



**RSPSoc Office**  
c/o The School of Geography  
The University of Nottingham  
University Park  
Nottingham NG7 2RD UK

Telephone: +44 (0) 115 9515435  
Facsimile: +44 (0) 115 9515249  
Email: [rspsoc@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:rspsoc@nottingham.ac.uk)  
<http://www.rspsoc.org>

## MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006, 5.40 pm, The Auditorium, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

The Hon. Gen. Secretary, P Mason, opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

The attendance of the AGM is recorded in Annex 1.

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: A Cracknell, M Cooper, K Anderson, T Wicks, D Rhind, D Boyd, J Elder, C Power, P Selmes, R Teeuw, D Holland, R Gaulton, P Miller and P Mather.

### **2 Adoption of the Agenda**

*It was proposed by P Mason that the Agenda be adopted. M Cutler seconded this and all were in favour.*

### **3 Approval of the 2005 AGM Minutes**

The Chairman, S Marsh, requested any comments on the 2005 Minutes; there were none. The 2005 Minutes were then signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Annual Review and Accounts**

P Mason reported on this item and gave an overview of changes to Council membership during the review period, which are as follows:

#### *5.1 Changes to Council Membership*

1. C Power and A Smart stepped down as Trustees, as did J Finch and I Downey;
2. Four new Trustees were elected: D Holland, S Lavender, R Teeuw and P Zukowskyj;
3. C O'Shea stepped down as Student Representative and the two new Student representatives were R Gaulton and P Miller.

Finally, K Laughton and the RSPSoc office were thanked for their work throughout the year.

## 5.2 Chairman's Report

S Marsh reported on the three areas of strategic priority within the reporting period: External Affairs (particularly the consolidation of the mechanisms to give the RSPSoc a voice at UK, European and International level), the RSPSoc Annual Conference Series and Membership.

### **External Affairs:**

*International Level.* The RSPSoc is the UK's affiliating body to the ISPRS; Prof I Dowman is the current ISPRS President. Society collaboration with RICS and ICES is ensured since they share the annual ISPRS affiliation fee with RSPSoc and sit on the ISPRS Committee. D Donoghue attended ISPRS Committee meetings as the UK's EARSel Council member. EuroSDR also attend. There are currently eight UK Chairs of ISPRS Working Groups; members were encouraged to become involved in ISPRS activities. The next ISPRS Congress will be held in Beijing in 2008 and there may be a UK bid for a Technical Commission at that Congress.

*European Level.* The RSPSoc enjoyed good relations with EARSel and through them with other sister societies in Europe. It was noted that EARSel had improved relations with ESA during the review period. A successful, joint session was held during EARSel's 2006 Symposium in Warsaw. Other joint sessions were planned on landslides (2007) and earthquakes (2008).

*UK Level.* The RSPSoc is active within the UKGeoForum, which is an active framework for cooperation amongst 12 UK organisations with overlapping interests in geography. These organisations cover a wide range of subject areas and provide the potential for future synergies. D Spackman, of Map Action, gave the first annual lecture of UKGeoForum in January 2006 at the RICS, the topic of which was their response to the tsunami of December 2005 and other, recent disasters. D Williams, the Director General of the BNSC, had agreed to give a lecture in 2007.

### **The RSPSoc Annual Conference Series:**

RSPSoc2005 in Portsmouth had been very successful as regards technical content, Exhibition and collaboration with NERC, ISPRS and the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). An ongoing conference series is already in place for the next few years: RSPSoc2007 (Newcastle University), RSPSoc2008 (Exeter University). There is also a longer term programme under discussion: a provisional offer has been received from Leicester for 2009, and a tentative offer for 2010.

Collaboration with Informa (the events arm of Taylor & Francis) began this summer (for a trial period of 1 year) with the aim of the opening the annual conference to a wider commercial audience. Through this relationship, the Society is guaranteed organisational assistance, a percentage of conference gross income and no financial risk in doing so. The relative merits and pitfalls of this relationship will be assessed following RSPSoc2006, and a decision on future collaboration will be made soon after.

**Membership:**

Membership was generally static. It is hoped that the new website will attract new members.

It was noted that the GRSG, OCSIG, NAPLIB and ARCHSIG Special Interest Groups were active and that SARSIG and MATSIG were being revived. Two new SIGs had been formed during the reporting period, namely the LIDAR and VEG SIGs, and it was noted that two further SIGs, UAVs and CAL VAL, were at an early stage of development.

*5.3 Hon. Treasurer's Report*

The Hon. Treasurer, R Taft, reported and referred members to the Accounts, with particular reference to:

*Income and Expenditure*

It was noted that last year's forecast, of smaller surplus income from one-day meetings and annual conference, had been realized. There had been no income from covenants. Although £8,415 had been received from the ISPRS, it was noted that this was a restricted fund only to be used for ISPRS expenditure as agreed by the ISPRS Committee. Royalty income was noted as being healthy, but subscription income remained unchanged. Income from meetings and subscriptions will therefore need to be addressed in the near future.

As regards expenditure, there had been an increase in office administration costs, Council and Committee expenses. The latter will be scrutinized further. There was some decrease in the costs of journal production and £15,000 had been allocated in accruals for the new website project. There had been an overall increase in expenditure, which must now be addressed. The asset value of the Society was given as £250,000.

