



## Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 10th September 2016 at BioChem Glass Ltd, Bucks.

**Present:**        **Chairman**        -        **Will Fludgate**  
                     **Hon Secretary** -        **Terri Adams**  
                     **Hon Treasurer Elect** - **Phil Jones**  
                     **Plus 8-**                **Society Members**

The Chairman, Will Fludgate welcomed members to the 56th Annual General Meeting of the BSSG . The Chairman then asked if everyone has copies of all reports and thanked everyone for attending. Following this, the Chairman advised they would go through the items on the Agenda as printed and that members should all have a copy of the minutes , if not, spare copies were available.

### 1.        **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Fred Porter – Western Section, Ian Pearson – Scottish Section, Chas Butler- TV  
Steve Moehr – NE Section

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

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting

Held on 12th September 2015 at Your University.

The Chairman asked members to read the Minutes page by page and the Minutes were accepted.

It was agreed that it was not necessary for any amendment to be made to the minutes.

Proposed by: Matthew Myles, EA Section

Seconded by: Brian Moore, TV Section

**The Chairman then signed the minutes.**

### 3.        **MATTERS ARISING**

None

### 4.        **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Thank you everyone in attendance, just a brief last report from me today. I first joined the BSSG just over forty years ago and have been the chairman for the past seven years. I've overseen a period of change and I'm really happy to be leaving the position in its current situation, stable and with focus, although I'm well aware that it is the efforts of all the Council members that got us here, including the Board of Examiners. The change that has happened in the last seven years is more to do with the social media that surrounds us all. To name a few, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and many other outlets that allows instant information at your fingertips. When I first became the chairman, social media was in its infancy, just like the time when I became the Societies Secretary in the early nineties and I had to invest in a new computer and get everything onto floppy discs, remember those things? I was told that

was the way to go as we will be using the computer for almost everything. How right were we back then?

So what's it been like as the Chairman in that time? Placing the chain of office around my neck was a symbolic thank you to my mentors Alex Kovacs and Cecil Cullingford, they believed in me, they made me work hard, to make work easy later on in life. Also, I had to carry on the work from our previous chairman, Ian Pearson, and to try and keep things rolling just as he would have done as well, I just hope that I fulfilled his wishes. I have met with MP's, corporate business people, celebrities and ordinary people all interested in our work as scientific glassblowers and the Society that I am so proud to be a member of. Visiting overseas workshops to see trainees at their best; presenting medals to winners of a prestige competition that was awarded by the President of France; attending and speaking at a German Symposium and helping out with some on hands training with students over there. These are just some of the good times, and I have so many more, that I don't wish to bore you with.

You may well ask what the bad times were for me, all I can say to that is, not meeting up as often with fellow glassblowers from past and present. Cancelling a symposium, through no fault of our own on two occasions and this AGM is being held here today, is a result of one of those occasions. I have many thanks to share with you today, for the help from our previous chairman Ian Pearson and also for keeping the Journal up and running as the editor.

I have three secretaries to thank, Willie McCormack when I first took up the office, Terri Adams who has been a stalwart and kept me up to date with matters concerning our Society and of course Johanne Fludgate for cracking the whip in all matters BSSG and work related issues.

Then we have the financial side of matters, the bit that nobody likes to do, Dan Jackson and Phil Jones have kept us on the straight and narrow and I would like to thank you guys as well.

It doesn't stop there; we have the Board of Examiners and their chairmen, Steve Moehr, Brian Moore and Matthew Myles for the work done and working with you to update the exam papers (with Terri's input as well) and for the work done with Robert McCloud to investigate the formalisation of the exams and I must not forget the council members, who attend meetings and help the rest of us keep things rolling along and finally all those members who throughout my seven years as Chairman have put together our Symposiums.

As I hand over the chain of office to a new chairman today, it would have been nice to do so at a symposium with many more friends attending. It's not always been easy sitting in this chair but the best challenges always have their ups as well as downs. I've enjoyed every minute that I've been here and I hope my successor can take the BSSG on to even greater heights. We have great challenges and great opportunities, and with your help, we will meet them and make this next year the best year in our history!

