



*Advancing  
Astronomy and  
Geophysics*

# ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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## Minutes Of The Council Meeting held on 13th February 2015

### 1. ATTENDANCE

#### PRESENT

Professor Martin Barstow, Professor Mike Cruise, Professor Ian Crawford, Dr Mandy Bailey, Professor Lyndsay Fletcher, Professor Mike Edmunds, Professor Gillian Foulger, Professor James Wild,, Professor Andrew Norton, Professor Paul Murdin, Dr Helen Fraser, Mr Charlie Barclay, Dr Sarah Matthews, Professor Martin Bureau, Miss Jane MacArthur, Dr Sheila Peacock, Dr Simon Mitton, Dr Stacey Habergham, Professor John Brown and Dr Geraint Jones

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms Pamela Mortimer (Executive Secretary) and Dr Robert Massey (Deputy Executive Secretary)

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Professor Richard Davis. It was noted that Professor Andrew Norton would join the meeting by WebEx.

### 2. MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2014 were approved with a minor correction.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

The Executive Secretary updated Council on matters arising from the December meeting that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda. It was noted that:

- Professor Phil Charles had provided a paper that set out proposals for how the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) and the Society could work better together. The Treasurer and Executive Secretary had provided initial feedback and advised that some of the proposals were too resource intensive for the Society to support at this time, Professor Charles will provide a revised paper in light of these comments.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: A paper by Phil Charles will be presented to Council at the March meeting.]

- Dr Simon Mitton had submitted a proposal for a specialist discussion meeting to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Fred Hoyle's birth.
- Professor Mike Edmunds had written a letter to the Director of Stonehenge in support of the proposal to build a tunnel under the A303 to divert traffic away from the site of special scientific interest.

It was also noted that Dr Sheila Peacock had provided further information on her proposal for GJI to adopt a policy on responsible sampling of rocks (including loose sediments) and agreed that as this item required substantive discussion it would be considered under Any Other Business.

#### **4. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS**

##### **a. Update on the Astronomy Forum**

The President updated Council on matters discussed at the Astronomy meeting held on the 3rd February 2015 including an overview of the most recent STFC grants round and discussion on future funding (with STFC optimistic that recent Government endeavours including the establishment of the Science and Innovation Policy and the Capital programme may indicate possible future support for increased grants funding. It was noted that a presentation on the REF was also given. Notes and presentations from the meeting are now available at <http://www.ras.org.uk/ras-policy/astronomy-forum>

##### **b. IAU matters**

The President had been in contact with Professor Thierry Montmerle, the President of the IAU, to discuss the links between the IAU and the Society. The IAU had no record of the UK having a National Adhering Committee (NAC), the NAC scrutinises and approves proposals for membership of the IAU. The President had had been working with the membership secretary to generate and scrutinise the list of potential members for 2015. He had taken Chairs action on behalf of Council and had provided the list to the IAU with the caveat that the list was approved subject to Councils agreement. The President wished to record his thanks to Fern Storey, the membership Secretary for all her hard work on this matter.

Council considered the list of potential members. Dr Geraint Jones highlighted his conflict of interest as a potential member and left the room. Council agreed 49 individuals as suitable for IAU membership and rejected 6 who were not post doctorally qualified which is a normal requirement for membership. It was agreed that a membership application for the Society should be sent to those approved for IAU membership not already Fellows.

**ACTION: Membership Sec.**

Council agreed that they should collectively act as the UK NAC for the IAU. It was noted that the President and Treasurer will attend the General Assembly of the IAU in Honolulu in August 2015. It was agreed that Council should consider IAU matters before the General Assembly at the Council meeting held during NAM in July 2015.

**ACTION: President/Treasurer**

##### **c. Behaviour of RAS Fellows**

The President reminded Council of correspondence they have had sight of in the previous week regarding alleged misconduct by a Fellow; the Fellow in question has published an article where it was generally felt by Council members that the level of scientific integrity, accuracy and completeness left a lot to be desired.

