

**Meeting Date:** Thursday 8 October  
**Time:** 1:00 – 1:30pm  
**Meeting Number:** 74  
**Location:** Go To Webinar  
**Attendees:** Sacha Mooney (Chair) Sarah Garry (Executive Officer)

60 members attended the meeting and 31 proxy forms were submitted in advance.

	<b>Agenda Item</b>
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted that this was the first AGM which the Society had carried out virtually, which had been a necessity due to Covid-19.</p> <p>The Chair apologised to members who had tried to attend the September AGM, which had to be postponed due to a lack of eligible voting members on the call.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> AGM held on 4 September 2019 and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019 had been circulated. Further to a proposal from Sacha Mooney, which was seconded by Anna Becvar, the minutes of the meeting were approved.</p>
3.	<p><b>Executive Officer's Report</b></p> <p>The Executive Officer's report had been issued as a paper in advance of the meeting and it summarised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there were 806 members of the Society as at 31 December 2019 and 44 Chartered Scientists</li> <li>• there had been an increase of followers on all of the Society's social media channels</li> <li>• in 2019, the Society had organised its Annual Conference at the University of Sheffield with 88 delegates attending, and had delivered two training courses (Exposing and Describing a Soil Profile and Agricultural Land Classification).</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>President's Report</b></p> <p>The Chair provided a verbal report on the work which the Society had delivered over the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council had agreed its 2020 – 2025 strategy which was on the Society website and had been distributed to members as part of the meeting papers. Council had clear deliverables for 2021 which would support the Society in achieving its strategy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Garry had been appointed as the Executive Office in May and Natalie Coles had joined the team as Senior Administrative Assistant in September 2020. Ian Brown had left the Society in December 2019, Kim Spooner in January 2020, Judith Simpkins and Lynne Boshier had left the Society in June 2020 and the Chair expressed his thanks to them</li> <li>• The journals had an excellent year: the European Journal of Soil Science's (EJSS) impact factor had risen to 3.742, a 33% increase on the previous year. Soil Use and Management (SUM) had appointed a new Editor, Deyi Hou from 1 January 2021 and although it had a slight decrease in impact factor (14%), the Chair was enthusiastic about the work with both Editors were undertaking for the journals</li> <li>• The World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) would take place from 31 July – 5 August 2022 in Glasgow. The IUSS Inter Congress meeting had been due to take place face to face in Glasgow in September 2020, but this had been postponed and would be delivered virtually in November 2020. The congress programme was well underway and further information would be provided to members in the new year</li> <li>• Covid-19 had affected many businesses and individuals during 2020 and BSSS had been no exception. The Chair noted that the Executive team were continuing to work effectively from home, and Board had made the decision not to offer any face to face events or training during 2020 and would continue to monitor the position into 2021. The Society had introduced the Zoom into Soil virtual events which had been well attended in July, September and October 2020, with over 160 people attending each meeting.</li> </ul>
<i>Secretary's Note</i>	<i>The BSSS 2020 – 2025 Strategy is available on the <a href="#">website</a>.</i>
5.	<p><b>Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019</b></p> <p>The Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019 had been distributed and further to a proposal by the Chair, which was seconded by Michael Goss, members voted in favour of approving the accounts.</p>
6.	<p><b>Appointment of Auditors for the Ensuing Year</b></p> <p>The Chair proposed that HSA &amp; Co. were reappointed as the Society's auditors. This was seconded by Fiona Nicholson and members voted in favour.</p>
7.	<p><b>Election of Council Members 2021</b></p> <p>Although there had been no resignations in 2020, following the usual structure set out in the Articles of Association and Bye-Laws, the Chair would become Past President on 1 January 2021, replacing Wilfred Otten who would step down from both Board and Council. Bruce Lascelles would become President on 1 January 2021.</p> <p>The President thanked Wilfred for his continued support of, and service to, the Society.</p> <p>Council had nominated Dr Jack Hannam as their President Elect candidate and further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Helen Balshaw, members voted in favour of Jack's election.</p> <p>Council had nominated Dr Lynda Deeks as Chair of the South West Regional Discussion Group and further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Gill Shaw, members voted in favour of Lynda's election.</p>

Members noted that members of the 2021 Trustee Board would be:

<b>President</b>	Bruce Lascelles
<b>Past President</b>	Sacha Mooney
<b>President Elect</b>	Jack Hannam
<b>Governance Trustee</b>	David Hopkins
<b>Finance Trustee</b>	Anna Becvar
<b>Trustee</b>	Tom Aspray

Members noted that members of the 2021 Council would be the six Board members plus:

EJSS Editor	Jenni Dungait (ex officio)
SUM Editor	Deyi Hou (ex officio)
PPC Chair	Mike Palmer
Education Committee	Jack Hannam (also a Trustee)
Grants & Awards Committee	Bruce Lascelles (also a Trustee)
WCSS Working Group	Bruce Lascelles (also a Trustee)
Early Career Representative	Vacancy
Midlands Soil Discussion Group	Andrew Tye
Northern Soils Network	Manoj Menon
South East England Regional Group	Leila Froud (interim)
South West Soils Discussion Group	Lynda Deeks
Scottish Regional Group	Sarah Buckingham
Welsh Soil Discussion Group	Ian Rugg
Ordinary Council Member	Robert Cochrane
Ordinary Council Member	Xavier Portell
Ordinary Council Member	Vacancy

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	The vacancies which were noted would be advertised to members in the new year.
8.	<p><b>Honorary Membership</b></p> <p>Members could choose to make an Honorary Member of any person who had been a full member of the Society for the preceding 10 years and / or had made an exceptional contribution to the objects of the Society. Members had received a paper which set out Prof. Bernard Tinker's achievements in the field of soil science and his support of the aims of the Society.</p> <p>Further to a proposal from the Chair, which was seconded by Bruce Lascelles, members voted in favour of Prof. Tinker's Honorary membership.</p>
9.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Bruce Lascelles thanked the Chair for his commitment to the Society during his two-year term as President.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.</p>

### Future Meetings

Annual General Meeting 2021 - Tuesday 7 September – Royal College of Physicians, Glasgow

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