

Registered Charity Number: 213620
Mansion House, Chiswell Green Lane, St Albans. AL2 3NS

Meeting Date	9 th September 2024	Time:	13:30 (BST)
Location	Hybrid, University of Liverpool ENTO24		
Present	Prof. Jane Stout (JS) – President Elect & Chair <i>In attendance:</i> 63 (Fellows & Members) in person 11 (Fellows & Members) online		

Agenda & Minutes

ITEM 1	<u>Welcome</u>
ITEM 2	<u>Minute of Remembrance</u> The President led a minute of silence to pay tribute to deceased Fellows and Members.
ITEM 3 (JH)	<u>Minutes of the AGM held on 05.09.2023</u> The minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on 5 th September 2023, as available online, were approved.
ITEM 4 (GA)	<u>Proposal: Auditors</u> The fellows and members were asked to vote on the following resolution. To reappoint Knox Cropper LLP (Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor) as the Auditors of the Society in respect of the financial year ending 28th February 2025 and until the next general meeting, and to authorise Council to set their remuneration. The vote took place online using Zoom Webinar & a raise of hands for votes present at ENTO24. The President Elect explained that it was an ordinary resolution requiring a simple majority of more than 50% of the votes cast to be in favour.
ITEM 5	<u>Proposal: Amendments to byelaws</u> Some minor changes to the byelaws were proposed to reflect current working practice of the Society and proposed changes to the Vice President role. The vote took place online using Zoom Webinar & a raise of hands for votes present at ENTO24. The President Elect explained that it was an ordinary resolution requiring a simple majority of more than 50% of the votes cast to be in favour.
ITEM 6	<u>President's Report</u> JS delivered the president's report on behalf of Jane Hill. JS reported two trustees were standing down, Prof. Adam Hart (Vice President and Chair of Outreach Committee) & Prof. Lynn Dicks (Chair of Science, Policy and Society Committee). JS expressed her thanks for their contribution to the Society and their fantastic work.