R Taft then asked for questions from Society members. C Nicklin raised the issue of a noted £3,000 anomaly (deficit), which R Taft explained. J Chandler queried the lack of income from one-day meetings; an issue that he suggested should be addressed. M Williams explained that there had been no meetings to equal the success of the BGS Laser Scanning meeting of 2004, which had generated a large surplus largely because the venue had been provided free of charge. S Marsh indicated that an inaugural LiDAR SIG meeting, held at the OS this year, was run on a similar basis, but with no registration fee, and thus it had made no surplus. It was noted that there seemed to be, in general, fewer opportunities for surplus-generating meetings, whereas in past years total surpluses had ranged between £2,500 and £3,500 per year. It is hoped that this trend can be reversed.

S Marsh reminded members that, despite RSPSoc2005 being a successful scientific, technical and social meeting, its surplus was as little as £500. It is expected that RSPSoc2006 will generate a surplus for the Society since the only costs will be those of the Nottingham office, which are covered in the budget. Informa, who will pay RSPSoc 10% of all revenue whether or not the meeting makes a surplus, is taking all financial risk.

D Ireson asked whether registration charges would be increased in the event of a loss. R Taft indicated that this was possible. S Marsh informed members that attempts were being made to increase sponsorship and thereby keep registration costs as low as possible. S Marsh informed members that M Bond (Director, Informa) was aware that the format of the Commercial Sessions at RSPSoc2006 in Cambridge had not been a success. This will be reviewed and changed for future conferences. Inputs from members were welcome.

J Drummond suggested that if one-day meetings were no longer successful generators of revenue then perhaps other ways should be explored, especially since all universities are now required to make profits from the hosting of meetings. R Taft suggested that such ideas should be sent to M Williams, Convener of the Technical Programme Committee. S Marsh appealed to members to become more involved in the running of the Society by joining one of the Committees.

P Aplin commented that the Society was actively considering several additional income streams, via the Annual Conference and the new website. It was also hoped that members could be encouraged to advertise in the Newsletter, or one of the journals, and thus contribute to Society income. S Marsh appealed to all members to consider how to improve the income stream and some discussion followed; user-group workshops held within the annual meeting was one such idea.

P Aplin gave a brief overview of the decline in membership numbers since 2001 and the possible explanations for this. It was hoped that the lapsed members (72) could be encouraged to renew their membership. Since S Marsh became Chairman, considerable effort has been put into establishing why memberships are not renewed. It was noted that some Student members move away from this discipline, after graduating, and so do not feel the need to upgrade to Individual membership. The Membership and Publicity Committee was looking at ways in which to increase membership. R Taft commented that companies may find that the new website is an incentive to continue or take out Corporate membership.

Finally, P Mason encouraged members to let the Society Officers know their views and opinions. This concluded the overview of the Annual Review.

## **6. Results of Council Elections**

P Mason reported on the composition of Council. The Officers of the Society, elected by Council, remained unchanged: S Marsh (Chairman), P Aplin (Vice Chairman), R Taft (Hon. Treasurer) and P Mason (Hon. Gen. Secretary). J Drummond and M Cutler had both completed a first term in office and J Norton had resigned. J Norton was thanked for his work, especially his contribution to the development of the new website. J Drummond and M Cutler stood for a second term and a nomination was received from I Woodhouse. There had been three nominations received for three vacant positions on Council and therefore no ballot was necessary. The Student Representatives are R Gaulton (University of Edinburgh) 2006-2007 and T Thomson (UCL) 2007-2008.

**7. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

*R Taft proposed that D T Cooke be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner. P Zukowskyj seconded this and all were in favour.*

**8. AOB**

P Aplin acknowledged the work of other Council members (non-Trustees). In particular, M Wickett was thanked for his considerable effort and work on the Society’s website over many years before stepping down as Webmaster earlier this year.

P Mason then thanked all members for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 6.34 pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**Annex 1**

THE REMOTE SENSING AND PHOTOGRAMMETRY SOCIETY AGM 2006  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006, 5.30 pm, The Auditorium, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| R Al-Tahir |                            |
| D Andrews  | English Heritage           |
| P Aplin    | University of Nottingham   |
| A Aqdas    | University of Glasgow      |
| M Bartels  | University of Reading      |
| K Brown    | Environment Agency         |
| P Bryan    | English Heritage           |
| J Chandler | University of Loughborough |
| M Clowes   | English Heritage           |
| M Cutler   | University of Dundee       |
| J Drummond | University of Glasgow      |
| G Foody    | University of Southampton  |
| G Galidaki | University of Cambridge    |

D Ireson	Intergraph (UK) Ltd
F Khalid	University of Greenwich
K Kitmitto	University of Manchester
A Koh	Aerialgeomatics
S Lavender	University of Plymouth
J Leighton	University of Nottingham
A MacArthur	University of Edinburgh
J McMorrow	University of Manchester
S Marsh	British Geological Survey
P Mason	HME Partnership
G Millin	University of Manchester
P Newby	Editor, <i>The Photogrammetric Record</i>
C Nicklin	LGIH/IDCA
A Mohammed	Edinburgh University
Y Ogunbadewa	University of Salford
C Piperagkas	Bath Spa University
J Shears	Infoterra Ltd
G Smith	CEH Monks Wood
A Sowter	University of Nottingham
R Taft	Leica Geosystems Ltd
S Tovey	English Heritage
D Walton	Purple Dogfish
M Warren	University of Nottingham
D White	University of Newcastle
M Wickett	GURNEYTWO
M Williams	Newcastle University
A K Wilson	CEH Monks Wood
I Woodhouse	University of Edinburgh
R Wyatt	Purple Dogfish
L Zhang	University of Nottingham
P Zukowskyj	University of Hertfordshire