
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL 2017 AT 12.00.md.
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM.

THE FERF/CRF AGM.

Dr. Will Quick, Chairman (Industry) of the CRF, welcomed the approximately 45 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 28th Annual General Meeting of the Coal Research Forum.

i) Report of the year 2016 Annual Meeting

The minutes of the year 2016 Annual Meeting, held on 20th April 2016 at Imperial College London, (issued as Coal Research Forum E-mailshot No.11 (2016), on 29th April 2016), were formally approved without modification.

ii) Review of Actions

Dr. Will Quick noted that there were no actions arising from the report of the year 2016 Annual Meeting.

iii) Report by the Chairman/Secretary

The Secretary, Dr. David McCaffrey, presented the formal report for the year 2016 as follows :-

During the last calendar year, the Forum has continued to pursue and achieve its objectives and has organised a number of coal research events. In April, the Forum Annual Meeting was held at Imperial College London, which included the election of Executive Committee Members and reports from the Divisional Chairmen. This event continued with a joint meeting of the Environment Division entitled, “The Control of Mercury and Trace Element Emissions” and the Coal Characterisation Division entitled, “The Analysis and Characterisation of Coal and Biomass for Utilisation”.

In May, the Forum co-sponsored a seminar entitled, “Minerals Engineering 2016”, which was held the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, East Midlands, and which highlighted recent developments and practical applications across the minerals extraction and processing industries. This event was organised by the Minerals Engineering Society in association with the Coal Research Forum, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and the South Midlands Mining & Minerals Institute.

In early September, the Forum held its biennial three day conference at the University of Sheffield entitled, “11th European Conference on Coal Research and its Applications”. This conference covered all aspects of coal utilisation research currently being carried out in the UK and had participants from most of the major UK organisations carrying out coal R&D. The conference was one of the most successful in this series of conferences so far and was attended by just over 120 participants, where more than two fifths of the participants were from overseas representing 14 countries. The conference had 80 oral presentations, which were presented in two parallel sessions, as well as just under 20 poster presentations.

Also in September, the Forum provided significant financial sponsorship for the 2016 Energy Science Lecture, which is now organised by the Biomass and Fossil Fuel Research Alliance, (BF2RA). This lecture entitled, “How UK Thermal Power Plant Cleaned up their Act...for What
“Future?” was presented by Dr. Les King, Director of Technology, Policy and Liaison, Doosan Babcock, and was presented at the University House Conference Centre, the University of Leeds, Leeds.

In December, the Forum co-funded and co-organised a joint Advanced Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF)/CRF Advanced Power Generation Divisional seminar entitled, “Power Generation, (Coal, Gas, and Biomass) under Increasingly Stringent Emissions Regulations” with support from the Carbon Capture and Storage Association, (CCSA) and the Knowledge Transfer Network, (KTN). This event was held at Institution of Engineering and Technology, (IET), Savoy Place, Westminster, London.

The year 2016 has seen the issue of a further three editions of the Forum Newsletter (January, May and September). During the year, the Forum website has continued to provide information to Members and has been regularly added to and up-dated during the year, where many of the presentations from the above Forum events can now be viewed on the website. During the year, there have been almost 40 Forum E-mailshots. The Forum has also actively assisted with the promotion of, and publicity for, several other coal research events and funding opportunities in the UK, Europe and worldwide, through several Forum E-mailshots.

A fund is available from the Forum for the funding of PhD students to attend national and international Conferences, where the recipients of these awards have provided articles on their impressions of these conferences for the CRF Newsletter. In addition, in February, the Forum awarded a prize for the best fossil fuel poster at the RSC Energy Sector’s Early Career Chemists’ Event held at RSC’s Offices, Burlington House, London.

The Forum is at an early stage in its plans for the “12th ECCRIA Conference”, to be held at Cardiff University on 5th to 7th September 2018.

The Executive Committee has also been actively promoting several other coal, biomass and other fossil fuel research issues with a number of bodies both in the UK and overseas and has continued to provide an information service to Members.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that Prof. James Harrison, the founding Chairman, (Industry), of the Forum had wished to attend this meeting but had unfortunately had to give his apologies. Prof. Harrison had asked for the following message to be presented to the meeting.

“I had hoped to be at the Annual Meeting because I wanted to give my thanks and appreciation of the work done over the years by the Chairmen and Members of the Committee in building up the Forum from its modest beginnings to the significant role that it now has in the research community. My thanks are especially to Dr. McCaffrey for his continued endeavours without which the Forum would not have thrived in the way it has.

Please report this to the meeting along with my good wishes for the future of the Forum”.

iv) **Report by the Treasurer**

Dr. Alan Thompson, (CRF Treasurer), presented the Treasurer's report to the meeting, which included a summary of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the period 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016.

