

**SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE SCIENCE  
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2021 @ 15.15  
VIA TEAMS**

**MINUTES**

**Present/Members**

Diana Murray ( <b>Chair</b> )	Colin Moffat	Sue Johnston
Professor Nick Owens	Prof Donald Hadley Part)	Anandan Tanabalan
Professor Axel Miller	Steven Thomas	Dr Alex Barnard
Ian Dunn	Ken Rundle	
Hazel Allen	Ian Tegner	

**Present/Non-Members**

Anuschka Miller	Richard Dale (IT Logistics)
Lorna MacKinnon ( <b>Minutes</b> )	

**Apologies**

Dr Magnus Nicolson	Carol Robinson
Alison Dawson	Carol Phillips
John Huthnance	Steve Thorpe

The Chair opened the **107<sup>th</sup>** Annual General Meeting (AGM) and welcomed all members.

She reflected that it was unfortunate that the AGM was once again on-line. She indicated that this is her 3rd year as Chair and reported that SAMS is in a good place and has coped well during the Covid restrictions. She added that the SAMS Board earlier in the day had been updated on SAMS significant media activities and she hoped that the Members were following these with interest.

The Chair referenced the SAMS Annual Report, a copy of which is available online [here](#).

**1. Minutes of the One Hundred and Sixth (106<sup>th</sup>) Annual General Meeting held on 4 December 2020.**

The Minutes of the One Hundred and Sixth (106<sup>th</sup>) Annual General Meeting proposed by Ian Dunn and seconded by Dr Anuschka Miller were **agreed** as an accurate record.

**2. The Report of the Board and the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.**

Hazel Allen, Chair of the Finance Committee reported on the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 and indicated that despite the significant challenges presented by Covid during the year 20/21 SAMS had reached a break-even position. This was due to the careful management of finances and resources. SAMS had been able to take advantage of the Government Covid support funds and a cash input from UKRI.

The external auditors had presented a clean audit report and no concerns were raised around the Going Concern.

There were no questions on the audited accounts.

The statutory accounts and Directors report can be found [here](#).

3. **To re-appoint the Chair of SAMS Board**

Diana Murray stood down as Chair and Ian Dunn as Deputy Chair assumed the role for the re-appointment of Diana Murray. Proposed by Dr Anuschka Miller, seconded by Ken Rundle, the Members **approved** the appointment of Diana Murray for a second term.

**To reappoint returning Trustees**

Professor John Baxter  
Professor Colin Brownlee  
Lisa Chilton  
Dr Debbie McNeill  
Susan Watts

Ian Dunn proposed, Dr Anushka Miller seconded, and the Members **approved** the appointment of returning trustees for a second term

**To approve new Trustees**

Professor Colin Moffat  
Professor Richard Waites

Ian Dunn proposed, Professor Nick Owens seconded, and the Members **approved** the appointment of new Trustees for an initial 3-year term.

**Retiring Members**

The Chair reported that Hazel Allen had indicated her intention to step down as a Trustee, but this had come too late for inclusion in the agenda.

She reported that Hazel had been a Trustee at SAMS for 5 years and before that had been part of a Consultant-led project to review SAMS financial position and thus had an excellent understanding and appreciation of SAMS finances.

She thanked Hazel for her efforts and reflected that she leaves SAMS in much better financial position than when she joined. Hazel thanked the Chair for her kind words and reflected that she had enjoyed her time at SAMS and would continue to watch its progress.

4. **To note the continuing appointment of external auditors Saffery Champness.**

The Chair reported that Saffery Champness had audited SAMS again. It had been a clean audit and she asked Members to note the continuing appointment of the External Auditor.

