



35th Fingerprint Society Annual General Meeting

University College London
Friday 9th April, 2010 Minutes

Attendees: 38 this exceeded the number required to conduct business; the list of attendees is available for inspection.

Welcome: Robert Doak - Secretary - welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He stated that due to the stepping down of Martin Leadbetter and Viv Galloway he was next in line to chair the AGM. There were a few proposals on the agenda and asked for everyone's participation.

1. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting

RD said that the minutes of the last AGM had been posted on line and this would happen each year from now on. He asked if the minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous AGM.

Matters arising: None

RD asked for the meeting to formally propose and second this.

Proposer: Nick Mitchell (Leicestershire Police)
Seconded: Cheryl McGowan (Lancashire Police)

2. Treasurer's report

CM - Gave the meeting a brief outline of the current finances of the Society, the audit report will be available on line soon.

- A) Stating that we were in a good financial position.
£37 406 in the current account
£18000 in the deposit account
- B) The Society this year had purchased a limited edition book by Galton, which was now insured for travel purposes in order to display. The committee said they would look to purchase more books of the same historical interests to keep in the UK.
- C) The Society being on a firm financial footing, **CM** saw no need to increase membership fees.

CM was quite happy to take any questions.

Matters Arising: None, **RD** asked for the meeting to formally propose and second the report and recommendation

Proposer: NM (Leicestershire Police)
Seconded: Allison Power (SPSA)

3. Election of Committee

A) **RD** read out the list of committee members who were willing to seek re-election and asked for any other nominations. **RD** asked the meeting to formally propose and second the re-election of the members named:

Ms Allison Power FFS (SPSA), Mr. Richard Case FFS (NPIA),
Mr. Ron Cook FFS (Independent), Mr. Robert Doak FFS (Humberside Police)
Ms Fiona McBride, Mrs. Cheryl McGowan FFS (Lancashire Police), Mr. Nick Mitchell
(Leicestershire Police), Dr Fred Preston (Motorola), Mr. Phil Swindell FFS (Lancashire
Police), Mr. Raul Sutton MFS (Uni. Wolverhampton)

Proposer: Robert Hilton (Lancashire Police)

Seconded: Gordon Frew (Lancashire Police)

All duly re-elected

Committee members still having a year to run

Karen Stow (Derbyshire Police) and Kevin Kershaw (GMP)

B) Resignations

Mrs. V Galloway FFS (Leicestershire Police), Mr. M Leadbetter FFS (Consultant),
Mr. M Valentine FFS (GMP)

RD stated it was with an element of sadness to announce that Viv, Martin and Merv had decided to step down after many years of service to the Society. Especially that of Martin as one of the founders, **RD** hoped they would stay within the Society and help where they could in taking the Society forward.

RD offered a vote of thanks to all 3 and wished them well on behalf of the Society. **ML** had sent a letter to the meeting that he wished to be read out, this was done by **RD**.

C) Election of new Committee members

RD informed the meeting there were 2 members up for election onto the committee

Nominees: Rosemary Kershaw (GMP) & Luke McGarr (Derbyshire Police)

RD asked the meeting to formally propose and second their election.

Proposer: RCa (NPIA)

Seconded: RS (University of Wolverhampton)

D) Appointment of President

RD stated that with **VG** standing down, the position was vacant, there was 1 nominee was there any others. There were none.

Nominee - Karen Stow (Derbyshire Police)

Proposed: MV (GMP)

Seconded: FP (Sagem) - **KS** duly elected

E) Election of Regional Vice Presidents

Currently: Mr F Rogers FFS (USA), Mr B Dalrymple FFS (Canada), Mr G Farncomb FFS (Australian Federal Police) Mr R Plummer FFS (Southern Australia), Dr G Sodhi MFS (India).

RD had proposed re-election of all.

Seconded: RCa (NPIA)

F) Chairperson Vacant

RD stated there was 1 nomination, his self, but asked if there were any other volunteers or nominations. There were none

Nominee - Robert Doak (Humberside Police)

Proposed: RCa (NPIA)

Seconded: NM (Leicestershire Police) - **RD** duly elected

G) Treasurer: Present - **C McGowan** FFS (Lancashire Police)

RD informed the meeting that **CM** was willing to continue, were there any other nominations. There were none.

Proposer; GF (Lancashire Police)

Seconded: AP (SPSA) – **CM** duly re-elected

H) Secretary

RD asked for any volunteers or nominations as the post was now vacant. No one at the meeting came forward **RD** will continue in the interim.

I) Membership Secretary Present **Allison Power** (SPSA)

RD informed the meeting that **AP** was willing to continue, were there any other nominations. There were none.

Proposer: CM (Lancashire Police)

Seconded: RCa (NPIA) – **AP** duly re-elected

J) Editor Present **Fiona McBride**

RD stated that he was not moving to re- elect this position at the moment. There was a proposal at item 5D and would wait for that to be discussed.

FM asked why the position of the editor was under review.

RD said there was a proposal to re-structure the editorship of the journal and this would be discussed under this item.