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2016 showed expenditure resulting from normal CRF operating activities i.e. newsletter services, secretarial and administrative services, treasurer and webmaster services, the rental of the Forum Post Office Box, the website rental fee, and related costs, the credit card facility fee and the Public Liability Insurance provisions. There
were also some Seminar Expenses, (AGM and seminar at Imperial College London and the MES/CRF Seminar, Kegworth). In addition, there were some other expenses, which included a CRF student poster prize, some travel expenses and sponsorship for the 2016 Coal Science Lecture, (now organised by BF2RA) and the joint APGTF/FERF Advanced Power Generation and Gasification Interest Group seminar.

The main source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions, which for 2016, consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 50 Members, (8 less than for 2015), 1 late payment for 2014, 2 late payments for 2015, and one advanced payment for 2017. Other income included an interim surplus payment from the 11th ECCRIA, (Sheffield), a non-member’s seminar fees and bank/building society interest.

This account was supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2016, where overall, there was a cash surplus for the year, although Dr. Thompson noted that the normal operations of the CRF would have made a large deficit but for the final surplus arising from the 11th ECCRIA Conference.

v) Election for Vacancies on the Executive Committee.

There were seven vacant positions on the Executive Committee, (Chairman, Industry), Secretary, and 1 x Representative from Academe and 4 x Representatives from Industry), for which the following nominations had been received.

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<th>CANDIDATE</th>
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<td>Dr.W.J.Quick</td>
<td>Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey</td>
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<td>(Chairman, Industry)</td>
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<td>Mr.G.J.Kelsall</td>
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<td>Mr.B.E.Ricketts</td>
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<td>Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey</td>
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<td>(Secretary)</td>
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<td>Prof.J.W.Patrick</td>
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<td>Dr.G.S.Riley</td>
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<td>Dr.K.Chong</td>
<td>Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey</td>
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<td>(Representative from Academe)</td>
<td>Dr.A.W.Thompson</td>
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<td>Prof.A.V.Bridgwater</td>
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<td>Dr.T.Beeley</td>
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The candidates for the positions of Chairman (Industry), Secretary, the one vacant position for Representative for Academe and three of the vacant positions for Representatives from Industry were therefore elected unopposed, where there remained one Representatives from Industry
position, where no nominations had been received.

vi) **Any Other Business**

Following on from Prof. Harrison’s message to the Forum above, Prof Allan Jones, also a former Chairman, (Industry), of the Forum, congratulated the Executive Committee on their work over the last 30 years since the formation of the Forum by the Energy Industries Research Liaison Group, (EIRLG), and the Academic Community. He continued that he considered it to be a timely decision to expand the Forum’s activities to include biomass and waste. Prof. Jones gave his particular thanks to the Secretary, (Dr. McCaffrey) and the Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, (Dr. Thompson), for all of their efforts in supporting and developing the Forum over a very long time-scale.

**REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUP CO-ORDINATORS**

**Combustion, Dr. Gerry Riley**

Dr. Gerry Riley reported that following the planning by the Executive Committee to form the Fuel and Energy Research Forum, he had been asked by the Committee to become the Co-ordinator of the newly formed Combustion Interest Group.

Dr. Riley reported that the first meeting of this new Interest Group was today’s seminar at the University of Nottingham entitled, “Combustion Safety and Flame Stability”. He continued that he would always welcome the views of Forum Members and was open to suggestions for topics for future Interest Group seminars.

**Conversion, Prof John Patrick**

Prof. John Patrick reported that the last meeting of this Group had been the seminar at the University of Leeds entitled, “Underground Coal Gasification, (UCG)”, in April 2015. He continued that coal conversion had been well covered at the 11th ECCRIA Conference held at the University of Sheffield in September last year, (2016).

Prof. Patrick informed the meeting that following the planning by the Executive Committee to form the Fuel and Energy Research Forum, this Group had now been dissolved and merged with other of the newly formed Forum Interest Groups. Dr. Quick thanked Prof. Patrick for all of his efforts over many years as the Coordinator of this Group.

**Fuel Characterisation and Carbonisation, Prof Ed Lester**

Prof. Lester reported that the last meeting of this Interest Group had been the seminar at Imperial College London in April 2016 entitled, “The Analysis and Characterisation of Coal for Utilisation”. He continued that this subject had also been well covered at the 11th ECCRIA Conference held at the University of Sheffield in September last year, (2016). He would also welcome the views of Forum Members and was open to suggestions for topics for future Interest Group meetings.

