Hon. Treasurer. There were no other nominations so Dr Colin Hewlett was re-instated as Chairman and Dr Stephen Bounds as Hon. Treasurer. An election was not necessary. It was announced that vacancies remained if any participants wanted to volunteer. The provisional composition of the new Committee was therefore submitted as follows:

	Chairman	Colin Hewlett			
	Vice Chairman				
	Hon. Secretary	to be appointed			
Hon Treasurer		Stephen Bounds			
	William Edwards	James Parkes	Colin Stone	Hooshang Zavareh	

The officers will be endorsed at the next Committee meeting subject to their willingness to remain in those posts. The membership of the new committee was proposed by Tim Cox seconded by Bruce Green and agreed by the meeting..

Election of Honorary Auditor

The Hon Treasurer thanked the Hon. Auditor, Dr Tom Jones, for his support over many years. A new auditor would be required for the coming years and the committee would attend to this at a future meeting.

Any other business.

Mr Tim Cox encouraged members to sign up for MyRSC which facilitates communication to and between members, including helping participants with queries that they may have relating to their consultancy practices. The Chairman added that notes on the presentations at the current meeting as well as from previous ones are available through the Group's forum on MyRSC.

There being no other business the AGM closed at 14.07.