I will close with an old hunting story from Scotland...

Mac and Scott are out hunting in the Highlands and they shoot a deer. They begin dragging the deer back to the truck by the tail, but they keep slipping and losing both their grip and their balance.

A farmer comes along and asks them, "What are you lads doing?"

They reply, "We're dragging the deer back to the truck."

The farmer tells them, "You are not supposed to drag a deer by the tail. You're supposed to drag the deer by the handles. They're called antlers. You're supposed to drag a deer by the antlers."

Mac and Scott say, "Thank you very much for the idea."

They begin pulling the deer by the antlers. After about five minutes, they are making rapid progress. Mac says to Scott, “Scott, the farmer was right. It goes a lot easier by the antlers.”

Scott replies, “Yeah, but we’re getting further and further from the truck.”

How is that relevant to the BSSG?

“The majority of people in life are pulling the easy way, but they are getting further and further from the ‘truck’ or their real goals and objectives.”

I believe we have things right, we pull together and we need to show the way for the future and if that means helping out the new Chairman, I will be there by their side.

I thank you.

William Fludgate FBSSG  
Chairman BSSG

## 5. SECRETARY’S REPORT

Comments from Secretary: The security of the Society is looking increasingly vulnerable as membership continues to decline.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>		
<b><u>Total Members for 2016</u></b>	<b>114</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>175</b>		
<u>New Members for 2016</u>	2	9	7	22		
<u>Members not renewed for 2016</u>	17	23	38	40		
<u>Members by Section with Contact name</u>						
EA	East Anglia	Will Fludgate	29	31	35	38
M	Midlands		5	16	16	16
NE	North East		10	8	15	17
NW	North West	Paul LePinnet	12	15	13	14
O	Overseas	Kon Kraft	19	21	25	44
S	Southern		4	5	5	5
Sc	Scottish	Ian Pearson	9	9	11	10
TV	Thames Valley	Lee Mulholland	15	15	14	17
W	Western	Phil Jones	7	7	5	8
			<u>110</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>169</u>
<u>Members by type</u>						
	Members (Full)		48	53	63	65
	Retired Members		26	22	18	22
	Honorary Life member		2	2	2	2
	Student Members ( inc. Corp Students)		14	14	17	37
	Corporate Members		16	30	35	37
	Associate Members		4	6	4	6
	Subscribers		4	4	6	6
			<u>114</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>175</u>

<u>Companies with Corporate membership</u>	<b><u>6</u></b>
Hampshire (R&D) Glassware Ltd	4
Smith Scientific Ltd,	4
Enterprise Q	8
Biochem Glass (Apparatus) Ltd,	3
Jaytec	4
Radleys	3
<u>Subscribers for the BSSG Journal</u>	<b><u>4</u></b>
University of Waikato Library	
Swets Blackwell LTD	
China National Publications	
BP Chemicals Ltd	

Thank you to all our Corporate members and subscribers for their continued support. As I am stepping down as Hon. Secretary, I'd like to thank members of Council and BoE for their support, cooperation and friendship over the last 6 years!

**Terri Adams**

Hon. Secretary

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **2015 Accounts Report:**

**Bank Interest:** Interest income is up from 2014 despite low interest rates.

**Symposium:** Although there was no Symposium in 2015 the accountant brought the 2014 Symposium figures in to the accounts to balance some anomalies.

**BoE:** This shows a healthy income as several exams took place and syllabi purchased.

**Journal:** The Journal shows a significant loss. Having taken on the accounts midway through the year I find this difficult to account for. I proffer that perhaps not all advertisers were invoiced but due to VERY sketchy records I inherited for this period I have nothing to back this up. I propose we have to accept this as a learning experience!

