

SCI/AE001

Annual General Meeting

on Wednesday, 2 July 2025 at 3.30pm

Hybrid: Belgrave Square and by webinar on Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

GOVERNANCE MEMBERS/PRESENTERS: Rt Hon Greg Clark, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Dr Geoff Fowler, Treasurer/Chair of the Finance and Investments Advisory Committee; Mr Paul Drechsler OBE, President; Ms Sharon Todd, CEO, Dr Tiffany Wood, Chair of the Membership Committee; Ms Kathryn Oliver, Chair of the Careers Committee; and Dr Dave Allen, Principal of the College of Scholars.

ADVISORY CONSULTANTS: Adrian Wilkins, Independent Scrutineer, Civica Election Services; and Sachi Blackmore, SCI Auditor, Buzzacotts.

SCI STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Dr David Bott, Head of Innovation; Mr Nigel Fish, Director of Finance & IT; Dr Kirstie Cochrane, Director of Stakeholder Engagement; Ms Jacqui Maguire, Conference Manager; Mrs Pauline Bannon, Executive PA, Ms Bryony Parker, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager, and other staff members as listed below.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The Rt Hon Greg Clark, Chair of the Board of Trustees welcomed everyone to the 144th AGM, his first as Chair of BoT and noted that he felt greatly honoured to be part of an organisation that is in great form. He noted the successes of the previous year being reported on (2024) were due to his predecessor, Harry Swan, the President, Paul Drechsler, and particularly to the CEO and her Executive Team who have done a great job.

The AGM began with the Chair noting the first two resolutions of the Notice of the meeting, and the minutes of the last Annual General meeting.

To note that **73** members had submitted their votes on resolutions for the AGM prior to the event, although **2** members did not fully complete the voting process.

It was noted that the AGM votes have been verified by the independent scrutineer, Adrian Wilkins, who joined online.

MEMBERS PRESENT AND APOLOGIES: Please refer to the last page for a full list of members who attended in person or joined the webinar meeting, and apologies received.

RESOLUTION: To receive and adopt the MINUTES of the previous 143rd AGM held on 3rd July 2024:

71 members had received and adopted the last minutes of the previous AGM, and the results were as follows:

For: 65 (100%)

Against: 0 (0%)

Abstentions: 6

The last minutes were formally **approved**.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2024/2025

The Chair continued with his review highlighting and reflecting on the past year. He noted the continued growth of the corporate partner network and the ongoing growth of membership, which had risen year on year since 2016. He noted the work on industrial strategy and the significant R&D representation that there is now in the network, which is becoming a key distinguishing feature of SCI. He noted the new strategy that was signed off by the Board of Trustees in May.

Highlights from the conference programme were noted and the launch of the Engineering Biology group with a new chair from BASF. The Horticulture Group were featured at BBC Gardeners World as part of the public engagement.

He continued reporting on the publishing highlights of 2024 which included an increase in article usage and page views of SCI's website. In November, the Society launched a new journal SCI: Sustainability; a transdisciplinary journal committed to sharing groundbreaking research to address the sustainability challenges faced by the scientific industries. Two new excellent Editors will lead the journal. This is the Society's first truly stand-alone new journal since the 1970 launch of Pest Management Science. Steve Ranger joined SCI in August of 2024 as Editor-in-Chief of Chemistry and Industry and our digital news service and under his leadership the combined team has renewed their focus on industry coverage and delivered a more international perspective on the scientific industries.

The key highlights in SCI's Awards program were the success of the SCI Canada group awards event, that was held in Toronto in March with industry, academia and government showcasing innovation in Canada. BrightSCIdeas had had another successful and the SCI Awards Dinner that celebrated key awards in innovation and sustainability was well attended.

He noted that a new collaboration with the University of Southampton: 'Ignite Your Success' was being planned, that would be supporting around 50 STEM students from underrepresented backgrounds to make the most of their studies. They will also benefit from inclusion in SCI's College of Scholars, which will help them further with access to early career and training events.

In conclusion, the Chair recapped on SCI's continued role as one of the leading advocates of science and innovation, influencing government policy, which has impacted on the launch of Labour's new Industrial Strategy and the formation of the Industrial Strategy Council. Further impacts have been made on the Lifesciences strategy with significant interventions, the Advanced Manufacturing strategy that has led to focussing on Advanced Materials, supporting SMEs to grow and prosper and protecting the R&D Budget.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024

The Treasurer, Dr Geoff Fowler, presented the charity's financial review of 2024 and highlighted the key items for members to note:

- For the second year running, SCI generated an operating surplus.
- The new publishing contract delivered significant income uplift.
- The membership income continued to grow.
- Conference revenues were strong but impacted by timing of big events.
- Cash and working capital were managed prudently with higher interest income.
- The value of investments continued their strong performance.