K) Honorary Members

Mr G Lambourne, QPM FFS (UK), Mr M Carrick (UK), Mr S G Durrett FFS (USA), Mr F Warboys OBE, BA FFS (UK), Mr S Hardwick (UK), Mr K Creer, MBE,FBIPP,FRPS, Mr T Kent, Robert McKenzie (Retired) and Brian Moorcroft (Lancashire Police).

There were no additions to the list.

L) New post holders required

RD stated that the posts below needed to be filled.

Secretary	Vacant
Advertising Officer	Vacant
Archivist	Vacant

4. Fingerprint Society Awards

Henry Medal	Not awarded
Lewis Minshall	Not awarded
FERRT 2010	Robert Hall (MPS)

5. Society Rules

A. Changing the Name of the Society

KS outlined her proposals and the reason why she felt there should be a name change. **KS** stated this had been discussed at committee meetings and was also based on the last survey carried out by **RD & FP**. It was felt that this would help expand membership, increase CPD opportunities and create better links with organisations such as the Forensic Regulator, NPIA, and Skills for Justice.

FM asked for the reason for the change as we were a Society for fingerprint experts. **RD** stated in his experience and the way forces are moving that fingerprint officers will be developed into identification officers taking on more comparable disciplines such as footwear.

FM asked for the statistics.

RD gave examples of a number of forces that had already done this, although he had no clear statistics of how many were thinking along these lines.

RCa asked what was the percentage of people who took part in the survey wanted a name change.

FP stated 50 said Yes to change (20 were members) and 41 said No (25 were members).

Dave Kirby (Northumbria Police) said that this meeting was not the right place, as overseas members could not take part; he also suggested a postal vote.

RD said this could possibly be achieved electronically.

JL Asked that both sides of the argument be put to the membership.

RS said that we need to look at the membership and its falling numbers.

FM & CM both stated this was not the case.

FM also stated we already had non fingerprint Officers in the Society.

MV said if we look at the membership numbers in the 70's and 80's we were now much lower and also there was a need to recognise experts in other fields.

FM stated she had already changed the aims of the Society in the journal to reflect this.

RD suggested that in order to give the membership both sides of the argument that **FM & MV** should write the arguments.

RCa proposed that we could end up being confused with other Societies, but also if a name change was to be undertaken it should be voted on by the full membership.

CM seconded this motion.

RD asked for any other comments, there were none. He asked if this was the feeling of the meeting, there was agreement on the motion proposed by **RCa**.

RD stated that a poll of the full membership would be carried out on this issue.

B. Change the structure of membership

RD put forward his proposal on restructuring the membership status that is presently in vogue. He felt this was necessary to recognise not just experts but individuals who contribute to the advancement of the Society or their discipline. The full proposal was on line and had been emailed to delegates prior the conference.

FM stated it was a serious change and the full membership should be asked.

JB stated he was quite happy for only Fingerprint experts to be Fellows.

FM asked who would decide on who would become a Fellow.

RD said that all nominations would be put to the committee for a decision.

Eric Sahota (LVMPD) suggested that a point system could be one way of doing it. He knew other societies used this method.

RD thanked **ES** for the idea and would put that into his proposal.

FM asked if the term Fellow was appropriate and should another term should be considered.

KS stated that if we are to diversify our membership then the current system does not allow Fellowship to others.

Proposer: FM to let membership decide

Seconded: DK

RD asked if this was the feeling of the meeting, it was, motion carried.

RD stated that a poll of the full membership would be carried out on this issue.

C. Change the structure of the committee

RD outlined his proposal for a new structure of the committee. This was to reflect the membership and encourage greater participation from members who were not Fingerprint experts. It was also a clear sign to others that the Society did welcome people from different disciplines to join and be involved in the Society. In the survey there were some comments that the Society was simply being an old boys club.

RS highlighted the need to think of the full fingerprint process and that this structure reflected this.

FM asked about the comments and that they should be made available.

RD stated that he would look at this but was conscious of the confidentiality issues.

DK said he thought that 5D would need to be discussed before this item.

D. Change editor role of Fingerprint Whorld

KS explained to the meeting regarding the set up of the journal and hopefully how it would attract more articles, also having a peer group instead of one person would mean the journal not being the responsibility of one person.

FM asked why this needed to be done.

RH suggested that a web forum for members only, could be set up to discuss these issues. **John Dixon** (W. Yorkshire Police) proposed that all of these issues should be put to the membership.

DK said that really all these changes were major and agreed with **JD** that all these issues should be put to the members.

RCa seconded **JD's** motion

RD asked if this was the feeling of the meeting, all in agreement.

RD informed the meeting that he would undertake the work required to ballot all members on the 4 items, making sure that the relevant information was available to the membership.

6. Future Conference Venue

RD announced that the next conference would be the 36th Educational Conference - to be held at the University of Wolverhampton.

7. Society Business

None

8. Any other Business

RD asked if there was any other business, there was none. **RD** thanked everyone for their attendance and participation, he emphasised that the Society belonged to the membership and it is they who would decide on how the Society should progress.