

THE COMPUTER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting, held at 1.30 pm on Monday 10th May 1999 in the Lecture Theatre at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD.

1. The Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 28th May 1998 were approved.
2. The Chairman's Report.

The year had been notable for two major anniversaries : in June 1998 the 50th anniversary of the first running of the Manchester BABY machine, and in April 1999 the 50th anniversary of EDSAC. The Society was proud to have been involved, through the excellent work of Chris Burton, in the construction of the replica of BABY, and was delighted that a team from Cambridge had consented to repeat later this afternoon part of the talks given at the recent celebrations in Cambridge.

Once again successful meetings programmes had been run in both Manchester and London, and satisfactory progress was being made with details of the programmes for the 1999/2000 season.

At the Science Museum in London a most welcome decision had been made to include the resurrected Pegasus in a live display, which was an appropriate recognition of the excellent work of the working party now led by Len Hewitt.

The Society was delighted to have heard of the appointment of Doron Swade as an Assistant Director of the Museum, and wished him well in his new post.

With a view to collaborating and assisting in the publication of a revised edition of his important book "Early British Computers", the Society had been glad to co-opt Professor Simon Lavington onto the Committee.

During the year it had increasingly been realised that conservation ought also to include software, and in view of his active interest in this field the Committee had also been glad to co-opt Mr David Holdsworth of Leeds University.

Membership had remained fairly constant during the year, at about 670, with the addition of new members keeping pace with the loss of old members through death, retirement, or changing address without telling the Society.

3. The Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported that, despite the gloomy forecasts made at last year's Annual General Meeting, the Society had in fact finished the year just past with a surplus of income over expenditure of about £300. Nevertheless, the outlook was not promising.

that one of the surviving sponsors might be about to withdraw support. Possible ways of tackling this were to be the subject of a later agenda item.

4. Election of Officers

The Chairman stood down and the Secretary chaired the meeting pro tem.

The Secretary reported that Mr Brian Oakley had expressed his willingness to stand again as Chairman. He was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by the Treasurer; elected nem con.

The Chairman then resumed the chair. As Vice Chairman Mr Tony Sale was proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr Adrian Johnstone; elected nem con.

The Chairman then asked for nominations for Secretary. After indicating that he was prepared to stand again, Mr Hamish Carmichael was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr John Shirley; elected nem con.

Mr Dan Hayton agreed to stand again as Treasurer, proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr George Davis; elected nem con.

Due to a relaxation in the rules of the British Computer Society for the management of Specialist Groups, it is no longer necessary for the Society to elect an auditor.

5. Election of the Committee.

No nominations had been received. Professor Simon Lavington and Mr David Holdsworth had been co-opted to the Committee during the year; their co-option was informally approved by the meeting. Mr Ewart Willey had decided to resign from the Committee; the Chairman wished him well and proposed a vote of thanks to him which was passed with acclamation. Other existing members of the Committee were all prepared to continue to serve. The Chairman therefore proposed that the Committee be re-elected en bloc; seconded by the Secretary; passed nem con.

6. Subscriptions.

In view of the possible shortfall in corporate sponsorship, the Chairman led a discussion on the possible introduction of personal subscriptions. The options appeared to be :

- a general subscription
- a subscription for those members who are not also members of the British Computer Society
- a cover charge for the Society's bulletin *Resurrection*
- an appeal for donations.

It was generally reckoned that if subscriptions were introduced the additional administrative burden would be very unwelcome; the meeting thought that their introduction should be resisted for as long as possible. A charge for Life Membership was suggested as a way of minimising such administrative effort, though it was recognised that it might prove less than satisfactory.

The meeting directed the Committee to proceed with an appeal for donations and to continue to seek additional corporate sponsorships.

7. Any Other Business

Following last year's amendment to the Constitution, which formally associated the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester as a sponsoring parent of the Society, it was judged desirable to make a further modification to the Constitution, directing that the Committee should be enlarged to include a representative of that Museum. A motion to this effect was proposed by Mr Chris Burton, seconded by the Secretary, and passed nem. con.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.55 pm

J.W.S.Carmichael, Secretary to the Computer Conservation Society. 11/5/99