The outcome for 2024 was an *operating surplus of £409k* and an overall surplus of £593k, due to revaluation gains on investments of £470k and depreciation of £286k.

The principal sources of income in 2024 were publications, property and room hire, conferences, investments and member subscriptions.

The Treasurer reported that as an organisation, SCI is in a strong position and continues to manage the finances prudently. He concluded by reporting that there had been a full review of the Reserves Policy that has now completed, and a new Reserves Policy agreed. The target reserves are a range between £5.0m and £8.4m. The level of free reserves on 31 December 2024 was £7.7 million.

The Chair presented the next two resolutions:

RESOLUTION: To receive the ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (Financial Statements) and Trustees Report for the year 2024:

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 were announced as **approved** after members had voted with the following results:

For: 68 (100%) Against: 0 (0%) Abstentions: 3

RESOLUTION: To receive and adopt the APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS to hold office until the conclusion of the next AGM:

Buzzacott LLP, were **approved** as auditors for the year up to the next AGM. Results of members votes were as follows:

For: 63 (100%) Against: 0 (0%) Abstentions: 7

All votes had been verified by the Independent Scrutineer.

The Chair then continued with the governance changes, that included the retirement of governance members and the announcement of the new governance members:

**GOVERNANCE CHANGES:
RETIREMENT OF GOVERNANCE MEMBERS**

The Chair noted and on behalf of members thanked the following governance members who had come to the end of their terms, for their valued contributions. He noted some very long service by some of the governance members:

Ordinary Members of the Board of Trustees:

- Dr Geoff Mackey
- Dr Sarah Skerratt
- Dr Tiffany Wood

Ordinary Members of the Finance & Investments Advisory Committee:

- Mr Peter Reineck

Ordinary Members of the Membership Committee:

- Mr Rahul Kumar

Ordinary Members of the Publications Committee:

- Dr Maryam Bayati

The following members had been elected unopposed as:

Ordinary members of the Board of Trustees:

- Dr Geoff Fowler
- Dr Sharali Malik
- Dr George Okafo
- Dr Jeremy Parker
- Dr Jacqueline Sheridan

- Professor Joe Sweeney
- Professor Andrew Waterhouse

Chair of the Finance & Investments Advisory Committee and Treasure of the Board of Trustees:

- Dr Geoff Fowler

Ordinary Members of the Membership Committee:

- Mr Reuben McKay

Ordinary Members of the Publications Committee:

- Professor Stephen Wilkinson

The following positions were elected by members with the most votes in the voting process; there were 3 nominations and only 2 places available on the Finance & Investments Advisory Committee:

Ordinary Members of the Finance & Investments Advisory Committee:

- Mr James Wheatcroft
- Mr Patrick Kitt

All votes had been verified by the Independent Scrutineer.

Congratulations and thanks were given to all members who had stood for governance positions.

The CEO went on to present her review.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REVIEW:

Ms Sharon Todd, Chief Executive, began by reminding members of the strategy and how it is centered around addressing the big Societal Challenges of today in Climate & Planet and Health & Wellness through science and innovation. She noted the progress made during 2024 across conferences, publications and the innovation programmes. The extensive work on industrial strategy was covered.

She continued highlighting the plans of focus for 2025:

- Continue to grow the extensive network of partner members that SCI has. The Corporate Partner membership continues to grow and strengthen, with increased SCI engagement and activity in 2025.
- Looking to extend membership and collaborations internationally.
- The North-East Group was being relaunched, with Harry Swan as chair. The AgriFood Hub was also planned to bring together Agrisciences, Food, Lipids and Horticulture Groups.
- Publishing developments continue, with the publishing team in place at SCI HQ, and continued plans to grow the existing portfolio of journals.
- IT upgrades were being planned across the infrastructure, the CRM and the accounting system.
- Ongoing building maintenance and upgrades will continue at SCI HQ.
- Continue to support the Industrial Strategy, with focus on the same themes and continue with sustainability activities. Flue2Chem and the Manifesto were also highlighted as key examples of development and impact.

In conclusion, for the Strategy 2030, the CEO noted that SCI's key targets were growing membership, growing readership, and surpluses. The main vision for the Society is 'We aim to be the *leading innovation accelerator*, helping our community to rapidly deliver sustainable innovations that address the societal challenges of today.'

New members of staff, particularly in the publishing team, were introduced and welcomed. The new Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Dr Kirstie Cochrane was also formally welcomed.

Recognition and brief obituaries were given for two key members who had recently passed away: Dr Jack Melling, a past Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Dr Richard Casey from the SCI Australia Group.

The CEO noted her thanks to all the members, volunteers and staff who enable the huge amount of work that SCI does.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no more business, the AGM was declared closed.

The Chair thanked Sharon Todd on behalf of all the members present and a round of applause was given for her remarkable work as CEO.

