

**REPORT OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, (AGM), OF  
THE FUEL AND ENERGY RESEARCH FORUM, (FERF).**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2026 AT 12.20.pm.  
AT CONNAH'S QUAY POWER STATION, CONNAH'S QUAY FLINT**

**THE FUEL AND ENERGY RESEARCH FORUM AGM.**

Dr. Will Quick, Chairman (Industry) of the FERF, welcomed the approximately 50 participants to this Forum event and chaired this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Fuel and Energy Research Forum.

**i) Report of the year 2025 Annual Meeting**

The Minutes of the year 2025 Annual Meeting, held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025, (issued as FERF E-mailshot No.7, (2025), on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025), were formally approved without modification.

**ii) Review of Actions**

Dr. Will Quick noted that there were no actions arising from the report of the year 2025 Annual Meeting.

**iii) Report by the Chairman/General Secretary**

The Chairman (Industry), Dr. Will Quick, presented the formal report for the calendar year 2025 as follows :-

The calendar year 2025 has again been a challenging year for the **Fuel and Energy Research Forum**. However, in summary, like 2024, 2025 has been a more active year for the **Forum**, where there have been 3 live events.

The FERF has been able to provide all of its usual services this year, where all of the 2025 FERF Newsletters, the regular **Forum** E-mailshots, and the up-dating of the website have been provided.

In April, the FERF held its 2025 Annual Meeting at the Owen Building, Sheffield Hallam University. This event was held jointly with the inaugural seminar of the Electricity Generation and Storage Interest Group entitled, "Energy Storage in Electricity Infrastructure-Developments, Challenges and Innovations"

In early September, the **Forum** held its biennial three-day conference live at the University of Leeds now entitled the, "3<sup>r</sup> FERIA Conference, the European Conference on Fuel and Energy Research and its Applications, the Successor to the ECCRIA Series of Conferences". Abstracts were submitted from the United Kingdom and 5 overseas countries, leading to 6 conference sessions, 5 of which were triple sessions. The Conference was attended by just under 100 participants, where one-fifth of registered participants were from overseas representing 5 countries, (Australia, Ukraine, China, Turkey and South Africa). The conference received for consideration over 120 abstracts and had over 80 oral presentations, as well as 20 poster presentations. Over 35 PhD students attended the conference. This Conference covered most aspects of fuel and energy utilisation research currently being carried

out in the UK and had attracted participants from many of the major UK organisations carrying out fuel and energy R&D, as well as participants from overseas.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Science Lecture which is now organised by the FERF, entitled "Biomass versus Coal: Some of the Challenges and Prospects", was presented by Professor Jenny Jones, Professor of Sustainable Energy at the University of Leeds. and was held at the University of Leeds at the 3<sup>rd</sup> FERIA Conference.

The **Forum** has continued its major transformation into the **Fuel and Energy Research Forum**, where the **Forum** has been pursuing and has made progress in achieving its new objectives, which have now broadened considerably with the expansion of the **Forum's** activities.

The year 2025 has seen the issue of three editions of the new **Forum** Newsletter, (January, May, and September). During the year, the **Forum** website has continued to provide information to Members and has been regularly added to and up-dated, (it now has a Members Only section), where many of the presentations from previous **Forum** events can be viewed on the FERF website.

During the year, there have been 14 **Forum** E-mailshots. The **Forum** has also actively assisted with the promotion of, and publicity for, several other fuel and energy research events, including on-line events, and funding opportunities in the UK, Europe and worldwide, through several **Forum** E-mailshots.

FERF Members have been invited to join several both on-line and live seminars throughout the year organised by the UKCCSRC, the IChemE Clean Energy SIG, and others.

A fund is available from the **Forum** for the funding of PhD students to attend national and international conferences, where the recipients of these awards have provided articles on their impressions of these conferences for previous FERF Newsletter.

The **Forum** has started planning the "4<sup>th</sup> FERIA Conference, the European Conference on Fuel and Energy Research and Its Applications", to be held in Birmingham on Monday 6<sup>h</sup> to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2027

The **Forum** is currently planning the 7<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Science Lecture.

The **Forum** is now connected to LinkedIn, (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/71250581/admin%E2%80%9D>), and Twitter, ([@Ferf\\_Forum](https://twitter.com/Ferf_Forum)), as had been announced in a previous FERF E-mailshot.

The Executive Committee has been in discussions with and is actively promoting several other fuel and energy research issues and events. The **Forum** is actively co-operating with a number of bodies, particularly in the UK and overseas and has continued to provide an information service to Members.

#### **iv) Report by the Treasurer**

Dr. Jonathan Morris, the acting FERF Treasurer, (up to Item v on the current agenda), presented the Treasurer's report to the meeting, which included a summary of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet for the period 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025, (the full accounts are attached to this Report).

The Income & Expenditure Account for the calendar year 2025 showed expenditure resulting from normal **Forum** operating activities, that is, expenses for the FERF Interest Group Seminar and the 2025 Annual Meeting, the newsletter services, secretarial and administrative services, treasurer and webmaster services, the rental of the Forum Post Office Box, the website rental fee, the public liability Insurance provisions and bank charges. There were also other expenditure including 6 x Student Travel and Subsistence Bursaries and some other miscellaneous expenditure.

