



## **Minutes of 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Oulton Hall, Leeds**

**Present:**

<b>Chairman</b>	-	<b>Robert M<sup>c</sup>Leod</b>
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	-	<b>Matthew Myles</b>
<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	-	<b>Paul LePinnet</b>
<b>Plus 19</b>	-	<b>Society Members &amp; Guests</b>

The Chairman Robert M<sup>c</sup>Leod welcomed the members to the 60<sup>th</sup> AGM of the BSSG. The Chairman started proceedings by asking the members present to observe a minute's silence for the Queen and any members and associates who had passed away during the Covid period. The Chairman gave a brief statement on the financial position of the Society and how close the BSSG came close to folding due to lack of membership, he thanked the Paul LePinnet, Matthew Myles, Ian Pearson, and Dan Jackson for there work in keeping the Society going.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENSE.**

None

### **2. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Due to IT problems, there were no minutes from the AGM in 2019 available.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

#### 4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

##### Chairman's Report.

Dear members, I am happy to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of the British Society of Scientific Glassblowers. On behalf of the Symposium Committee, I thank you for joining us today. Your presence here is a testimony to your interest and support for the Society. The COVID-19 pandemic has heavily affected the Society, events have been cancelled or postponed and the only contact we have had with members is through the Journal. All the meetings that Council had took place by Zoom saving money on room rental and travel. The main aim through the pandemic was the survival of the BSSG. In reality the Society owes its existence to four people, Mathew Myles Society Secretary, Paul Le Pinnet Society Treasurer, Dan Jackson Advertising Manager and last but by no means least Ian Pearson Editor of the Journal. They have been the main stay of the Society and responsible for organising this Symposium. Currently the money raised through the membership fees is nowhere near enough to cover the cost of the Journal. The Society did get a boost from the Dorian school in Paris, several students and teachers became members. Even so if it wasn't for the goodwill of the companies that advertise in the Journal, it would have ceased production. I am sure Ian and Dan will refer to the companies by name in their reports.

It was not all doom and gloom for the Society. Graham Reed represented the Society at the Tree House Festival and used the event to further the cause of scientific glassblowing. Ayako Tani held an exhibition of her "glass ships in bottles" at the Scottish Maritime Museum. During the talks she gave Ayako linked the skills required to make ships in bottles to scientific glassblowing. As part of the exhibition, world famous glassblower, Ian Pearson was invited along to give glassblowing demonstrations, one to Schools and one for the public. I was there as Ian's stooge. The event was very successful and ran from September 2021 to March 2022. Along with Ayako I was invited to the City of Glasgow College to talk about and give a demonstration of scientific glassblowing, again another opportunity to get scientific glassblowing out into the public domain. There have been other events which have taken place involving members of the BSSG, of which I am sure Ian Pearson will give you the details of in his report.

Robert McLeod

BSSG Chairman

***The Chairman asked that all reports be voted on, on mass at the end to help speed proceedings along.***

## 5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Secretary's Report to AGM, Oulton Hall, Leeds 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b><u>Total Members for 2022</u></b>		—	—	—
<u>New Members for 2022</u>	23	—	—	—
<u>Members not renewed for 2022</u>		—	—	—
<u>Members by Section with Contact names</u>				
EA East Anglian	14	—	—	12
M Midlands	7	—	—	1
NE North East	10	—	—	8
NW North West	5	—	—	4
O Overseas	46	—	—	14
S Southern	3	—	—	4
Sc Scottish	10	—	—	9
TV Thames Valley	9	—	—	8
W Western	5	—	—	6
	109	—	—	66
<u>Members by type</u>				
Members (Full)	40	—	—	35
Retired Members	17	—	—	13
Honorary Life Member	3	—	—	3
Student Members (inc. Corp Students)	33	—	—	5
Corporate Members	16	—	—	7
Associate Members	—	—	—	—
Subscribers	3	—	—	3
	112	—	—	66
<u>Companies with Corporate Membership</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>
Hampshire (R&D) Glassware Ltd	4	—	—	4
Yorlab	4	—	—	4
Soffieria Sestese	3	—	—	—
Quartz Silica Products Ltd	1	—	—	—
Geol Scientific Glassworks Ltd	1	—	—	—
Radleys	2	—	—	2
Duraglass Sdn Bhd	1	—	—	—
Lycee Dorian (Paris School)	27	—	—	—

Subscribers for the BSSG Journal                      3        2        —        4

CNPIEC  
The Corning Museum of Glass  
University of Waikato Library

There are a further 3 “members” who have paid by bank transfer, but as they have not submitted any membership forms to match the payment I and the other council members do not know who they are. Their names are, Jan Williams, CJC Howell & Julie Snowden, if anyone can at AGM can help with identities and contact details it would be appreciated.