Meeting ended at 4.40pm.

Next year's Annual General Meeting, the Society's 145th anniversary will take place on Wednesday 1st July 2026.

Full list of attendees:

In Person:

Farhiya Abdi (*SCI Staff*)
 Rawaz Ahmed
 Robert Aickin
 Dave Allen (*SCI Trustee*)
 Ben Alston (*SCI Trustee*)
 Pauline Bannon (*SCI Staff*)
 David Berry
 David Bott (*SCI Staff*)
 Nicholas Bourne
 Edwina Brejza
 Duncan Broughton
 Steve Byard
 Alicia Casey (*SCI Staff*)
 Kirstie Cochrane (*SCI Staff*)
 Jeremy Compton (*SCI Trustee*)
 Charlotte Crowhurst
 Max Crowland (*SCI Staff*)
 Simon Curtis (*SCI Trustee*)
 Alexander Dossetter
 Paul Drechsler (*President*)
 Holly Drury (*SCI Staff*)
 Stephen East
 John Farmer
 Alec Forsyth
 Nigel Fish (*SCI Staff*)
 Geoffrey Fowler (*Treasurer*)
 Anthony Girard
 Susan Grayeff
 Shaoliang Guan
 Jonathan Hague (*SCI Trustee*)

Svenja Schmidt
 John Sgouros
 Jacqui Sheridan (*SCI Trustee*)
 Rebecca Stevens
 David Stonor
 Harry Swan
 Emilia Taylor
 Carolyn Thomas (*SCI Staff*)
 Sharon Todd (*CEO*)
 Toby Waldron
 Clarke Harvey Walsh (*SCI Staff*)
 Andrew Waterhouse (*SCI Trustee*)
 Stephen Wilkinson
 David Witty
 Mark Wolfe
 Tiffany Wood (*SCI Trustee*)
 Kay Yeung
 Dongni Zhao

Online:

Magdalena Banasik (*SCI Staff*)
 Sachi Blakemore (*SCI Auditor*)
 Natasha Boulding
 Kalyan Kumar Chakraborty
 Thomas Clarkson
 Ubong Essien
 Paula Feldman
 Gerhart Goltz
 Bradley Haltli
 Zoe Hamson (*SCI Staff*)

Rena Halpenny (*SCI Staff*)
 Daniel Hamza
 Robin Harrison
 Gareth Hart
 Maxwell Haughey
 Sofia Helin
 Mark Issacs
 Robert Ives
 Iren Jasko
 Harry Kay
 Sam Kay
 Norman Keane
 Harry Kelly
 Patrick Kitt
 Richard Lampitt
 David Lathbury
 Stephen Lenon
 Shaoquan Li
 Alastair Littlewood
 Claudio Lourenco
 Jacqui Maguire (*SCI Staff*)
 Sarah Major
 Sharali Malik (*SCI Trustee*)
 Nageen Matlub (*SCI Staff*)
 Kevin Matthews (*SCI Trustee*)
 Susan McGrath-Cole
 Reuben McKay
 Madalina Mihai
 Sarah Montgomery
 Amy Newell
 Caro Newton (*SCI Staff*)
 Kathryn Oliver
 George Okafo
 Maria Oruna-Concha
 Kathy Owen (*SCI Staff*)
 Alex Owens (*SCI Staff*)
 Bryony Parker (*SCI Staff*)
 Jeremy Parker (*SCI Trustee*)
 Frederick Parrett
 Nikita Patel
 Ted Parton
 Angus Pedersen
 Julian Perfect
 Ana Perroni-Laloe (*SCI Trustee*)
 Steve Ranger (*SCI Staff*)
 Sophie Read
 Peter Reineck
 Tim Reynolds
 Jessamy Riley
 Duncan Robertson (*SCI Staff*)
 Alexander Rogers
 Ellen Roshier (*SCI Staff*)
 Barry Rossell
 Kezia Sasitharan

Mark Harrison
 Sri Kochhar
 Jose Martinez
 Mary Mehari (*SCI Staff*)
 Stephen Lennon
 Lisa Owens
 Harry Palmer
 Josie Partridge (*SCI Staff*)
 Anne Pinheiro (*SCI Staff*)
 Ravi Ramachandran
 Nilukshi Raveendra (*SCI Staff*)
 Oliver Ring
 Bella Seymour (*SCI Staff*)
 Richard Thwaites
 Tim White
 Adrian Wilkins (*Independent Scrutineer*)
 Callum Yong (*SCI Staff*)

Apologies:

Malcolm Ball
 Thomas Birk (*SCI Trustee*)
 Victor Christou (*SCI Trustee*)
 Ralph Howe
 Geoff Mackey (*SCI Trustee*)
 Elizabeth Rowsell (*SCI Trustee*)
 Sarah Skerratt (*SCI Trustee*)