**Training Fees:** This relates to income/expenses for quartz training that Robert McLeod and Robert Marshall held in Malta. This resulted in a surplus for the BSSG.

**Merchandise:** There were no sales of t-shirts etc.

#### **Page 3:**

**Stationary and postage general administration:** Costs reduced to due greater correspondence via email.

**Library:** No loans or purchases so nothing to show.

**Travel Expenses:** Although travel expenses for Council/BoE was reduced overall there was an increase in expenses due to the costs incurred meeting with SQA in Scotland.

**Insurance:** The renewal of the insurance shows a small increase in the premium

**Accountant's fees:** This is the charge for preparing the 2015 accounts by the accountants as seen below.

**Miscellaneous expenses:** Presentation to Abigail Storey for her help in arranging the York AGM.

**Net for year:** Despite the losses on the Journal, due to BoE income and monies carried over from the 2014 Symposium there was a surplus on the year. There was no tax to pay.

### **2016 to Date:**

A big concern is the fall in membership and hence income from that stream. Although this does result in reduced Journal print and postage costs! We've had more income from advertisers compared to 2015 and interest continues to be shown in BSSG exams.

As at 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 our accounts had the following amounts:

Community: £3,224.14

Scottish Widows: £6,459.41

Symposium Account: £8,587.47

I propose the auditors Downham Mayer Clarke & Co with the approval of Council.

So, on behalf of Council, I ask members to:

1. To ratify the accounts before you.
2. To approve that Downham Mayer Clarke & Co. be elected to continue as the Society Auditors.

Philip Jones  
BSSG Hon. Treasurer

**The Treasurer read through his report and a draft of the accounts were circulated and made available for review by the membership. The Treasurer commented that the Society main account would remain at Barclays as the proposed new bank had thus far failed to satisfy our requirement. Also, Barclays was a more convenient choice with a local branch close to the Treasurer.**

## **7. ELECTION OF AUDITORS**

The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder for the election of Downham Morris Mayer and Co. Stockport, Cheshire as the society auditors

**Proposed by:** Lee Mullholland, TV section

**Seconded by:** Robert McLeod, Scottish Section

## **8. REPORT OF COUNCIL**

In November 2015 BSSG representatives met once again with the Scottish Qualifications authority and representatives from South Lanarkshire College to further investigate the accreditation process for the BSSG Board of Examiners Examination Syllabus. Whilst working to progress/review the proposed application it became apparent that owing in the most to the time needed in training/practice to complete the proposed modules, that the single exam application would not be sufficient. BSSG would need to complete and submit an application for each existing syllabi and the proposed additional quartz syllabi all of which had previously been proposed as each being a unit module for one single progressive qualification. This revelation effectively quadrupled the work necessary to complete any application and further complicated the quotation process to establish an overall estimated cost. It was agreed that help would necessary to undertake this work, and equally significant efforts have to be made to generate funding to facilitate the application process. In light of these factors and with the change of two Executive Officers due at AGM 2016 it was agreed that the application process should be paused and the fundraising prioritised.

TA. BSSG Hon. Sec

## SGT/BSSG 2016 Symposium Report

After Meeting the SGT in November 2015 we were invited to collaborate in their Centenary conference. Julia Malle and I were asked to join the local organising committee for the conference which we both accepted to do.

During the November meeting we discussed the different ways that the BSSG could take part in the conference possible lectures and demonstrations. I asked at this time if we would be allowed to demonstrate at the venue keen that the demonstrations should be an integrated part of the event. I asked if there was a contact that I could speak to with regards to this, I was told that the SGT would discuss this with the venue and it was made clear that I shouldn't go directly myself. To the end of the meeting we were told that there would be another meeting in December.

I am not sure whether there was indeed a meeting in December but the next one I was invited to take part in was February. The SGT were keen to get information on what on the content of the program we were offering I gave a brief outline of the plan we had, which was a day of demonstration from various BSSG members and a couple of proposed lectures to complement the program. They also pressed to find out what sort of numbers of delegates we would be bringing to the conference. I pointed out that we had initially advertised the event in the January journal but needed to get confirmation on whether we could do demonstrations at the event as this was pivotal in our program and would go a long way to promoting our involvement. Without which I couldn't determine the interest in the event.

