



British Geophysical Association

Annual General Meeting

**Geological Society of
London**

**15th February 2013
12:30**

Draft Minutes

Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received from absent Executive Committee members. Twenty-six members of the BGA were present.

Present:

Prof. Mike Kendall (MK)	– President and Chair
Prof. Christine Peirce (CP)	– Secretary and Minutes Secretary for this meeting
Prof. Peter Clarke (PC)	– Treasurer
Dr George Tuckwell (GT)	– Industry Representative – Co-opted member

Absent with apologies:

Dr Mimi Hill (MH)	– Newsletter Officer
Mr Paul Denton (PD)	– Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer
Dr Ian Stimpson (IS)	– Member without portfolio
Prof Gillian Foulger (GRF)	– Website Officer
Prof. Andreas Rietbrock (AR)	– Meetings Officer
Prof. John Brodholt (JB)	– Outreach Representative – Co-opted member
Dr George Tuckwell (GT)	– Industry Representative – Co-opted member
Dr Lyndsay Fletcher (LF)	– Parent Society Representative – Royal Astronomical Society

1 Minutes of the BGA AGM 10th February 2012

The minutes of this meeting were agreed as a true record.

**Document 150213_BGA/01
Filed with minutes.**

2 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 President's Report

The President gave a brief introduction, for members present, to the aims and objective of the BGA and how it represents its constituents in governmental, research council and other in advisory roles, together with its relationship with its parent societies - the Royal Astronomical Society and Geological Society of London. The President then thanked his co-organisers for running a well-attended NAG 2013 meeting. In particular the President commented on the following:

i) Providing advice to stakeholders

Over the past 12 months the BGA has provided advice and position papers to House of Commons Select Committees, in particular, on careers, postgraduate training and immigration vs. recruitment issues.

ii) Geophysical input and advice to funding councils

Similarly, the BGA has engaged with funding Councils (e.g. the NERC) and has seen an up-lift in members volunteering or being nominated for service on higher-level advisory bodies (e.g. NERC SISB and Council).

iii) Nominations for international and national prizes

In addition to encouraging BGA members to nominate colleagues for national and international prizes, the President noted that the BGA has its own prize – the Bullerwell Lectureship – whose winner this year is Dr Derek Keir from Southampton, who will give his first lecture on Tuesday 9th April at the EGU. Members were

encouraged to nominate early-to-mid career colleagues for the 2013 lectureship for which the deadline is 31st August 2013. The President, on behalf of the BGA, congratulated Prof Chris Chapman (Gold Medal), Prof Kathy Whaler (Price Medal) and Prof Bob White (Jeffries Lecturer) on winning three of the Royal Astronomical Society's most prestigious awards.

iv) Organisation of national meetings

The President noted that the BGA provides funding support for national meetings, including the in-progress NAG 2013 meeting during which this AGM was being held. Funds can be applied for by submitting a request to the Secretary in the first instance. Suggestions for the NAG 2014 should be submitted before the next Executive Committee meeting scheduled for the 4th September.

v) Postgraduate Research in Progress meeting in Cambridge – 5th-6th September 2013

At this annual meeting postgraduate students present their research in the form of posters and oral presentations for which prizes are awarded. A host is currently being sought for the 2014 meeting.

vi) Provision of financial support for other meetings

In addition to the annual NAG meeting, the BGA also provides funding for smaller-scale or subject specific meetings, following the same application process as the NAG meeting, although there is no specific deadline. Applications are considered on an ad hoc basis. Reports from any meeting that the BGA funds in any form must be submitted for publication on the BGA web site and in the newsletter. Up to £500 may be applied for.

vii) RAS Geophysical Forum

The RAS has approached the BGA Executive for interest in initiating a Geophysics Forum, along the lines of its existing Astronomy Forum that provides advice to stakeholders, policy makers, research councils and fund holders. This forum comprises one nominated individual from each HEI with an astronomy department or research unit. The BGA President and the Vice-President (Geophysics) of the RAS have canvassed the Chairs and Heads of all UK university departments and research centres with groups active in geophysical-themed research and/or teaching, seeking nominations for representatives on this forum. It is hoped to arrange the first meeting within the next few months.

4 Treasurer's Report

The BGA accounts and finances are in healthy state and a summary statement is included in the tabled documents. The members present were asked to approve the annual accounts, and duly did so. In summary, the parent societies contribute 40% each of the annual budget with the remainder coming from the Gray-Milne fund. Contributions of up to £500 have been provided to an increased number of geophysics meetings around the UK this year with the main expenditure normally being an even higher level of contribution to the NAG and Postgraduate Research in Progress meetings. However, both NAG 2012 and PGRIP 2012 meetings made a small profit that has been passed on to the organisers of the 2013 meetings. The bulk of the BGA income has been budgeted for outreach activities including the Physics Teachers' conference to be hosted at the BGS in May/June and the Gray-Milne Centenary exhibition at the Carisbrooke Museum on the Isle of Wight. The BGA also ran its Image Competition, although the £200 prize has not yet been included in the tabled accounts.