## 5. To receive a presentation by and report from the Director

The Director, Professor Nick Owens reported that despite the pandemic, SAMS had been extremely successful. He paid tribute to the staff, some of whom have been on site carrying out the work that cannot be undertaken from home, citing for example the maintenance of the culture collection, IT services and the ongoing work to keep the site and facilities safe. Other staff have been routinely working from home and he thanked all for their patience and commitment and for complying so well with the regulations that have been in place for almost 2 years now. He especially mentioned Professor Axel Miller, Deputy Director and Chris Clay, Safety, Health and Environment Advisor for the safe working practices and management throughout the Covid situation.

He paid tribute to the Chair and expressed his delight that she is returning for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. He also paid tribute to the Trustees who are a dedicated team, giving their time freely to help SAMS and lastly, he paid tribute to Hazel Allen for her careful stewardship of SAMS finances over the last 5 years.

He reported on two sad events during the year. The death of Dr John Gordon in June after a short illness. John received an OBE for his commitment to deep-sea work.

The sad death of Adrian Beard in September. Adrian had been a key member of the Financial Services Team leading the introduction of a new finance and management system.

He then gave a short presentation of the year's highlights:

- Christine Campbell receives an MBE for her dedication to her role in the in the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa. Christine was instrumental in developing cordial relations between SAMS and Union representatives and was active in the Girl Guiding movement.
- Former SAMS student Dr Joe Penhaul Smith developed a method of creating designer algae that improved the success of shellfish larvae for cultivation.
- Professor Liz Cottier-Cook joined the steering Committee of the Safe Seaweed Coalition, a global movement launched by the UN Global Compact, the Lloyd's Register Foundation and France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.
- SAMS wholly-owned subsidiary SRSL was renamed SAMS Enterprise to reflect its development of the past few years.
- Students on the ACES programme returned a 100% overall satisfaction in the National Student Survey, despite the disruption due to the pandemic and lectures having to be delivered online.
- PhD student Charlotte Finlay published a study that found the cumulative sound from devices used to deter seals had unintended consequences for species such as harbour porpoises.
- SAMS Honorary Fellow Dr Susannah Calderan published research on the sounds made by southern right whales at their South Georgia feeding grounds.

- Professor Finlo Cottier and team deployed the autonomous surface vehicle ecoSUB to record oceanographic measurements at the face of the melting Kronebreen glacier in Kongsfjorden.
- Dr Neil Fraser and Professor Stuart Cunningham used historical and modern sources to estimate the strengths of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation over the past 120 years. The longest AMOC time series derived from ocean observations only.
- Dr Helena Reinardy was appointed to the Women in Scottish Aquaculture Advisory Group.
- SAMS prevalent on the world stage at COP26.
- SAMS success in securing £400k funding from the UK Government to develop a Seaweed Academy to bring together all of its experience on seaweed growth and diseases to help the seaweed farming industry.

To conclude, Professor Owens introduced the Seawilding Scotland video on Restoration of Loch Craignish’s seagrass meadows with Dr Alex Thomson and Alasdair O’Dell.

There were no questions from the Members.

The Chair reported that SAMS had recently appointed a Head of Development to help generate more income into SAMS for major projects through gifts and donations from Trusts and work on the Programme is underway. The Head of Development is also charged with reviewing the membership of SAMS to make it interesting and rewarding and she invited Members to put forward any ideas. Anadan Tanabalan suggested introducing some volunteering opportunities for members and the Chair welcomed this idea.

Ken Rundle reflected on the historical links which exist with industry in both the James Hutton and the Moredun Institutes and suggested this is a good model to follow in terms of the Seaweed Academy and the Seaweed Growers Industry. Professor Owens welcomed the comments and indicated that the Seaweed Academy would be working very closely with the industry.

**6. To transact any other competent business of the Association.**

The Chair indicated that the SAMS Board had been reviewing the Articles of Association with a view to bringing them up to date and had made some proposed amendments. Following this exercise, the Articles would be subject to review by a lawyer before an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) is called in the New Year for Members to comment on and approve the changes.

With no other business, the Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 16.15

Signed .....

Date .....