In the following weeks I was pushed via email to confirm the program and delegate numbers via email. To which I pressed for the information needed from the venue with regards demonstrations but without being able to contact the venue directly my hands were tied. To make matters worse the emails I sent to the SGT went unanswered unless I included their Chairman Professor Richard Hand and then they seemed to take a while to be answered. When I got a response to the question of Demonstrations I was told that if BSSG delegate numbers were not high enough the SGT would not guarantee to cover the costs of the demonstrations. I pointed out that we were losing time to effectively advertise a program of events without the necessary confirmation.

Only when BSSG Chairman William Fludgate intervened with an email sent In March telling the SGT that the BSSG would have to pull out of the event if we didn't get confirmation that our demonstration program could take place at the venue. The SGT finally organised a meeting with the venue staff and myself to discuss what was needed and whether it was viable. This took place on the day of the deadline William had set March 24<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately the relevant member of staff needed to sign off on the event was not available. We were told however that they thought it would be possible we just needed another meeting the following working day March 29<sup>th</sup> day with the right person. So I went along to this meeting too, only to be told that the person who came could not alone give consent and that they needed another person to confirm! At this point Mr Ian Pearson had to send out the April addition of the BSSG journal due to advertising commitments so took it on trust that all would go through with little formality and sent out the advertising information. At the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March I was told that they though it should be alright to do demonstrations but the member of staff who came to the meeting had to get her supervisors permission. Later that day I received an email giving permission and a list of criteria to fulfil. This included multiple risk assessments from both BSSG and Sheffield University Chemistry department. This was the straw that broke the camel's back, it was felt that the demand for so much H&S information would only add confusion to the event and as such would not make for a safe event. This on top of the lack of enthusiasm, communication and

commitment from the SGT to involve the BSSG lead us to believe the event would not be all we hoped.

Daniel Jackson

BSSG Symposium Rep.

**The Chairman expressed Council disappointment at having to cancel yet another proposed BSSG symposium. Yet again the matters arising had been beyond our control. We are extremely grateful to Daniel Jackson, our man on the ground, for his sterling effort and resolve in trying to negotiate on behalf of BSG. Council have already started enquiries to do our best to secure a Symposium or at the very least a special event in 2017.**

## **9. JOURNAL & ADVERTISING REPORT**

### **Journal Report**

It has been a relatively trouble free year for producing the BSSG *Journal* although July's issue was delayed due to the Printer collating all the pages in reverse requiring a total re print. The savings on printing costs are purely due to lower numbers of copies for each issue being printed. From a maximum of 450 at one time to now of 200. One can read (pun intended) this as a positive in saving money or a negative in less BSSG Members.

Content of issues has traditionally suffered from lack of input from members and this continues. We have of course regular contributors but new faces either by being persuaded to submit or being proactive always welcome if only to restrict the space available for ramblings by the BSSG Editor!

The Editorial Board has chosen this year's winner of the Lucy Oldfield Cup, the BSSG Literary Prize. The recipient is Konstantin Kraft and he has been informed of this decision. Kon apologies for not attending the AGM to collect his Award but he is at the VDG Symposium.

The advertising aspect will be dealt with in a separate report from Graham.

A big thank you as always to Graham Reed and Alan Gall for carrying out proof reading duties.

**Ian Pearson,  
BSSG JOURNAL EDITOR**

### **Advertising Manager's Report**

I am pleased to report that the major sponsors and advertisers of the Society and Journal, have maintained their submissions into each edition of the journal.

There has been a modest use of the Journal and website for Job vacancies.

I have contacted a few potential advertisers who as yet, have not submitted any copy.

It may be a benefit to seek some 'advertorial' articles. I mentioned the idea to some well-known firms but will need to pursue the concept.

