



The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (313777)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING COVERING 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 2.00pm on Friday 27 November 2020 via Zoom. There were 15 members present: Robert Anderson, William Brock, Chris Campbell, Hasok Chang, Stephen Clucas, Carolyn Cobbold, Frank James, Rob Johnstone, Bruce Moran, Gary Patterson, Gerrylynn Roberts, Anna Simmons, Frances Watkins, Jenny Wilson, Nicholas Zumbulyadis.

- 1. Chair's Introduction:** Frank James (Chair), conducted the meeting and welcomed those present. He noted that the meeting was being held online on Zoom due to the covid-19 pandemic and consent was given to this arrangement.
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
These had been received from Peter Forshaw, Marieke Hendriksen, Magdalena Luszczynska, Karoliina Pulkkinen, Sharon Ruston, Lyke De Vries.
- 3. Minutes of AGM Covering 2018 held on Saturday 19 October 2019**
The minutes were accepted with the suggestion that they be amended to clarify that the meeting was held in 2019.
- 4. Presentation of Trustees Annual Report (TAR) and Statement of Accounts (as independently examined) for 2019**
The 2019 accounts had been sent to members attending by email with a commentary appended by the treasurer. The meeting noted these accounts together with the Trustees Annual Report (TAR). Rob Johnstone (Treasurer) commented that the Society's reserves are at a good level. Despite the extra expenditure on administration in 2019 due to the work involved planning for the CIO transfer, the Society is currently in a robust financial position.
- 5. Nomination of New Officer and split of Secretary's Role**
The Chair explained that the role of Secretary currently held by Anna Simmons was too large for one individual working in a voluntary capacity and proposed that the role should be divided between two Officers, as allowed by the constitution. This was agreed by the members. Chris Campbell was nominated by Council to be Society Secretary. There being no further nominations, Chris Campbell was elected Society Secretary and will deal with issues relating to the Society as a whole. Anna Simmons will continue to act as Secretary for all matters relating to the Society's journal *Ambix*. She will also continue to work on the CIO transfer.

Hasok Chang asked about whether there were plans to introduce set terms for Officers. Anna Simmons (Secretary) stated that a discussion on this had been planned as part of

Council's review of Trustee roles and responsibilities. This had been postponed when Council was unable to meet in person but she hoped a discussion on this and other matters related to the Society's governance would be possible in 2021. Frank James commented that it was always healthy in a Society to have a regular turnover of Officers and Council Members.

6. Transfer to CIO

At SHAC's AGM on 14 November 2015, the Trustees were authorised to transfer the Society's activities from the present Unincorporated Association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in a time scale they thought prudent and convenient. The members were informed that SHAC was finally registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 8 July 2020, charity number 1190304. At its Council meeting held on 25 September 2020, the Trustees of SHAC (charity number 313777) agreed that entering into the transfer of the operations, assets, liabilities and membership of SHAC to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation of the same name (Charity number 1190304) was in the best interests of the Society, subject to the approval by the members. Details were then circulated to members in advance of the AGM, in a communication dated 15 October 2020.

The following four resolutions were proposed to the AGM to effect the Society's change of charitable status to a CIO:-

1. That the operations, assets, liabilities and membership of SHAC 313777 are transferred to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation of the same name (Charity no. 1190304) with effect on 1 January 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.
2. That the constitution of this Charity be amended to allow the CIO (charity number 1190304) to be the sole trustee of this Charity immediately after the transfer of operations, assets, liabilities and membership has taken place.

The changes to the constitution are the addition of the following clauses:

4A. The membership may pass a resolution to appoint the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (a charitable incorporated organisation with charity number 1190304) (the "CIO") as sole corporate member of the Society, in which case clauses 4(i) to (iv) shall no longer apply.

5A. In the event that the membership passes a resolution to appoint the CIO as sole corporate member under clause 4A, the CIO shall also be sole corporate trustee of the Society, and clauses 5(i) to (vi) and clause 6 shall no longer apply. The CIO shall carry out any applicable functions of the Council contained in this Constitution as sole corporate trustee by its governing board.

7A. In the event that the CIO is appointed as sole corporate member and trustee, clause 7 shall not apply and the CIO shall comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the keeping of accounting records and to the preparation of annual reports and returns.

9A. In the event that the CIO is appointed as sole corporate member and trustee, clause 9 shall not apply and the CIO shall have power to amend the Constitution by a written resolution agreed as sole corporate member by its governing board.

3. That Subject to the membership accepting the new Clause 4A in the Constitution of Charity 313777, the membership approves the appointment of CIO Charity no 1190304 as the sole corporate Trustee and member of Charity Number 313777.

4. That the Current Officers and Trustees of SHAC 313777 are ratified as Officers and Trustees of SHAC 1190304.

Rob Johnstone stated that if the members agree the transfer, the old Charity will be linked or merged with the CIO and all of the operations, assets, liabilities, and members of the old Charity (313777) will be transferred to the CIO (1190304). Charity 313777 will become a subsidiary charity for which the CIO will become the sole Corporate Trustee and sole Corporate Member.

Frank James explained that that a date for the transfer will be set once a new bank account for the CIO is established. This is taking longer than expected due to the covid-19 pandemic.

The Chair presented the four resolutions to the members. All four resolutions were proposed by Gerrylynn Roberts, seconded by Jenny Wilson and passed *nem con*.

7. Treasurer's Update for 2020 YTD including changes to membership payment options

Rob Johnstone (Treasurer) gave an oral report on SHAC's finances highlighting that the Society's reserves are continuing to be built up due to the uncertainty regarding future journal subscription income created by open-access Plan S and the position of hybrid journals. See comments by Frank James in item 9.