Council discussed this matter and agreed that they would not take any formal action in response to the alleged misconduct as the individual had not written the article under the auspices of being a FRAS and that the Society should respect the right of freedom of expression. It was agreed that the President would discuss the matter with individual who had brought the alleged misconduct to the attention of Council.

It was noted that the revised RAS byelaws (currently out for consultation with the Fellowship) include the following text:

#### **SECTION X. Code of Conduct of Members**

44. The Council shall decide on a Code of Conduct which it shall cause to be openly published. Members shall be required upon election to commit to the Code.

It was agreed that this should be amended to read

**SECTION X. Code of Conduct of Members**

44. The Council shall decide on a Code of Conduct which it shall cause to be openly published. Members shall be required to commit to the Code on election and annually thereafter.

It was agreed that Council should agree and consider issuing a generic statement on the principals it will abide by whilst considering any similar allegations in future.

**ACTION: Deputy Exec Sec**

**d. Update on European matters**

The President and Professor David Southwood had attended a meeting of the adhering Societies of the European Astronomical Society (EAS) on the 5th and 6th of February, he was pleased to inform Council that there had been unanimous agreement to the proposal for to have a representative in Brussels helping the European astronomy community engage with the EU and that several societies had agree to provide financial contribution towards the cost of Dr Veronika Raszler’s salary and running costs for the post. The Society will underwrite the first years cost for this position, whilst contributions from other Astronomical Societies are gathered. .

**5. TREASURER’S BUSINESS**

**5.1 Treasurer’s Report**

Council noted the Financial and Legal Status of the Society, as follows:

RAS Financial and Legal Status	Level of Materiality	Report for February 2015
Transfers in and out of Reserves	£50k	No transfers since last report. Investment assets at Feb 2015 were £6,780,855
Unplanned changes in Cash holdings	£20k	No unplanned changes since last report. £3,150,088 bank balances but preparations are in hand to transfer £2.5 M to a range of higher interest bearing accounts.
Heritage Assets	One heritage item	No change
Lease	Any change	No change
Debts	£5k	No change
Legal Agreements	Any change	No change, but rent review under legal debate as reported
Insurance	Any change	No change

The Treasurer updated Council on the appointment of Finance staff and preparations for the 2014 Audit, in summary:

- a full time appointment has been made as Accountant starting in April (see agenda item 6.1 for details)

- financial year end was December 31st, final accounts have been received from OUP and a draft set of accounts will be prepared shortly. All our bank reconciliations are up to date.
- Michael Kyriakides as senior accountant will be in charge of the preparation of the audit and will be supported by John Struthers.
- The audit fieldwork will start on March 23rd, the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer have started a series of regular planning and monitoring meetings with Mr Kyriakides to ensure that we are ready for the auditors, well ahead of time.
- Mr Kyriakides is currently working as a consultant and will help induct the new appointment. The new accountant will be supported by a 0.5 FTE book-keeper to carry out routine tasks; when the transition period is complete the Society will be supported in financial management by 1.5FTE as agreed by Council in December 2014.

Council approved the above plan for staffing and preparations for audit and the longer term development of our financial management.

### **Support for “Out of Town” Meetings**

Council approved financial support for the following two ‘Out of own’ meetings:

- a grant of £3000 to support student attendance at a workshop on the science of the SuperDarn radar at Leicester University, led by Prof Mark Lester.
- a grant of £2000 to support student attendance at the 6<sup>th</sup> Astrobiology Society of Britain meeting to be held at Birkbeck College. Professor Ian Crawford declared a conflict of interest with this proposal as he was the proposer and left the room whilst Council took a decision.

### **Attendance at the IAU**

Council discussed the merits of the Society providing a travel expenses budget to allow more Fellows to attend the General Assembly of the IAU in Hawaii in 2015. Dr Helen Fraser noted her conflict of interest as she would be applying for a travel grant.

