

**Minutes of the AAU Meeting held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at  
Narvik University College, Narvik, Norway.**

**Present:** Dr Thurai Rahulan (Chairman), Dr Mike West (Vice President), Dr Simon Prince (Secretary), Mr Paul Hogan (Treasurer), Dr Mike Jacobs (Emeritus, Birmingham), Prof Moji Moatamedi (Narvik), Dr William Tiu (Narvik), Dr Muhammad Shakeel Virk (Narvik), Mr Kamran Zaman (Narvik).

**Apologies:** John Farley OBE (President), Dr Andy Lewis (Hertfordshire), Prof Costas Soutis (Sheffield).

**Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all attendees and thanked Prof Moji Moatamedi, the Director of the High North Technology Centre at Narvik University College, Prof Arne Erik Holdø, the Vice Chancellor of Narvik University College, and their colleagues, for hosting the AAU meeting at Narvik.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** held on Tuesday 19th April 2011 at MSHATF Royal Air Force Benson, Oxfordshire. A correction to the reported date of the Narvik meeting was noted, but otherwise the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

**Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

It was reported that there had been no change to the inventory of assets, and that the display frame, employed at the Royal Aeronautical Society at Hamilton Place in 2009, was still missing<sup>†</sup>.

Simon Prince reported that he had not had the time to start designing a new business card, but that he would try and get this done during the summer. Paul Hogan agreed to organise a general e-mail account: [secretary@theaaau.org](mailto:secretary@theaaau.org).

***ACTION: Simon and Paul to deliver a business card design and secretary's e-mail address.***

Arrangements for the AGM & the John Barnes Trophy presentations to be held at the Robin Hood Airport in South Yorkshire (formerly RAF Finningley) to be discussed later in the meeting.

---

<sup>††</sup> This has since been found at the RAeS and will be returned to Dr. Prince at City University.

Dr Prince proposed the motion that Mrs Tanya Hogan, who has taken over the administration responsibilities of Mrs Charlie Crocker, be paid at the same rate as Mr Paul Godden, who administers the AAU web site. This is an annual rate of £520. The motion was seconded by Prof Moatamedi and was approved unanimously by the committee.

### **The AAU Constitution**

A review of the constitution of the Association, required by the expansion of membership to a non UK institution, was undertaken, for approval in a motion at the AGM. All statements specific to the United Kingdom / UK, were removed.

It was agreed to propose a change to Section 2.1c) to remove the condition that the Honorary Vice Chairman “shall be a staff member of a UK university holding University Membership”.

It was agreed to propose a change to section 2.3 to remove the limitation that elected officials can only be re-elected once.

It was also agreed to propose a change in section 2.4 to the conditions for elections on honorary fellows.

The changes to the Association constitution will be offered as a motion for ratification at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

### **The AAU Engineering Facilities Study**

Simon Prince reported to the committee the latest news with regards the AAU initiative to promote a better system to manage the UK engineering facility infrastructure. It was reported that the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (through the Technology Strategy Board and the Research Councils UK) had asked for a proposal for the establishment of a *National Fluid Mechanics Facility*, to provide a “suite” of state of the art fluid mechanics facilities to which UK publicly funded fluid mechanics research can be focused, and which can be openly accessed by the UK research community.

The proposal, which has been led by Prof. Morrison, head of the aeronautical engineering department at Imperial College, proposed to spend £25 million over the period October 2011 to September 2018, to identify and set up the facilities for open access. The principal universities included in this bid are (not exclusively):

- Imperial College, Southampton University and Cranfield University to provide low speed subsonic wind tunnel and water tank facilities.
- Imperial College, Cambridge University and City University to provide compressible flow faculties (transonic / supersonic and hypersonic flow regimes).

The current suite of facilities included in the proposal were chosen based solely on inspection of the recent EPSRC research portfolio in experimental fluid mechanics research. However, the Secretary informed the committee that other facilities at these and other institutions would also be included in the project if they were deemed to protect and improve the UK research capability.

### **The AAU Website**

The committee noted the considerable improvements seen in the AAU website, particularly with the promptness with which it is being updated and maintained. The

Treasurer and Mrs Tanya Hogan were thanked for taking this administration on. With this in mind, it was decided that the motion that direct access by every committee member was required, to promote improved maintenance, was abandoned. Instead, it was decided that Paul and Tanya would continue to provide this service, and that a new e-mail address be established, with Paul, Tanya and the Secretary having login access. The new e-mail address would be employed on the new business card.

***ACTION: Paul to set up a new secretary's e-mail address.***

In order to settle the issues with regards the AAU web address, and the restrictions on using the .ac.uk designation with JANET, the website address / domain name "***www.theaau.org***" was purchased and registered to the AAU at a total cost of £50 for the next five years immediately after the meeting.

The Chairman reported that he had received information about registering as a charity, and registering with the National Council for the Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which would be free for organisations with revenues less than £10,000 per year. While the committee considered that the decision to abandon the .ac.uk website domain name eliminates the necessity to become a registered charity, it was recognised that there are still benefits to be made by the Associations membership of the NCVO. In particular the NCVO provide an unparalleled database of the hundreds of thousands of charitable funds, many obscure, to which our membership would be able to benefit. For instance, for funding research projects, for equipment grants, for student study grants or travel grants.

***ACTION: The Committee to decide on NCVO membership at the next meeting.***

### **The House of Commons Dinner**

The organisation of the proposed House of Commons dinner by Paul Hogan was discussed. Paul reported that Gerald Howarth MP would be willing to sponsor the dinner, and gave a short presentation on the available venues and costs. It was decided that more time needed to be spent on thinking about the aims and strategy of such a dinner should take before making any firm decisions.

***ACTION: The Committee / Membership to debate strategic aims of proposed House of Commons dinner and provide options of the next meeting.***

### **The John Barnes Trophy and AGM.**

The Chairman thanked Paul for making arrangements for the next meeting at the Robin Hood Airport in Yorkshire on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

The Chairman reported that there was still no news from Dr Mike Clee on the shortlist of candidates for the John Barnes Trophy, for presentation at the next meeting.

Paul recommended that members should book accommodation on the night of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October at the Best Western Hotel near Robin Hood Airport, which costs £75/night. (see note below)

**NOTE.** Since the meeting, it transpires that the Best Western Hotel now has no rooms available and so members are advised to book at the Accore Hotel at Doncaster airport which is only 100 yards from the building holding the AGM. A rate of £56 per night has been quoted. However, the post AGM dinner is still scheduled to take place at the Best Western Hotel and a £10 deposit is required.

**Any Other Business**

Prof Moji Moatamedi proposed that the AAU could institute an annual overseas meeting which would couple with the annual Multiphysics research conference, the next venue being in Barcelona in 14 – 15 December 2011.

***ACTION: The Committee to consider the above proposal at the next meeting.***

Paul Hogan informed the committee that he was meeting with the European Business School (EBS), in Frankfurt which undertakes teaching and research in air transport management, and that EBS might consider joining the AAU and that he would propose this to them.

**Next Meeting**

The AAU AGM & the John Barnes Trophy presentations to be held at the Robin Hood Airport in South Yorkshire (formerly RAF Finningley), Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011.