	<p>JS has been involved with the Royal Entomological Society (RES) for over ten years, when ENTO15 was hosted in Dublin. The RES and the ENTO conference have evolved over these ten years with its growth in membership, outreach and events. JS said it has been an honour to see more early-career entomologists, exhibitors, posters celebrating insect science.</p> <p>The growth of ENTO reflects on what is happening within the RES over the years. The RES has seen a growth in its membership, staff team, Trustees as well as volunteer support and expressed her thanks to everyone who continues to support the RES.</p> <p>In 2023/2024 the RES launched two new committees: (1) Education and Training and (2) Science, Policy and Society. In addition the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee was launched in June 2024. While this committee does not fall into the 2023/2024 reporting period, It is great to see key strategic changes being reflected in the structure of the RES.</p> <p>Some of the highlights for 2023/2024 were that the Chelsea Flower Show Garden had been relocated to Stratford Cross in London offering new educational opportunities. The student forum is going from the strength to strength giving opportunities to develop, learn and share knowledge. The addition of the Business Development and Fundraising Manager has enabled the RES to develop new ways to of supporting various programmes.</p> <p>RES publications had been developing and JS thanked staff and editors for all their hard work. JS stated that there were challenges with changes to the publishing landscape and encouraged members to publish their work in RES journals.</p> <p>JS concluded that it was an exciting time for the RES and an opportune time for her in her role of President to oversee the change happening with the new three-year strategy being developed to continue to move the RES forward. JS thanked Prof. Helen Roy MBE and Prof. Jane Hill OBE as former Presidents for their contribution to the RES as well as all the membership, staff and Trustees.</p>
<p>ITEM 7</p>	<p><u>Annual Report</u></p> <p>Simon Ward, CEO of the Royal Entomological Society presented highlights from the Annual Report for 2023/2024. This is available online to download and view.</p> <p>A summary of the major activities conducted by the RES was given, including some of the decisions taken by Council and the various committees. Top-level analysis included membership data, meetings, outreach activities, publishing, conservation & library.</p> <p>The first RES strategy was launched in and had now completed the second year.</p> <p><u>Strategic Priority One – Support the study and practice of insect science.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals saw a 5% increase in submissions and 48% of articles published open access. • New publisher contract with CABI for the sale of RES Handbooks. • Submission of written evidence to call for evidence on insect decline and food security. Nine fellows supported the Society through different institutions. In the final report, RES evidence was referenced eight times.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest conference ever at ENTO23 with 23 Special Interest Groups, Talks and other events. • £100K of funding gained for conservation science including Daneway Banks across Somerset and Gloucestershire, conservation of Large Blue Butterfly. Working in other parts of Europe carrying on our conservation work. • New grants and awards had been introduced. These include new higher education bursaries, small project grants, and awards in academia and industry. <p><u>Strategic Priority Two – Increase public understanding of insect science.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May 2023, the RES had a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. Over 130,000 people attend the flower show. This gave the RES an opportunity to speak with members of the Royal Family, Politicians and other decision makers raising the profile of the RES. • RES attended the Big Bang Fair and New Scientist Live. • The RES sponsored the European Congress of Entomology in Heraklion, Greece. <p><u>Strategic Priority Three – Empower and support the entomological community.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RES conducted an Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) survey of the membership to understand where we need to focus and support further. The RES is seeing increased gender balance within the membership however, there is more to do. • A new committee to support the work around EDI was approved and they had their first meeting in June 2024. • Membership has grown by 40% since 2021 with members in 74 countries. • Student Forum is growing year on year, great opportunity for students to take part and see great presentations, posters and thanks was given to the student reps who do so much to help build this community. • New Associate Membership and Organisational Membership grades were introduced. <p><u>Strategic Priority Four – Invest in our workforce and infrastructure.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RES continues to progress the relocation of the Head Office. • In 2023/2024 the RES was accredited with the Fundraising Regulator. • The RES continue to develop partnerships and collaborations. • The RES Insect Garden has relocated to Stratford Cross in London. This will be the permanent home from the garden. • Continuing efforts to diversify our income to not rely solely on Publications. • 'Insects' book has launched, with thanks to the 89 fellows and members as authors. • The new 'Insectarium' book was launching in two weeks.
ITEM 8	<p><u>Financial Report</u></p> <p>Attendees were led through the accounts by Dr Gia Aradottir, Treasurer.</p> <p>At the end of the last financial year, income had increased by approx. £70k partly due to the diversification of income. It was reported that with changes to the publication landscape, staff and trustees have been working on diversification of income. Key income sources were reported: Publication income 60%, Grants & Donations 17%, Investment Income 15%.</p>

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	<p>There had been a new tendering process for the management of the RES investment portfolio. This was now being managed by Barclays Private Bank. The portfolio has been performing well in this financial year.</p> <p>Expenditure had increased as the RES had invested in people which increased impact across the Society's key strategic areas. ENTO has evolved in recent years with more people now attending the RES annual conference. Membership had grown due to increased activities.</p> <p>GA reported that the Finance Committee continued to stay up to date with governance, regularly reviewing the risk register and reserves policy to demonstrate good governance.</p> <p>Gia expressed her thanks to the RES Staff, Steven Lee (Director of Finance & Operations), Committee Members, Fellows and Members for their continued support.</p>
ITEM 8	<p><u>Results of Voting</u></p> <p>Knox Cropper Auditors approval for financial year 2024/25 – approved</p> <p>Total votes cast – 54</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 yes • 0 no • 1 abstain <p>Amendments to Byelaws:</p> <p>Total votes cast – 57</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 yes • 0 no • 0 abstain
ITEM 9	<p><u>Trustee Elections</u></p> <p>Prof. Adam Hart and Prof. Lynn Dicks were stepping down from their trustee roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Hayley Jones was elected as a Trustee and Chair of Outreach Committee • Prof. Michael Bonsall was elected as Trustee and Chair of Science, Policy & Society Committee. <p>Prof. Jane Hill will move role from President to Past President. Prof. Jane Stout will move from President Elect to President. Prof. Seirian Sumner will take on the role of Vice President for next two years.</p>
ITEM 10	<p><u>Date of Next AGM</u></p> <p>Date TBC at Ento25</p>

<p>SIGNED:</p> <p>NAME</p> <p>Title</p>	
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