This highlights an issue with renewals as very few renewals are accompanied by completed renewal form as per the instructions on the renewal form, this leaves myself and the Hon Treasurer scrabbling around trying to match payments with members past and present.

Matthew Myles

Honorary Secretary

## **6. COUNCIL REPORT.**

Council Report to AGM 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Oulton Hall, Leeds

Due to the pandemic, there has been no face-to-face council meetings since 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the proposed meeting in May 2020 being cancelled along with the proposed 60<sup>th</sup> symposium in Harrogate.

Council has been holding virtual meeting over Zoom since then, there has been six such meetings, the first two were the normal run of the mill council meetings discussing the state of the society and ways to try and keep members actively involved with the society during the lockdowns, the four latter meeting being de-facto symposium committee meetings organising the delayed 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary symposium in Leeds.

The use of Zoom to hold meetings was a success with members not having to travel long distances and the more remote members being able to participate, it also concentrated the mind with no meeting lasting longer than one and a half hours, this also allows extra meetings to be easily organised.

Matthew Myles

Honorary Secretary

## **7. TREASURES REPORT**

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

In early 2021 the Society lost a fine Treasurer in Phil Jones who was unable to continue as Society Treasurer.

As I was on Council and had some previous experience as Treasurer, I offered to take on the role under the circumstances.

The first problem to be faced was to establish the Chairmans and my credentials with Barclays Bank Ltd. We had to fill in a vast number of forms not just once but a second time because of the Banks incompetence, eventually we gained access to the Business account and the Societies holdings, which was £4170.45

It was important that we bear in mind the cost of funding the Society Journal which was on average is £1000.00 each issue, in that the printing costs are always in the region of £700.00 and £300.00 for the postage worldwide.

As we were in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic and unable to conduct face to face meetings at both section and Council level, it has been the hard work of our editor Ian Pearson and the Journal that has kept the Society together alive and running, for that reason I and the Council have been committed to supporting the Journal wholeheartedly.

Although in early 2021 we were unable to access our Bank account and therefore unable to meet the Journal costs! Thankfully the printing firm understood our predicament and offered to accept a delay in payment.

Eventually your Chairman and I gained access to the account it was obvious that we would have a problem in meeting our running costs for the rest of the year on membership fees alone.

Later that year I became aware that the Society held a Building Society account which meant that the Chairman and myself had to once again to fill in various forms to establish our credentials.

The holdings were £6474.69, and the interest for the previous 12 months had been £ 0.19 pence! I immediately informed the Chairman that I would close the account and transfer the money to our business account to give a better working capital with which to meet all our outgoings. This brought the Bank Business account to £11.628.81

The Council has saved money by conducting their business meeting via. ZOOM.

We can now meet all our commitments which has given the Council the opportunity to guarantee payment and support for this Symposium.

I have tried on three occasions to contact the Society Accountants Dowham, Mayer & Clarke Co. by both letters and email, without success!

In January 2022 I received the society insurance bill, I contacted the National Farmers Union Insurance Company and offered to pay the premium, they refused payment as they would have to contact Phil

Jones, as he was the authorised signatory, fortunately they soon got back, and I paid the premium immediately by Phone £511.96 as I didn't want the cover to lapse.

As of today, we have met all our commitments including the Symposium hotel deposit of £2376,00 and the total accommodation bill being £ 16,059.20 Which has been Paid in full.

The Society has of today £ 9,943,08 in the Business Account.

Paul Le Pinnet

B.S.S.G. Hon. Treasurer

September 2022

*Robert McLeod asked if the total included the money raised from the auction, Paul confirmed that it did not, Robert then corrected the total monies held by the society to the region of £10,500.*

*Robert also pointed out that the hotel was very accommodating to the society in allowing us to renegotiate the contract and were very flexible in the society paying the final bill, this has allowed the society breathing room and the current situation may allow for a full symposium to be held next year.*

## **8. JOURNAL/ADVERTISING REPORT**

### **BSSG JOURNAL REPORT TO AGM 16/9/22 OULTON HALL**

**Ian Pearson – *Journal* Editor**

I am pleased to say all four issues for the year were published on time with no technical issues. The contents continue to be dominated by Alan Galls contributions about the history

of Pyrex suppliers and I for one am glad for this so big thanks Alan. As Editor I can't help myself and contribute where I can as do BSSG Chair Robert but with a tweak from me!

The Journal would not be existence if it wasn't for our advertisers and we thank GPE, Jeremy Bolton and Robson Scientific. Classified ads such as vacancy notices from Radley's and others have helped to sustain the viability of producing the Journal which on average costs £400 to produce and post to members. sscribers and legal departments.

The Journal has been used for promoting the BSSG, most notably at the International Festival of Glass in Stourbridge recently. Also referenced in a zoom presentation that Robert and I presented to members of the Contemporary Glass Society a few months ago.

