

REPORT ON THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING by J.R.Parker, Hon.Secretary

In accordance with the Notice served to members, the Society held its first Annual General Meeting of members on Saturday, 14th March 1970 at the British Museum of Natural History in London, by courtesy of the Trustees of the Museum.

An attendance sheet was signed by 38 members and guests.

The President of the Society, Dr. Eric Duffey, O.B.E. occupied the Chair and opened the meeting at 2 pm by welcoming the assembled members to what he referred to as an historic occasion. The following business was transacted:

The proposed Rules, previously circulated, were duly ratified without amendment.

The Officers and Council of the Society were then elected in accordance with Rule 4., as follows:

President: Dr. Eric Duffey. Vice-President: Mr. G.H.Locket.

Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. J.R.Parker.

Bulletin Editor: Mr. J.Crocker. Librarian: Mr. I.M.Evans.

Council Members: Drs. P.D.Gabbutt, P.Merrett, A.F.Millidge, M.B.Usher and Messrs. D.J.Clark, D.R.Nellist and F.R.Wanless.

Mr. R.Allison was elected as Honorary Auditor.

The Secretary reported that the Society's membership, composed of individuals and institutions had now reached the figure of 190 and reference was made to the new publicity brochure, of which nearly 1,000 had been circulated in Britain and abroad.

The Treasurer's financial statement was adopted. It was recorded that the Society was now registered as a charitable institution under the Charity Commission which enabled those British members who wished to do so, to covenant subscriptions for seven years with effect from 1971, whereby funds of the Society would benefit by the recovery of Income Tax. It was resolved that subscription rates for the year 1971 would remain unchanged at £1.

The Editor thanked those who had contributed papers and articles for the Bulletins and referred to improvements envisaged for future issues, including computer typesetting next year, the inclusion of a title page, list of contents and serial numbers on the covers as well as the provision of an index for each completed volume.

The Librarian's report recorded the number of loans made from the Reprint Library which now consisted of some 500 reprinted papers on arachnological subjects, available on loan to members in Britain.

The Presidential Address, "Arachnology and Ecological Studies", was given by Dr. Eric Duffey. He discussed and compared investigations made both in Britain and continental countries during recent years.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the President, to the Council and Officers for their past work, to the Trustees of the Museum for providing such excellent facilities and to Mr.D.J.Clark who had arranged a display of arachnological material from the Museum's collections.

Tea was served after the business part of the meeting when informal discussions ensued.