Council voted and agreed that additional funding would be made available and a separate grants call would be made, with specific guidelines provided on who is eligible to apply. The grants panel would agree a proposal for the approval of Council out of committee

**ACTION: Treasurer**

### **Staff Costs and Honoraria**

Council were reminded that the contract of employment with Society staff stipulates that their remuneration increases in line with the RPI and that it has been standard practice for keeping the various honoraria in line with inflation. The Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary left the room while Council discussed the proposal for remuneration increase of 1.6% across the board, as set out below:

Remuneration Category	2014	Proposed for 2015
Staff Salaries		Raised by 1.6%
Editor in Chief MNRAS	£7916	£8043
Editors MNRAS	£5277	£5361
Editor in Chief GJI	£1340	£1361
Editors GJI	£893	£907
Treasurer	£5277	£5361
Editor A&G and Graphic Designer *	£3193	£3244

Council approved the salaries and remunerations for 2015.

[\* POST COUNCIL NOTE: The £3193 is the bimonthly fee payable to the Graphic Designer used for A&G, the Editor of A&G will receive the same remuneration increase as other staff, (1.6%). ]

## **RAS Research Fellowship**

Council noted that Dr John Armitage who was in receipt of a RAS Research Fellowship (Sept 2013-Sept 2016) has advised that he will be ending his fellowship at the University of London one year early.

## **Budgets for 2015**

The Treasurer explained that he had simplified and improved the format of the Operations Plan, that now presents the expected income and expenditure for 2015 separated into nine activities. It was noted that the external auditors have advised that the costs of running Burlington House do not constitute a charitable activity in themselves and should be distributed amongst the activities. In addition, they believe that the name of the Grants line should be made more explicit and describe what charitable activity is actually undertaken, Therefore this has been renamed as “Community Travel and Research”.

It was noted that the Society assets shown in the operations plan at the start of 2015 – investments, bank accounts, etc. held in the three funds, restricted, unrestricted undesignated and unrestricted designated, are estimates of the end of year situation for 2014 and that these numbers will almost certainly change in the next two months as the actual figures for 2014 become available as the annual accounts are prepared.

Council approved the Operations plan and budgets for 2015.

## **6. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE**

### **6.1 Staff changes 2015**

The Executive Secretary updated Council on progress to appoint a RAS Finance Manager/Accountant. Interviews had been held in late January 2015, from a long list of 12 candidates the interview panel (comprising, Michael Kyriakides, Senior Accountant, Kieron Leech, Finance committee member, the Treasurer and the Executive Secretary) interviewed four candidates and down selected two candidates for a second interview. Following a unanimous decision the position was offered to Mark Piper. Mark is a qualified Chartered Certified Accountant with twenty years’ experience in accounting and bookkeeping, much of it in the charitable sector; he will take up post in April 2015. The Executive Secretary thanked the interview panel and Jane MacArthur for their help with this selection process.

Council were reminded that the Finance Manager/Accountant incumbent will report to the senior accountant and that the post is developmental by design; over time it is expected that the incumbent will take on more of the strategic work, with a corresponding reduction in the number of hours we will need to employ the senior accountant (Michael Kyriakides, employed on a consultancy basis).

She explained that various other staff changes (on the editorial and membership, set out in the table below) present an opportunity to provide book keeping, membership and other administrative support through the appointment of a further Administrative Officer. It was proposed that a second FT Administrative Officer be appointed who would report to the Office, Events and Buildings Manager; the two Administrative Officers would share the existing admin support role, membership duties and book keeping support. It was noted that this option provides illness/holiday cover for the book keeping and membership work (the latter currently a singleton post) along with additional support in the busy front office.

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED NEW ARRANGEMENT</b>
Council approved New Assistant Editor (FT) in December 2014	2 X FT Assistant Editors.
½ FT Assistant Editor (GJI vacancy, from January 2015)	2 X Admin Officers to provide include membership & book keeping support and general admin duties.
Current ½ FT Assistant Editor	
Current ½ FT Membership Secretary	
Current 1 x Admin Officer	
Council approved ½ FT for book keeping support in December 2014	

Council agreed the above proposal.

## **6.2 RAS Council Elections 2015**

Council considered the ballot list for the RAS Council elections 2015/2016 that had been tabled. The President declared a conflict of interest as his daughter is an applicant and absented himself for this item. The Treasurer took the chair.