**Document 150213_BGA/02
Filed with minutes.**

5 Constitution

At last year's AGM, a proposal for revisions to the wording of the BGA constitution were presented and agreed. The revised document has now been posted on the BGA web site for the due notice period prior to this AGM. The members present are now asked to confirm the revisions to the constitution which reflect:

- a) strengthening the relationship between geophysics and the other Earth sciences
- b) renaming the Executive Committee roles to better reflect remit and BGA activities and committee membership
- c) adjusting the notification of change period and mode of notification to make better use of the BGA web site.

The members present approved the changes.

**Document 150213_BGA/03
Filed with minutes.**

6 BGA brochure and Mission Statement

The President reported that the RAS had agreed funding for and procured the services of Dr Sue Bowler to create the brochure along the lines of the astronomy brochure already in existence. Dr Bowler wishes to interview people with a geophysical background who are now following a range of careers as examples of what can be done with such a qualification and what the skill set and knowledge base it provides can also be applied to. The members present were asked for volunteers. Dr Sheila Peacock has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the brochure production on behalf of the BGA. The President noted that the mission statement is included in the abstract brochure for the NAG 2013 meeting.

7 BGA Image Competition

The President outlined the BGA Image Competition and announced the prize winners for 2012: Will Hutchinson (Oxford) and Philippa Demonte (Leeds). Will has received a winner's prize of £200 and both winner and runner-up opted for a subscription to the Geological Society. The Image Competition will run again in 2013 with a deadline for submissions of the 31st August 2013, so that the images can be judged at the next Executive meeting and the winners announced at the PGRIP meeting. The President drew members' attention to the NAG meeting abstract booklet for a selection of the best images from the 2012 competition. The Secretary will circulate members with a call for submissions immediately after the AGM.

8 BGA Prize for Best Undergraduate in Geophysics

The President noted that the Heads of all HEI departments in the UK that host geophysics-based degrees had been contacted asking for expressions of interest in the "Best Undergraduate in Geophysics" prize scheme that the BGA plans to roll-out for June 2013, along the lines of the Palas prizes for palaeontology, the Mineralogical Society awards and so on. A number of bids had been received and these will be progressed in the pilot year. If successful, a second call will be made for the AY2013. In the pilot, year prizes will be set at £100 and this may be reviewed for subsequent years if a significant additional number of departments also buy-in to this award scheme.

9 Outreach

The President had already outlined the planned outreach activities for 2013 but also noted that 500 seismometers had now been installed in schools in the UK and Ireland as part of the Seismometers in Schools Project. To encourage their use the BGA will be rolling-out the "Teachable Moments" scheme, in which bids will be solicited for a provider of teaching materials based around earthquakes as and when they occur. For example, a set of Powerpoint slides containing a description of the event, the geological setting, damage reports, the focal mechanism and a recording of the event from both a global network station and a seismometer in schools station for direct comparison.

10 Committee Membership and Terms of Office

The constitution requires that there be:

- 8 members who are fellows of one of the parent societies
- 4 (up to) co-opted members who need not be fellows
- 2 representatives, one each from the parent societies.

The current committee membership is as follows:

Fellow members:

Prof. Mike Kendall	– President	– term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015
Prof. Christine Peirce	– Secretary	– term: Feb 2010-Feb 2014
Prof. Peter Clarke	– Treasurer	– term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015
Dr Mimi Hill	– Newsletter Officer	– term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015
Prof Gillian Foulger	– Web Officer	– term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014
Prof. Andreas Rietbrock	– Meetings Officer	– term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015
Mr Paul Denton	– Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer	– term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015
Vacant	– Member Without Portfolio	– term: Feb 2014-Feb 2017

Co-opted members:

Prof. John Brodholt	– Outreach Representative	– term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014
Dr George Tuckwell	– Industry Representative	– term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014
Vacant	– Postgraduate Representative	– term: Feb 2013-Feb 2015
Dr David Waltham	– Nominations and Awards Officer	– term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015

Parent society members:

Dr Lyndsay Fletcher	– Royal Astronomical Society	– term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014
Prof. Alistair Fraser	– Geological Society	– term: Feb 2013-Feb 2016

Currently there are vacancies for a Postgraduate or early-career Postdoctoral researcher as the Postgraduate Representative and a Fellow member, and four further officers complete their terms at the 2014 AGM. Volunteers were requested to come forward. As such Miss Jenny Taylor (Bristol) volunteered and was elected unopposed as the Postgraduate Representative effective immediately.

11 Any other business

There were two items:

a) Representatives of the BGA to stand for Council of the Geological Society

The President encouraged members to stand for election to Council of the Geological Society since it had been a number of years since a member of the Geol. Soc. with geophysical interests had stood for election, let alone been elected.

b) Nominations for the Bullerwell Lecturer 2013

The President reminded members that a call for nominations for the 2013 Bullerwell Lecturer would be circulated immediately after the meeting. The lectureship, named after William Bullerwell, first Chief Geophysicist of the (predecessor to the) British Geological Survey, is a prestigious appointment for an outstanding young or early-career geophysicist. Members were encouraged to nominate appropriate colleagues. The deadline for nominations is the 31st August annually.

12 Date of next meeting

2014 AGM – c. 12:00 on the 15th February at the Geological Society of London during the NAG 2014 Meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 13:00.