

Yorkshire branch AGM Minutes

10 November 2018
University of Bradford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Sohan Jeeta, Fiona Real
2. **RSB address:** Professor Nigel Brown, as Chair of the College of Individual Members on the RSB Committee, addressed the ADG (and also attended the Annual Symposium). He commented favourably on the social media activity emanating from the Yorkshire Branch and also discussed current RSB policy. The Yorkshire Branch has >900 members, but the problem of targeting members in particular institutions has become difficult since the introduction of GDPR. Members also discussed difficulties in contacting schools. News from London included a celebration for Jane Magill who will be leaving, the new three year strategy 2019-2022 and that the RSB will be moving out of Charles Darwin house.
3. **Minutes of the AGM held 11th November 2017 and matters arising:** As the previous AGM had not been quorate, there were no matters arising.
4. **Chair/secretary report:** There was a brief report of the year's activities since the last AGM. This included the Frontiers of Science II meeting on Astrobiology organised by Sohan Jeeta (sponsored jointly by the Astrobiology Society of Britain, The Royal Astrobiology Society, The Royal Society of Biology and the Royal Society of Chemistry) that was held in Leeds on March 10th 2018. Professor Val Randall attended this meeting, which was held at KPMG and reported that the venue was good and the meeting very successful (with ~110 delegates). It was noted that the meeting over-ran slightly, and Chris Collins agreed to amend the "housekeeping" document for the next meeting to ensure that this wasn't repeated.

There was also a successful and interesting joint RSC/RSB talk in York on the 25th April 2018, following suggestion by Clive Tiney given by Dr Muyiwa Akintoye's (Research & Development Quorn Foods, Yorkshire) - '*From Lab to Factory - Industrialisation of laboratory research, the Quorn Foods story*'.

The proposed summer outing to Lotherton Hall did not take place following difficulties liaising with staff at the venue.

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5. **Treasurer's report:** The bank account is now held centrally by the RSB.
6. **Election of Branch Officers 2018-19:** Dr Lynda Partridge was formally nominated and accepted as Chair (Professor Val Randall, the previous Chair, is now Vice-Chair). Graham Bonwick was formally nominated and accepted as Treasurer, following Clive Tiney's decision to stand down. Chris Collins remains on the Committee as Archivist and has responsibility for CPD. Danae Dodge was welcomed to the Committee as Social Activity Officer. Dr Steve Picksley (Secretary) announced his decision to stand down. Clive Tiney and Steve Picksley were thanked for their previous services to the Branch. Nominees for the post of Secretary are now being sought.
7. **Election of Branch Committee 2018-19:** New nominees Dr Emma Jones, Dr Tayyebah Vafae, Jamie Maloney and Dr Richard Reece-Jones were accepted and welcomed to the branch Committee.
8. **AOB.** Members were told that the next Frontiers of Science Meeting would again be held at KPMG in Leeds on the 16th of March 2019.

There will also be another RSC/RS talk in York (date tbc). The problems of finding suitable venues and staff to liaise with for Summer Outings was discussed. The possibility of holding next year's Summer Outing at a site run by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust was raised.

A social media update was given by Danae. Currently we have ~40 followers on Facebook and 180 on Twitter. Engagement on Facebook had gone up from 10% during Sept-Oct 2018 to 33% during Oct-Nov 2018.