

## Royal Society of Chemistry Scottish Regional Meeting

MINUTES of the Scottish Regional Meeting held at 18:30 on Tuesday 24th March 2009 at the Jurys Inn, 43 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1DH, Scotland.

### 1.0 Welcome

Professor Lesley Yellowlees welcomed the members to the meeting.

### 2.0 RSC Activities

Jim Feast gave a brief presentation focussing on the new RSC Strategy on a Page, how current activities map to this Strategy and future activities.

### 3.0 Discussion

Dr Lesley Yellowlees invited members to comment on the content of the presentation and related issues including:

#### 3.1 RSC Strategy

- A member questioned the reference to a 'Business Intelligence and Acquisition Group' on the Strategy-on-a-page document and raised the point that there are negative connotations with the use of the word 'acquisition'.
- The Group is a part of the 5-year target plan and members were reminded that the RSC is, in fact itself, a product of a merger between various Societies and that coalescence will continue.
- Jim Feast recalled that in Manchester he was asked why the RSC and SCI have not merged – especially as there are some similar activities in both societies and they already work together on projects.

#### 3.2 Improving communication between groups and staff

- Lesley Yellowlees asked if there are any groups which members think could work more closely with the RSC?
- Georgina Rosair highlighted that the National Geographical Society gives lectures around the country and that there is scope to work together in meetings and schools events.
- Jim Feast raised the point that the RSC Publishing Department could potentially publish on behalf of other societies.
- The variety of activities offered by the RSC enables communication and effective collaboration to extend to a much wider level with various networks.
- Anthony Jackson asked that reports of Local Section activity be publicised around the region.
- The RSC would like to produce a portfolio of activities carried out across the various networks and to use it as a tool both to share ideas and to promote what the networks are doing.

#### 3.3 Chemistry Centre

- Richard Wells recalled that when the Chemistry Centre was initially discussed, it was suggested that other societies' materials could be accessed and asked whether this is now possible.
- Once the Chemistry Centre is finished, the RSC is planning to discuss the opportunities with interested societies but, the rates will need to be agreed first. Plans are being made for a monthly public engagement lecture which will also involve other societies.
- Although the Chemistry Centre is London-centric, there will be online access for meetings and events e.g. webcasts. Additionally the library facilities are also being enhanced.

### 3.4 Membership Applications

- David Lilley felt that the process of applying for RSC membership needs to be reviewed and he questioned why someone who is working in an academic environment needs to provide a degree certificate to join the RSC at AMRSC level or above.
- Anyone can join the RSC as an affiliate member and will receive the same member benefits except for use of designatory letters. However, a certificate is still required for levels of membership AMRSC, MRSC and FRSC as the RSC is a professional body which has set standards.

### 3.5 RSC Branding

- It was noted that some joint subject groups feel constrained by prescriptive requirements for use of the RSC logos which are perceived as controlling and restrictive.
- The RSC is trying to make it as easy as possible for groups and networks to use the logo and guidelines but the branding of the RSC makes guidelines a necessity. The Networks Team is willing to provide help and support and can be contacted with any specific queries. The RSC wants to work with, and support, the various subject groups and not make them feel imposed upon. Communication is key.

### 3.6 Membership data for networks

- A member asked whether the Analytical Division could be provided with a circulation list for sending information to members.
- The Networks Team can provide member data in various forms to Committee members. Alternatively the information can be emailed to the Networks Team who will distribute it on behalf of the Division/group.

### 3.7 Working together more effectively

- The significant number of volunteers already working together in different networks both at local and regional levels was highlighted. However, sometimes events can clash and the members present were asked to think of ways to collaborate and forge links regionally.
- It was suggested that more joint events are arranged within the Scottish Region.

- Richard Wells raised concern about the size of the Scottish region and the fact that centrally organised events are becoming less frequent and are being replaced with more regionally-focussed events.
- The RSC aims to host new events across the country in different styles. To ensure that Local Sections are still able to hold Mixer Meetings, a Resource Pack has been produced containing details of how to plan and carry out a Mixer Meeting. Other resource packs are planned to be introduced in 2009 to help Sections plan and organise events.
- One member expressed how pleased he was with the system of Local Sections bidding for money 'from the pot'.
- A positive message was given that both good practice and inspiring activities should be shared at regional meetings. If additional funding is required to enable activities to continue, then Sections should come to the RSC and ask. Lesley Yellowlees suggested that current activities are built on by working with other networks.

## **5.0 Close and thanks**

Professor Lesley Yellowlees thanked all those attending for their contributions. The meeting was closed at 20:05.