**Fuel and Minerals Engineering, Mr Andrew Howells**

Mr. Andrew Howells reported that the last meeting of this Interest Group entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2016”, had been held on 26th May 2016 at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Leicestershire. This event had again been held jointly between the Minerals Engineering Society, the Coal Research Forum, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and the South Midlands Mining & Minerals Institute. This event had been well attended, making it one of the most successful of these events for several years, where there had been several excellent papers presented.
Mr. Howells continued that the next meeting of this Interest Group, entitled, “Mineral Engineering 2017”, would be held on 18th May 2017 again at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, Leicestershire. This event would again be held jointly with the Minerals Engineering Society, the Fuel and Energy Research Forum, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining and the South Midlands Mining & Minerals Institute, and would again be free to members of the supporting bodies. The Programme and details of this event will be issued shortly as an FERF E-mailshot.

**Environment, Dr Bill Nimmo**

Dr. Bill Nimmo reported that last meeting of this Interest Group had been the seminar at Imperial College London in April 2016 entitled, “The Control of Mercury and Trace Element Emissions”. He continued that this subject had also been well covered at the 11th ECCRIA Conference held at the University of Sheffield in September last year, (2016). He would also welcome the views of Forum Members and was open to suggestions for topics for future Interest Group meetings.

Dr. Nimmo also reported that he was currently considering an Interest Group seminar on “Environmental Materials – sorbents, filters, catalysts, etc”, which would be part of the 2018 FERF Annual Meeting next April, (2018), with the suggestion of Imperial College London as the venue. He continued that he would also welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Interest Group meetings.

**Advanced Power Generation and Gasification, (APGG), Dr Robin Irons**

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Dr. Irons, (who had given his apologies), who had provided a briefing note for this report, that the last meeting of the Interest Group had been entitled, “Power Generation, (Coal, Gas, and Biomass) under Increasingly Stringent Emissions Regulations”, and had been held on 6th December 2016 at Institution of Engineering and Technology, (IET), Savoy Place, Westminster, London.

This event had been co-funded and co-organised as a joint Advanced Power Generation Technologies Forum, (APGTF)/Forum Advanced Power Generation and Gasification Interest Group seminar, with support from the Carbon Capture and Storage Association, (CCSA) and the Knowledge Transfer Network, (KTN). This event had been very well attended and in fact the venue had had to be changed from Mary Sumner House to accommodate all of the participants.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that although Dr. Irons had no specific plans in place for the next Interest Group meeting, it had been suggested that there could be a seminar on “Carbon Dioxide Utilisation”, possibly jointly with another Forum Interest Group. Dr. McCaffrey concluded that Dr. Irons would always welcome the views of Forum Members in this matter and was open to suggestions for topics for future Interest Group meetings.

**Biomass and Waste, Dr Katie Chong**

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Dr. Chong, (who had given her apologies), that following the planning by the Executive Committee to form the Fuel and Energy Research Forum, she had been asked by the Committee to become the Co-ordinator of the newly formed Biomass and Waste Interest Group.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the inaugural seminar of this Interest Group would be entitled, “Low Grade Biomass – Challenges and Opportunities” to be held at the University of Leeds on Tuesday 27th June 2017. This event would have sessions on “Waste Wood” and “Alternative Low Grade Biomass and Waste”, where the Programme and details of this event will be issued shortly as an FERF E-mailshot.
Carbon Capture and Storage, Prof. Jon Gibbins

Dr. McCaffrey reported on behalf of Prof. Gibbins, who had given his apologies, who had provided a briefing note for this report, that following the planning by the Executive Committee to form the Fuel and Energy Research Forum, he had been asked by the Committee to become the Coordinator of the newly formed Carbon Capture and Storage Interest Group.

Dr. McCaffrey continued that the inaugural seminar of this Interest Group would be held at the Edge, the University of Sheffield on Tuesday 12th September 2017. This will be a meeting of the Principal Investigators on research projects funded by the Research Councils and the UK government. This event would be joint with the UKCCSRC and would be run as the start-up meeting for the new phase of the UKCCSRC.

It will include presentations on a range of projects, with parallel sessions in places, and discussions on the topics covered. The event will commence at 9.00 am until approximately 3.00 pm. It is intended to be an overview of ongoing and recent UK CCS research. The scope of research and the weighting of different areas will be covered, although it will obviously not be able to cover every project. Priority will tend to be given to ongoing projects because they have scope for future collaboration. There will also be some new projects presented.

FERF Members are welcome to join the networking dinner on the evening of Monday 11th September 2017. The Programme and details of this event will be issued shortly as an FERF E-mailshot.

Dr David J A McCaffrey
Secretary of the Fuel and Energy Research Forum
1st May 2017