The significant source of income was, as usual, Membership subscriptions, which for 2025 totalled £6,695-00. This consisted of Membership subscriptions from a total of 42 Members for 2025, (6 less than for 2024, but with some payments still pending), 3 Membership payments for 2024 and 4 advanced payments for 2026. Other income included the interim surplus payment from the 3<sup>rd</sup> FERIA Conference, (Leeds), Interest from the Nationwide Building Society account and a contribution from the IET for the Interest Group seminar in April.

This account is supported by the Balance Sheet at 31/12/2025, (please see attached below). Overall, there was a cash deficit for the year of £3,003-31. The total assets at 31/12/25 were £32,732-35, all of which funds were currently held in the **Forum's** HSBC current account and Nationwide Building Society Club Savings Account.

#### **v) Election for Vacancies on the Executive Committee.**

There were five vacant positions on the Executive Committee, (Chairman - Academe), General Secretary, Treasurer and 2 x Representative from Academe for which the following nominations had been received.

#### **CANDIDATE. (POSITION).**

#### **PROPOSERS.**

Prof. Bill Nimmo.  
(Chairman, Academe)

Dr. W J Quick  
Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey  
Dr. Bijal Gudka

Dr. Bijal Gudka.  
(General Secretary)

Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey  
Prof. J M Jones  
Dr. Trudy Beeley

Dr. Jonathan Morris  
(Treasurer)

Dr.D.J.A.McCaffrey  
Prof. Bill Nimmo  
Dr Bijal Gudka

Prof. E H Lester  
(Representative from Academe)

Prof W Nimmo  
Dr. W J Quick  
Dr. Jonathan Morris

Dr. Yong Yan  
(Representative from Academe)

Prof. Hao Zhou  
Dr G S Riley  
Prof. Yonghui Hu

The candidates for the positions of Chairman, (Academe), General Secretary, Treasurer and two vacant positions for Representatives from Academe were therefore elected unopposed.

#### **vi) Any Other Business**

There were no matters raised under this item.

### **REPORTS FROM THE INTEREST GROUP CO-ORDINATORS**

To include progress in their Interest Groups during the year 2025.

#### **Combustion, Dr. Gerry Riley**

Dr. Quick reported on behalf of Dr. Riley that the last meeting of the Combustion Interest Group had been held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and was entitled, "Emissions Reduction Requirements for Medium Sized Combustion Plant and Incinerators" and was held at Uniper Technologies Ltd, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire. She continued that the next Interest Group seminar would be in a year or so's time, where he would welcome any suggestions for topics for a future Interest Group seminar possibly to be held jointly with the Combustion Engineers Association, (CEA).

#### **Environment, Dr Phil Jenkinson**

Dr. Quick reported on behalf of Dr Jenkinson that the last seminar of this Interest Group entitled, "Carbon Capture and Ash Treatment for Biomass and Waste Combustion", had taken place in April 2024 jointly with the 2024 FERF Annual Meeting at the Diamond, the University of Sheffield. He continued that the next seminar was planned in a year or two's time possibly with another of the Interest Groups.

#### **Biomass and Waste, Dr Claire Spencer**

Dr. Quick reported on behalf of Dr. Spencer that the last seminar of this Interest Group entitled "Pathways to Net Zero", had taken place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the University of Sheffield and had been held jointly with the Environment Interest Group. The next seminar entitled "Future Changes and their Potential Impact on the Waste Wood Market" is still being planned for later this year.

#### **Electricity Generation and Storage, Dr Patrick Mason**

Dr. Quick reported on behalf of Dr Mason that the inaugural seminar of this Interest Group entitled "Energy Storage in Electricity Infrastructure-Developments, Challenges and Innovations" had taken place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025,, at Sheffield Hallam University. The next seminar will take place in about a year's time.

#### **Carbon Capture and Storage, Prof Jon Gibbins**

Dr. Quick reported on behalf of Prof. Gibbins reported that the last seminar for this Interest Group entitled, "New Fuels and Emissions Control/Pathways to Net Zero." took place (today) on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Connah's Quay Power Station.. The next seminar will take place in about two year's time. Dr. Gibbins reminded the meeting that the UKCCSRC had been presenting regular on- line webinars and that

Forum Members had been invited to join these seminars. He concluded that he would always welcome the views of Forum Members and was open to suggestions for topics and content for such future Interest Group seminars.

### **Fuel Characterisation, Up-grading and Carbonisation, Prof Ed Lester**

Dr. Quick reported on behalf of Prof. Lester that the last seminar of this Interest Group entitled, “Decarbonisation of The Steel Industry”, had taken place on Wednesday 21st September 2022 at Imperial College London. He continued that there were no current plans for the next Interest Group seminar, however, this was now likely to be in 2026, where the provisional titles could be, “Future Uses of Carbons”, “Carbon Characterisation Today and Tomorrow”, possibly with the British Carbon Group and/or the Royal Society of Chemistry, or “Characterisation Techniques for all Existing Fuels”, to include fuel, handling, transport, milling and storage issues. Prof. Lester would also welcome suggestions for topics and content for such future Interest Group seminars.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Dr. Will Quick, FERF Chairman, (Industry), opened his concluding remarks by repeating his earlier statement that although the year 2025 had been a challenging year for the **Forum**, it had also been a much more active year for the FERF than for previous years. He thanked the speakers for their presentations, the local organisers for the arrangements for the day and all those for attending this event.

**Dr B Gudka**

**General Secretary of the Fuel and Energy Research Forum**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**