I am content to continue in the role of AD-Man! If no one else is ready to step forward!

My thanks to Terri and William for your stalwart support of the British Society of Scientific Glassblowers

Best wishes to everyone at the AGM

Graham Reed  
Advertising Manager

## 10. BOARD OF EXAMINERS

Since the last report to the AGM in York Terri and myself have travelled up to Scotland meeting up with Robert McLeod to have a meeting with the SQA about furthering the BoE syllabus, the meeting was productive but has created a lot of work to make our syllabus compliant with the SQA's criteria.

Since the meeting the project has been placed on the back burner due to the SQA deciding that each part of the syllabus should be submitted as a standalone exam which would require significant funding that the society cannot hope to meet. Also, as Britain has voted to leave the EU the validity of SQA (Scottish Qualification Authority) exams as an EU recognised qualification is a grey area at present especially as the Scottish government is talking about independence.

On the exam front there was a request from Radley's for one candidate to take the elementary exam; the candidate achieved a pass with distinction George Burton from Queens University Belfast has expressed an interest in an exam pack with the intention of putting his trainee through the exams starting with the elementary & hand burner exams.

Conor Howell-Bennett from Nottingham University sat his bench stage 2 exam and achieved a pass; he also sat the Lathe stage one and achieved a pass.

Finally Queensland University have shown an interest in their trainee Jarred sitting his Certificate of Competence, Keith Holden to be the examiner supported by an in-house invigilator that the BoE feels is suitable we are awaiting the information on the proposed invigilator before arranging the exam.

Matthew Myles  
BoE Chairman

## 11. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

No written report.

The library continues to receive copies of Fusion, VDG, Glass-Sci. Our thanks go out to the respective societies for their much valued contributions.

**TA commented that demand on leading was certainly on the decline, one book title only and on DVD's.**

Terri Adams  
Society Librarian

## 12. WEBMASTER'S REPORT



No Report.

Council continues to liaise with the Web Master to update the web page.

The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder for the Reports.

Proposed by: Alan Howell, EA Section  
Seconded by: Paul Le Pinnet, NW Section

### 13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- (i) CHAIRMAN  
Mr Robert McLeod, Scottish Section.
- (ii) HON SECRETARY  
Vacant
- (iii) HON TREASURER  
Mr Philip Jones, Western Section.

**Proposed by:** George Robertshaw , EA Section  
**Seconded by:** Matthew Myles, EA Section

**As there were two gentlemen candidates for the role of Society Chairman, a vote was taken in the absence of the candidates. Both candidates received support; However Robert McLeod was the successful candidate. Membership would like to thank both gentlemen for their interest in the role. Disappointingly there were no candidates for the Hon. Secretary role so it will remain vacant. Until the role can be filled, all enquiries will be directed to the Society Chairman, Robert McLeod.**

### 14. DECLARATION OF APPOINTMENTS

**The following members were elected to office for 2016**

Journal Editor:	Mr Ian Pearson, Sc Section
Advertising Manager:	Mr Graham Reed, W Section
Librarian:	Terri Adams, TV Section
Webmaster:	Sean Taylor, Sc Section

**The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder the declaration of appointments.**

**Proposed by:** Johanne Fludgate, EA Section  
**Seconded by:** Brian Moore, TV Section

### 15. SYMPOSIUM

Every effort will be made to host a Symposium in 2017. Council will be reviewing options to progress with a venue and format for the proposed 2017 symposium at the next Council in November.

### 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- SQA Application Funding –

Robert McLeod informed Council that he with the support of his employers would be embarking upon a fundraising champagne to hopefully cover the funding of preparing and processing the SQA accreditation application. It is hoped a more detailed report might be available in time for the November Council meeting.

**MINUTES ACCEPTED AS MARKED**

**DATE**.....

**SIGNED**.....

**NAME IN CAPS**.....

**SIGNED**.....

**NAME IN CAPS**.....