It was noted that in December 2014 Council had agreed that the nominations received were reasonably balanced in terms of gender and subject matter and that it was very positive to see such a long list of applicants.

Council discussed the need for transparency in the results of the ballot and agreed that it would be useful for them to receive a paper from the Scrutineers detailing the number of votes received as this could help them note trends and take supportive action to improve representation from unrepresented groups if required, in future years.

It was agreed that individual results should not be published but that individuals should be told the number of votes received by those successful in the ballot and their comparative result.

**ACTION: Executive Secretary to task Scrutineers**

## **6.3 RAS 200 update**

The Deputy Executive Secretary updated Council on progress on RAS 200: Sky and Earth. In summary, the submission of outline proposals for RAS200 outline closed on Monday 2 February 2015 and the Society received 92 project ideas.

It was noted that this is a real success and shows how much of an appetite there is for innovation in public engagement and the real willingness to expand the work of the Society into new areas, working with diverse groups of people, which is the central aim of this project.

The grants panel will down select to fifteen proposals when it meets on the 16th of February 2015. The long list of 15 groups will be required to write full proposals for further consideration by the grants panel that will select five or six projects to financially support in the first tranche of awards. The winners will be announced at the start of the Ordinary meeting that follows the AGM on the 8 May 2015.

## **6.4 NAM updates**

### **a. 2015 update**

Dr Mandy Bailey provided an update on planning for NAM 2015. She advised that arrangements are progressing well and are on schedule. A draft outline programme has been created, which is being used to finalise the scientific programme, additional workshops and public outreach events.

Council agreed that the Awards ceremony should be held as part of the Conference dinner that will be held on the evening of Wednesday 8th July. It was agreed that it important to advertise this early.

**ACTIONS: Dr Mandy Bailey (for NAM website etc.) and Deputy Exec Sec (for RAS website/Facebook/twitter)**

It was agreed that it is important to ensure the younger audience can attend the conference dinner; Dr Mandy Bailey agreed to confirm the cost and advise Council

**ACTION: Dr Mandy Bailey**

The following likely key dates were noted:

- Monday 23rd February - announcement of the parallel sessions and the call for abstract submission.
- Monday 2nd March - Delegate registrations open and also ability to book accommodation (or very soon after wards)
- Wednesday 1st April - Abstract for paper/poster proposal deadline
- Tuesday 5th May - notification of successful abstracts

The website at VC (registration and accommodation) and also the RAS website (programme details and links to VC website) are being created with a view to going live on 23rd February. Professor Mike Edmunds provided an update on planning the scientific programme. He advised that the SOC is in the process of finalising the scientific programme. Six plenary sessions and a dedicated poster session are planned.

Council noted that Matt Taylor would present the plenary on the Rosetta mission and should be asked to also deliver a public lecture.

**ACTION: Professor Mike Edmunds**

The following was also noted:

- the Outreach Organising Committee has been established and will be chaired by the Deputy Executive Secretary
- there will be a teacher training day led by Dr Stacey Habbergham
- following on from last year's success, there will be another Hack day (sponsored by GitHub.)
- there will be workshops on writing for MNRAS, run by Dr Kim Clube, Editorial Office Manager, and on writing for A&G (magazine and website) and creating effective posters, both run by Dr Sue Bowler(A&G Editor.)
- There will be a number of Welsh language/bilingual events in schools and other venues around Llandudno.

It was agreed that those who had followed the NAM 2014 twitter account should be invited to follow the NAM 2015 twitter account.

**ACTON: Deputy Executive Secretary**

## **b. Planning for future years**

The Executive Secretary briefed Council on the responses received from the universities who had indicated an interest in supporting a NAM in 2016/2017. Oxford University are considering hosting.

[POST COUNCIL NOTE: Oxford is not able to support a NAM in 2016.]