Hasok Chang asked whether such a relatively large reserve posed any problems for the Society. Rob Johnstone explained that the Society's reserve policy is revised by the Trustees, in line with the Charity Commission Guidelines.

Rob Johnstone gave a brief summary of the new payment options to be added to the Society's website. Members may pay for their fee by means of a credit card, a debit card or through a PayPal account. It is also possible to pay by cheque or by bank transfer. If a member chooses to pay by credit card, debit card or PayPal and has been a member for at least one year, they may set up a recurring annual payment or just pay for one year at a time. To reduce the administration involved, SHAC would prefer that members set up a recurring annual payment. A FAQ will appear on the website to explain the new payment options and how to cancel a recurring annual payment. The system should become active in a couple of weeks and members will be informed in their renewal reminder for 2021.

8. Secretary's Update

Anna Simmons (Secretary) reported that the final AGM for SHAC (313777) will be held in the Spring of 2021 and that the new CIO (1190304) will hold its first AGM in 2022.

Anna Simmons provided members with a report on SHAC's activities to date in 2020.

SHAC Award Scheme: 6 New Scholar and 1 Subject Development Award had been granted, with the time period for the use of funds awarded extended.

Partington Prize: This was awarded to Dr Mike A. Zuber of the University of Queensland for his article “Alchemical Promise, the Fraud Narrative, and the History of Science from Below: A German Adept’s Encounter with Robert Boyle and Ambrose Godfrey.” The article will be published in the February 2021 *Ambix* and will be accessible online in early December 2020.

Chemical Intelligence, the Society’s newsletter is edited by Karoliina Pulkkinen. Two issues were published in 2020 in January and July. The deadline for copy for the next issue is 15 January 2021.

Meetings: The May 2020 meeting on Women in Chemistry was postponed. This will be reorganised once we are confident that any new arrangement can be delivered.

Webinars: Three webinars open to all have been held, with recordings placed on SHAC’s YouTube Channel. Tim Fulford, *Humphry Davy Correspondence*, in July; Jenny Rampling, *Alchemy Behind Bars*, in October, and Carolyn Cobbold, *A Rainbow Palette: Chemists, Colour and Consumption*, in November.

Oxford Part II Prize: No Prize was awarded in 2020 but it is hoped that as Catherine Jackson will be supervising students from Michaelmas 2020 that there will be candidates in 2021.

Morris Award: Nominations are being solicited for the 2021 John and Martha Morris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Modern Chemistry or the History of the Chemical Industry, deadline 1 May 2021.

Post-graduate Network: Alison McManus from Princeton University is SHAC’s new student representative. SHAC has also appointed three student ambassadors: Sarah Hijmans, University of Paris; Sarah Lang, Karl-Franzens-University of Graz; and Silvia Pérez Criado, University of Valencia. The SHAC Student Ambassador serves as liaison between the Society and graduate students, representing both their institution and neighbouring ones and works closely with the SHAC Student Representative to promote SHAC events within their networks. The Society was unable to hold a Post-graduate Workshop in 2020 but plans are being made for a virtual workshop in April 2021 on the theme *Secrets of Matter, Matters of Secrecy*.

Our thanks are due to Megan Piorko who finished her term as Student Representative and is now helping to promote *Ambix* in a new role of Communications Editor

9. Update on Current Activities by Frank James, Bruce Moran and Carolyn Cobbold

Frank James (Chair) reminded members that the release of UK Research and Innovation’s (UKRI) review of open access policies has been pushed back into 2021. The possible non-compliance of hybrid journals threatens the income derived by learned societies, including SHAC, from publishing. He highlighted that policy decisions are being made now or in the very near future that will profoundly and detrimentally affect aspects of the delicate

academic ecology. Frank James will continue to lobby UKRI and the government on behalf of the Society.

Attention was drawn to a meeting to be co-hosted by SHAC and the Royal Photographic Society to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Tom Wedgwood, to be held in Bristol on 15 May 2021. Should it appear by mid-April that covid-19 restrictions will not have eased sufficiently to permit a face to face meeting, then it will be held virtually over two half days on 14 and 15 May. In any case, provision will be made for live transmission over the internet.

Bruce Moran (Editor, *Ambix*) reported that *Ambix* is doing well and that he is currently receiving submissions for November 2021. A double issue is planned for May/August 2020 on *Alchemy* and the University. Submission dates for the double issue are being postponed for as long as possible to allow authors maximum time to access collections and libraries that have been adversely affected under the current COVID-19 restrictions. August is the most likely month for publication. The publication of *Ambix* has been hindered by a number of design issues and typesetting issues with the publishers Taylor and Francis. Work is underway on a template and new style sheet to resolve these problems.

Carolyn Cobbold (Membership Secretary)

There are currently 266 members of SHAC, eleven fewer than the 2019 total of 277. This includes 27 new members since the start of 2020 which is encouraging. A number of the resignations are the result of members changing careers or leaving the field.

10. Any Other Business

Gary Patterson, in his capacity as Bolton Society President, suggested that the Science History Institute would be happy to host a future meeting between SHAC and the Bolton Society in the United States in 2022/23. The Bolton Society promotes the collection of all types of printed material devoted to chemistry and related sciences.

Robert G.W. Anderson sought reassurance that SHAC's archive at the History of Science Museum, Oxford was being kept up-to-date. Anna Simmons (Secretary) explained that she is collating material for the archive as part of the split of the Secretary's role and that various matters relating to the archive will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

The Chair concluded by thanking all those involved in the running of SHAC, with particular thanks to the officers, Rob Johnstone, Anna Simmons, Bruce Moran and Carolyn Cobbold for the support they gave him as Chair.

Chris Campbell and Anna Simmons
Minutes finalised 10.12.2020