The society shares Journal article with the German Society, VDG as well as Fusion from US. Indeed, the winner of the literary Prize for 2021 is for an article that originally appeared in the VDG publication. The winner of a certificate for this year's issues had an article published by the BSSG which has now been reproduced in the most recent issue of Fusion.

Finally, I thank my proof-readers Graham Reed and Alan Gall for making sure my forms and forms don't get mixed up!

The Advertising report was given verbally by Dan Jackson.

Dan thanked the companies who advertise with us and lamented that some of the biggest advertisers have been reluctant to advertise with us since they merged, he is still trying to persuade them to take out advertising in the journal, Since starting his own business Dan is struggling to give the role the attention it deserves and is looking to hand the role on, he is happy to continue at present but feels he needs support.

***Abby Mortimer*** volunteered to shadow Dan to take some pressure off him.

## 9. SECTION REPORTS

***Robert lamented the lake of section activity with only the Scottish section being active. Ian Pearson gave a verbal report of their section meetings during the year. The had a meeting in Glasgow. Depending on location some members from the North of England attend. The next meeting is 0n 21st October at the glassblowing workshop at Glasgow University.***



**10. BOARD OF EXAMINERS REPORT****BOE report to AGM****Oulton Hall****16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Since the last AGM in 2019 there has been five exams.

Jonathan Fortescue from Newcastle University sat his Elementary and Handburner exams on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019, he passed both exams with Credit, the examiner was Matthew Myles, this was the last exam to be held face to face due to the Covid pandemic.

Bristol University requested that their two trainees, Bartosz Dworzanski and Patrick Alexander sit the Elementary exam, the exam was held remotely using Microsoft Teams on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the examiner was Matthew Myles, both students achieved a pass mark.

Glasgow University's new trainee Ayako Tani sat her Glassblowing Stage one exam on the 14<sup>th</sup> July achieving a pass with Credit, again this exam was held remotely using Zoom and Matthew Myles was again the examiner.

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology has expressed an interest in their trainee undertaking the BSSG exams.

Overall the society has managed to maintain the number of exams undertaken during the pandemic by the use of online messenger services, while nothing compares to actually being present and being able to interact with the students during exams the use of online services is more than satisfactory as long as a stable link is established, this also allows for the limited number of examiners to maximise their reach as well as saving time and money on travel and accommodation.

Moving forward the society will continue to offer both face to face and online options for taking exams, the choice will be made after consultation regarding the availability of examiners and the distances involved.

Matthew Myles

BoE Chairman

The Society Chairman proposed that all reports be passed on block.

*Graham Read Western section proposed the motion.*

*Ian Pearson Scottish section seconded the motion.*

*A show of hands passed the motion.*

Steve Moher Northeast section proposed a vote of thanks to the committee.

## **11. LIBRARIANS REPORT**

*There was no report, the library remains a much-underused resource and it has not been used in the past year.*

## **12. WEB MASTER'S REPORT**

*No report*

## **13. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The Chairman is willing to stand for 1 more year but is willing to work with his replacement to ensure a smooth hand over, the Secretary is willing to stand for another year and the Treasurer is willing to stand for another year but would like someone to shadow him with a view to taking over.

*The Chairman asked if there were any volunteers from the floor to take on any of the roles.*

*Stephanie Preston North West section volunteered to shadow the treasurer.*

The officers remaining in position was.

**Proposed by:** *Ian Pearson, Scottish section.*

**Seconded by: *John Turnock, North Western section.***

***A show of hand confirmed the motion.***

Chairman: Mr Robert McLeod, Scottish Section

Hon Treasure: Mr Paul LePinnet, North West Section

Hon Secretary: Mr Matthew Myles, East Anglia Section

#### **14. DECLARATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

The Following officers were elected to the office for 2023.

Journal Editor:	Ian Pearson, Scottish section
Advertising Manager:	Dan Jackson, North East
Librarian:	Terri Adams, TV section
Webmaster:	Sean Taylor, Scottish section.

***Ian told the AGM that Fred Porter sends his best wishes to the Society.***

***The Chairman informed the AGM that Ian was nominated by the Heritage Craft Association as Volunteer of the Year and that he has made the short list of three.***

#### **15. FUTURE SYMPOSIUMS**

***The Chairman would like to hold another Symposium next year if possible, details would be published in Januarys Journal, he thanked the overseas members for their continued support.***

#### **16. ANY OTHER BUISNESS**

***There was no business to discuss.***

***The Chairman thanked the delegates for attending and the Symposium committee.***

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS MARKED**

**DATE**.....

**SIGNED**.....

**NAME IN CAPITALS**.....

**SIGNED**.....

**NAME IN CAPITALS**.....