It was agreed that QMUL, Imperial and UCL should be approached to host a future NAM

**ACTION: Executive Secretary**

Council were pleased to note possible future interest by the University of Surrey to host a NAM; as the Astrophysics department at the University of Surrey has only been established for a few years there may be an opportunity for a London based University to assist. It was noted that the Guildford Astronomical Society is ran by Dr Paul Daniels, FRAS and they may

be interested in getting involved and that Surrey Satellites is in the vicinity of the University of Surrey. It was agreed that this option should be considered further.

**ACTION: Executive Secretary**

## **6.5 Honorary Fellowship**

Professor Andrew Norton introduced the paper that he, Professor Paul Murdin and Professor Gillian Foulger had written on Regulations for Associateships or Honorary Fellowships. Council discussed issues raised in the paper and agreed that the status of Honorary Fellows should not be changed. It was agreed that draft regulations on Associates should be presented to Council out of committee for approval.

**ACTION: Professor Andrew Norton, Professor Paul Murdin and Professor Gillian Foulger**

## **6.6 Herschel House Trust – Deed of Variation and Retirement**

The Executive Secretary reminded Council that in May 2014 they had voted and agreed that Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) should become the sole trustee of the Herschel House Trust (HHT) and take on full responsibility for the governance of the Herschel Museum of Astronomy in Bath.

The legal position in regards to this transfer has been checked and it has been confirmed that the existing deed empowers the present Trustees to supplement or alter or amend the provisions of the Trust Deed, other than the Objects of the Charity, provided that they shall not supplement or alter or amend the provisions of the Trust Deed so as to cause the House to cease to be charitable in law.

As such, a deed of variation has been received and reviewed by the President, Treasurer and Executive Secretary. It was noted that whilst significant rights will be ceded to BPT, Council has previously agreed they are an effective organisation to better manage the Museum. There will be an exchange of letters to formalise arrangements for an ‘advisory committee’ or similar, which will involve representatives from the existing Trustee bodies.

Council were reminded that they had voted on and agreed to provide a 5 figure sum as a contribution to put the HHT on a firm financial footing on transfer to BPT, provided that other Trustee organisations also contribute. It was noted that the Herschel Society, Bath University and BPT had made contributions.

Council agreed that the Executive Secretary could sign the deed of variation and retirement and that the Society would make a £10K contribution.

It was noted that BPT are keen to work together to celebrate the 1820 anniversary.

## **6.7 Heritage Committee Minutes**

Council noted the minutes of the Heritage Committee held on the 1st December 2014.

It was agreed that Professor Mike Edmunds should bring forward a costed proposal to Council in October 2015 for an Astronomical Heritage Medal.

**ACTION: Professor Mike Edmunds**

## **6.8 Membership Matters**

The Executive Secretary explained the recent background to the activities of the Membership Committee, in summary the committee fulfils two important roles for the Society, scrutinising applications made for Fellowship through the Route 2 process and offering advice on membership matters to Council. The Committee continues to be very active in the former role; the latter role has been deliberately reduced over the last few years whilst Council

reviewed its strategy for the Society. As such the appointments to the Committee have not been reviewed for a few years.

Council approved the individuals set out below as members of the committee for a further year and noted that new members would be sought.

- Richard Holme, member since 2008, Chair since 2012
- David Boyd, member 2012
- Euan Monaghan, member since 2011
- Lyndsay Fletcher (as G secretary) member since 2011
- Marcus Hope (representing the Friends of the RAS and amateur astronomers) member since 2009
- Mike Hapgood, member since 2011
- Silvia Zane, member since 2007
- Tim O'Brien, member since 2012
- Yvonne Elsworth, member since 2007
- Elizabeth Day, new member 2015

Council noted that Professor Ian Howarth recently stood down after many years on the committee and recorded their thanks for all his hard work.

Council were asked to propose potential candidates for future years.

**ACTION: Council members**

Council were reminded that they had directed the membership committee to consider if additional membership categories are required now or in the coming few years in response to probable changing demographics of people interested in becoming members of the Society as a result of increased engagement with Society through outreach projects such as RAS 200: Sky and Earth.

