SGR's Annual General Meeting 2025

Wednesday 15th October, 18.15-18.45 (BST)

On Zoom (using same link as for conference)

<u>Agenda</u>

1. **Opening Remarks**   Dr Jan Maskell, Co-Chair

2. **Minutes of SGR AGM 2024 (pages 2-4) and Matters Arising**

3. **Annual Report and Accounts 2024 – 2025**

    - Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director
    - Dr Emily Heath, Finance & Membership Manager

    Questions are very welcome

4. **Election of Advisors to the Board of Directors***

5. **Update on Recent/Current Activities**

    - Dr Stuart Parkinson, Executive Director

    Questions are very welcome

* Item 4: SGR members are invited to volunteer for the role of Advisor by the deadline of 6 October, for election at the AGM. Other Advisors may be co-opted by the Board at other times. Advisors are invited to attend SGR's quarterly Board meetings (which are usually held on Zoom in the late afternoon/early evening), and to participate by email in discussions about SGR campaigns and activities (including whether/how to support campaigns led by other organisations). Advisors may in due course be invited by the Board to become Directors.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON

16 OCTOBER 2024 (ONLINE, 6.15-6.45 PM)

31 members present: Andrew Currie, Andrew Lohmann, Andrew Simms, Charalampos Tsoumpas, Clare Hamon, David Beasley, David Mitchell, David Pinder, Eileen Braben, Emily Heath, Erik Dalhuijsen, Fiona McOwan, Frank Jackson, Gillian Smith, Henry Adams, Jan Maskell, Jo Wright, Kate Macintosh, Keith Baker, Martin Birdseye, Nico Edwards, Paul Marchant, Peter Gregory, Phil Webber, Richard Erskine, Robert Milne, Saffron Fisk, Steve Ballard, Stuart Parkinson, Tim Foxon, Tony Goodchild.

Apologies for absence: Alasdair Beal, Dennis Bury, Philip Inglesant, Robert Moore, Nick Gotts.

1. **Opening Remarks**

   Jan Maskell (Co-Chair of the SGR Board of Directors) opened the SGR 2024 Annual General Meeting by welcoming all the attendees, and thanked the conference speakers and organisers.

2. **Minutes of SGR AGM 2023**

   The minutes were agreed as a correct record (proposed by Richard Erskine, seconded by Steve Ballard). There were no matters arising.

3. **Annual Report and Accounts (1 March 2023 – 29 February 2024)**

   Stuart Parkinson (SP) (Executive Director) presented a summary of SGR's main outputs over the year, more of which can be found in the Annual Report available on the SGR website. Highlights included:

   • New SGR technical report on UK military emissions published written by SP
   • SGR's work repeatedly quoted by House of Commons Defence Committee report, including some recommendations
   • SP spoke at and helped organise international hybrid conference on military emissions – on a panel with head of climate at MOD
   • Nico Edwards wrote report for World Peace Foundation on green militarism
   • SGR's work used for lobbying at UN FCCC technical meetings in Bonn
   • Supported campaigns against new coal/ oil/ gas projects especially in UK
   • New book by Andrew Simms (AS): 'Badvertising'
   • 'Fair Lifestyle Targets' – rebranding of '1.5C Living Targets' to emphasise equity and reflect continuing failure to reach 1.5C pathway; promotional videos by Liam Killeen
   • 'Carbon Conversations' run by Jan Maskell (JM)as part of 'Closing Loops' sustainable food project
   • Numerous talks given – including at Green Gathering, Green New Deal Summit, Festival of Survival in Glasgow

- Journal article by Phil Webber (PW) and SP documenting high intensity bombardment of Gaza by Israeli military – one of most destructive in history, using AI to speed up 'target selection'; over 6,000 page-views on website
- Teachers' packs on nuclear weapons by PW and JM launched to coincide with 'Oppenheimer' movie – 500+ downloads
- SGR supported Drone Wars workshop on military R&D into human enhancement, so-called 'cyborgs'
- Co-signed numerous calls for ceasefires, peace etc in Gaza and elsewhere
- Continuing high level of social media activity, and coverage in Guardian and other high profile news media, including SP in a TV debate on an Al-Jazeera prime-time show

Emily Heath (Finance & Membership Manager) presented a summary of the annual accounts.

Income over the year was approx. £62k – a 33% increase compared to the previous year, mainly due to successful grant applications supplemented by some consultancy income. Expenditure for the year was approx. £66k – a 12% decrease compared to the previous year, mainly due to a major project (our Responsible Science Campaign) having ended. There was a deficit of approx. £4k over the year, but £2.5k of that was due to a delay in receipt of funds from the 2023 Annual Appeal, to be recouped in the next financial year. Overall SGR ended the financial year with a balance of approx. £27k.

The accounts were accepted unanimously, having been proposed by Andrew Lohmann and seconded by Andrew Simms.

Questions were invited from participants, but there were none.

4. **Election of Advisors to the Board of Directors**

Several Advisors are invited to SGR Board meetings in a non-voting capacity and participate fully in discussions about SGR's activities. They can either be elected at an AGM or co-opted by the Board at other times.

Nico Edwards, Fiona McOwan and Philip Inglesant have all served as Advisors over the past year, and all had confirmed their willingness to continue. They were jointly elected at this AGM, having been proposed by Keith Baker and seconded by Charalampos Tsoumpas.

Steve Ballard asked about the accountability of the Directors, and how they are elected or appointed. Emily responded that SGR is now governed in accordance with the Articles of Association that were agreed by members at the 2022 AGM, and implemented since SGR became a Company Limited by Guarantee in March 2023. Six initial directors were elected by members at the 2022 AGM and are all still in place. They are Philip Webber (co-chair), Jan Maskell (co-chair), Keith Baker and Simon Reed, plus two ex-officio directors, Stuart Parkinson and Emily Heath. In future, new directors will be appointed by the Board rather than being elected at the AGM. Phil added that Directors periodically resign in rotation so that the others can choose whether to re-appoint them.

Members are welcome to express an interest in becoming an Advisor or Director.

SGR's accounts are independently examined and reported annually to Companies House.

5.   Update on Recent/Current Activities

Stuart Parkinson reported on recent and current activities (March-October 2024), including:

- Work on sports and climate, e.g. researching the carbon footprint of the international football industry and 'sportswashing' by the fossil fuel industry
- Promoting blogs by scientists ahead of the recent general election, focused on what the new political priorities should be
- Contributing to a new book called 'Monstrous Anger of the Guns'
- Working to expose the scandal of an academic who was sacked for refusing to fly
- Supporting sign-on letters on a range of issues including arms sales to Israel
- Rowan Harris has replaced Liam Killeen as our Communications Assistant.

Questions were invited from participants.

Richard Erskine asked how SGR decides which issues to focus on, and how we can bring a greater diversity of voices into our campaigning, e.g. including those from Africa. Stuart responded that we are still primarily a UK-based organisation, but accepted the need for increased diversity, and would welcome ideas about how to achieve this. SGR focuses mainly on issues that our active members have expertise in, and identifies gaps that other NGOs are not addressing, playing to our strengths as a science-led organisation.

Phil Webber asked how we can give more weight to campaigning for the rapid transition to wind, water and solar (WWS) energy and green energy storage solutions – and against the much more costly, polluting, and energy-inefficient technologies like Carbon Capture and Storage, Direct Air Capture, etc - that Mark Jacobson outlined in his conference presentation. Stuart responded that Mark will be invited to contribute to the next edition of our Responsible Science journal and that we hope to work with him further.

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The AGM ended at 6.50 pm.