Council noted the minutes of the Membership Committee, held on the 16th January 2015 and their preliminary thoughts on the need to establish types of membership for example for teachers, undergraduates and school children. The Membership Committee proposed that a package should be built for schools who want to join under a possible affiliate membership class where their school would have a special A&G champion status and perhaps CPD for physics teachers.

Council revisited their discussions on how the Society should best deliberate on the need for new membership categories and agreed this should be driven more by Council in tandem with the RAS 200: Sky and Earth steering group. It would be important to engage early with the SPA and BAA. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged between Council member (those currently on the RAS 200: Sky and Earth steering group) and the Society for Popular Astronomy and the British Astronomical Association.

**ACTION: Executive Secretary to liaise with RAS 200: Sky and Earth steering group**

## **6.9 100th Anniversary of the election of women to the RAS Fellowship**

Dr Mandy Bailey introduced her paper (written on behalf of CDAG) that presented options for projects to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the election of women to the RAS Fellowship and gave special thanks to Annette Webb, Sian Prosser, Sue Bowler and Mike Edmunds for their invaluable help in working up the options.

Council agreed the proposal to host a play on the subject following the specialist discussion meeting in January 2016, at a cost of £2550.

Council also agreed that an A&G edition in 2016 should be dedicated to the subject.

Council considered the proposal for 20 photographic portraits to be taken of current women Fellows and noted that this would be an expensive project (with estimates ranging from £39 to £44K depending upon sub options.) It was agreed that a minimum of three quotes should be obtained for taking the digital photographs and presented to the Treasurer for a decision. It

was noted that (if approved) thereafter further deliberation would be required on how best to display these photographic portraits. ACTION: Dr Mandy Bailey (\*see post Council note)

The President asked for volunteers from Council members to become a small steering group on this project, that would also include Sian Prosser (RAS Librarian) and Dr Sue Bowler, (Editor of A&G.)

**ACTION: Council members**

[\* POST COUNCIL NOTE: The governance of the project(s) to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the election of women to the RAS Fellowship will be agreed by Council at the March meeting].

#### **6.10 Update on RAS Byelaw Consultation**

The Executive Secretary updated Council on the number and type of responses received in the first two weeks of the consultation on the RAS byelaws.

Twenty responses had been received by email, nine expressing their thanks for a job well done and eleven raising some issues for consideration. This will be done in the first instance by the drafting group and any substantial redrafted text presented to Council for approval in March.

#### **6.11 Boiler Replacement**

Council agreed that the existing (and often faulty) current boilers in Burlington House are Replaced with Broag Quinta Pro condensing boiler at a cost of approximately £25K. Council empowered the Executive Secretary to initiate works up to this amount in collaboration with the Treasurer.

### **7. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

#### **7.1 Science and Innovation Strategy**

Council noted that the UK government had published its new Science and Innovation strategy in January 2015 and noted the RAS response that is available on the website at <http://www.ras.org.uk/news-and-press/news-archive/254-news-2014/2549-science-and-innovation-strategy-ras-response>

#### **7.2 Renewal of Points of Contact**

Council noted that there had been an 80% response to the renewal request for the RAS Points of Contact. The role of these POCs has been refreshed so that in addition to the traditional role they will also be the opportunity to become involved in public engagement and political activity.

#### **7.3 RAS Membership Survey**

Council noted the results of the RAS Membership Survey; it was felt to have been a very useful exercise to establish a baseline to work from. The Committee for Diversity in Astronomy and Geophysics (CDAG) will consider next steps and advise Council accordingly.

**ACTION: CDAG**

#### **7.4 International Year of Light projects**

The Executive Secretary was pleased to note that exhibition entitled 'Light Works' celebrating the International Year of Light 2015 had been a huge success. The exhibition had been organised by the Royal Photographic Society with financial support from STFC. The images had been fantastic and the project had been well received by colleagues around the courtyard. Over the two weeks it was in the courtyard of Burlington House, the exhibition had seen significant footfall, with an estimated 26,000 visitors.

After London, the exhibition is travelling to Belfast and then Edinburgh, with the possibility of other venues later in the year. NAM organisers are investigating whether the images could be in Llandudno during the conference. Action: Dr Mandy Bailey

The Deputy Executive Secretary noted that the rest of IYOL is well under way, with an active UK website (see <http://light2015.org.uk>) and a calendar of events. Official launches took place in Paris (led by UNESCO) and St James Palace (covering the UK and supported by the Duke of York). Specific activities supported by the RAS include the production of a cartoon book explaining figures such as Ibn Al Haytham, Fresnel, Maxwell, Einstein, Penzias and Wilson, all of whose work is commemorated by IYOL. In March there will be an event on this subject in Parliament, where the Deputy Executive Secretary will give a short talk on the importance of light in astronomy.

## **7.5 The experience of male and female physics and astronomy doctoral students in the UK**

The Deputy Executive Secretary reminded Council that the RAS Committee on Diversity in Astronomy and Geophysics (CDAG) had commissioned a joint study with the Institute of Physics (IOP) on the experience of doctoral students in the UK and noted the final draft of this report. It was noted that an article on this topic will be written for A&G.

Council members were invited to provide comments to the Deputy Executive Secretary.

**ACTION: Council members**

It was noted that 50% of students studying astronomy will not go on to have a career in Astronomy. D. Helen Fraser proposed that there may be a cohort of individuals who would like to retain an interest in Astronomy and that this could be a new membership category that the Society should consider creating.

## **8. PUBLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Minutes of the GJI Editorial Board meeting**

Council noted the minutes of the GJI Editorial Board meeting held on 17th December 2014.

### **8.2 Update on editorial positions and author workshops**

Council noted that the following:

- Dr Carla Cacciari, from INAF, Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna, has agreed to join the MNRAS editorial board. She will start on 1st February 2015 and will handle papers on globular clusters and variable stars.
- Author workshops will be held at NAM and at the IAU meeting in Hawaii
- Jeannot Trampert, the Editor in Chief GJI has announced his intention to step down from GJI's Editorial Board.

## **9. OTHER**

### **9.1 Officers Reports**

Council approved the following for Fellowship:

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Town/ University</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Aujogue	Kélig	Coventry	Membership Committee
Badmin	Shaun	Northampton	Andrew Norton
Baker	Deborah	UCL-MSSL	Lidia van Driel-Gesztelyi
Becks	Nicole	Uccle, Belgium	Andrew Norton
Bergfors	Carolina	UCL	Ian Howarth
Bernardi	Giovanni	Teddington	Prof. J.P. Emerson

Bhatawdekar	Rachana	University of Nottingham	Michael Merrifield
Breton	Rene	The University of Manchester	Anna Scaife
Brewer	Richard	Peterborough	Donald Kurtz
Chapman	Rhian	Bedford	A.J Norton
Chauhan	Balraj	London	WB Somerville
Collins	Chris	Liverpool John Moores University	Mandy Bailey
Conneely	Ciarán	Imperial College London	Andrew Jaffe
Cowley	Steven	London	Alexander Schekochihin
Dumitru	Andreea	Brighton	Dr Darren Baskill
Evans	Daniel	Telford	Coel Hellier
Field	Richard	Kirkby-In-Ashfield	Dr Richard John McKim
Fishwick	Stewart	University of Leicester	PKH Maguire
Fraser-McKelvie	Amelia	University of Hull	Kevin A. Pimbblet
Frazer	Jonathan	Forest Row	C. Barclay
Gale-Sides	Kingsley	Newcastle-Under-Lyme	Joana Oliveira
Gibson	Brad	University Of Central Lancashire	D. Ward-Thompson
Gisborne	Paul	Harrogate	Andrew Norton
Giuliatti Winter	Silvia	Dept. de Matematica - UNESP - Brazil	Othon Cabo Winter
Boutte	Robert	CREATIS - INSA DE LYON	Simon Mitten
Hart	Luke	Manchester	Victor DE Battista
Hart	Ross	Nottingham	S.P. Basford
Has well	Carole	The Open University	Stephen Sergeant
Hoeing	Sebastian	University of Southampton	Catriona Jack man
Holyhead	Katherine	Liverpool	Mandy Bailey
Jermack	Helen	Liverpool John Moores University	Mandy Bailey
Kendrew	Sarah	Oxford	Fraser Clarke
Kenton	Zachary	Queen Mary University of London	David Murine
Kohotova	Petra	Coventry	Keith Smith
Koval	Margaret	London	Alexander Schekochihin
Laibe	Guillaume	University of St. Andrews	Carolin Villforth
Le Breuilly	Louis	Cheltenham	Prof. J.P. Emerson
Lofthouse	Emma	Hatfield	Sugata Kaviraj
Marshall	David	Somerville	Jeremy Drake
Martin	Pamela	Armagh Observatory	C. Simon Jeffery
Meadows	Peter	Chelmsford	Guy M Hurst
Moraes	Bruno	UCL	Filipe B. Abdalla
Morrison	Neil	Crawley	Peter Madelaine
Neophytou	Louis	London	Andrew Norton
Niculescu-Duvaz	Maria	Sutton	I. Crawford
Nippres	Stuart	AWE Blacknest	Sheila Peacock
Ogunmodimu	Olugbenga	Manchester	Prof. Jim Wild
Papaj	Joanna	London	Dr Francisco Diego
Parvatikar	Anandteerth	Brighton	Stephen Wilkins
Perez-Suarez	David	MSSL	David Long
Rey-Raposo	Ramon	University of Exeter	Clare Dobbs
Rooney	Alan	Ballogie	Membership Committee
Routledge	Laurence	Brighton	Stephen Wilkins
Ryan	Jamie	Horsham	Sarah Matthews

Sheardown	Alexander	Hull	Kevin Alan Pimbblet
Starling	Rhaana	University of Leicester	Richard White
Sutton	Nigel	St. Davids	Alan Charles York
Suzuki-Vidal	Francisco	Imperial College London	SJ Schwartz
Trichas	Markos	Stevenage	Dr D.L. Clements
Walker	Daniel	Liverpool John Moores University	Andrew Newsam
Ward	Jacob	Newcastle	Joana Oliveira
Webb	Christopher	Caterham	Francisco Diego
Welch	Christopher	International Space University	Dr Stuart Eves
Williams	Richard	Liverpool John Moores University	Mandy Bailey
Wilson	James	Brecon	Martin Griffiths
Wood	Toby	Newcastle University	Andrew Fletcher
Woodford	David	Prudhoe	Nick Howes
Woolman	Peter	Open University	Elliot Curtis-Harper
Xie	Yaling	London	I. Crawford

## 9.2 Minutes of the Ordinary Meetings (December, 2014 and January, 2015)

Council noted the minutes of the Ordinary Meetings held in December 2014 and January 2015.

## 10. AOB

### 10.1 Ethical policy for geological sampling

Dr Sheila Peacock had provided Council with a note on her discussion with the Executive Secretary of the Geological Society on the need for an ethical sampling policy applicable to all researchers submitting papers to GJI.

In summary the Geological Society states that any rock sampling that damages the outcrop must be carried out only with the full permission of those competent to give it, and must be carried out according to the codes of practice that they cite (codes produced by the Geologists 'Association). Otherwise they will refuse to accept manuscripts for publication. This is the only sanction they can apply to prevent the serious damage to outcrops and sites, including illegal sampling in protected areas such as national parks, and from land belonging to native people and sacred places, which has been occurring.

Council directed that the GJI editorial board consider the implications of this in regards to GJI. It was noted that the first opportunity to consider this topic would be at the Publications Management Committee (PMC) in late March who should be asked to make a recommendation on the RAS position to Council.

It was agreed that thereafter the Executive Secretary would engage with her counterpart at the Geological Society to negotiate and agree a joint approach to establish an ethical publishing protocol applicable to GJI and the Geological Society's house journals.

**ACTION: GJI Editorial Board/PMC/Executive Secretary**

Council rose at 15 20



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Professor M. Barstow

13<sup>th</sup> March 2015