



**British
Geophysical
Association**

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British Geophysical Association Committee

Meeting, Friday 13th February 2004, 9.30 am,

Geological Society, Burlington House, London

Present: Peter Maguire (chair), Tine Thomas, Jon Bull, Sheila Peacock,
John McCloskey

Apologies: Philippa Berry, Wyn Williams, Tony Morris, Jane Stimpson

1. The Committee welcomed new member Tine Thomas (Liverpool) and John McCloskey (Coleraine) and noted the apology of new member Jane Stimpson (school education representative)

2. Minutes of last meeting
These were accepted and signed.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Affiliated Groups

One of BGA's nominal duties is to nominate UK representatives to IASPEI, IAGA and IAG. The current reps are (respectively) Mike Kendall, Alan Roger and Alan Dodson, who were all chosen without formal procedure. Peter Maguire to contact IUGG UK panel (Mike Kendall is chair) to determine procedure. **ACTION PKHM**

(b) Structure of BGA Committee

Tine Thomas takes over as Education Rep and Jane Stimpson joins as new post as School Education Rep. It was noted that they and John McCloskey had been appointed without the procedure laid down in the BGA Constitution. This was accepted as being necessary in the light of the last AGM being some 3 years ago. A new rep from EIGG is required: Peter Maguire to approach EIGG chair Nigel Cassidy. Tony Morris takes over from Jon Bull as treasurer in March 2004: the account is to be set up so that any one of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer can sign cheques. Jon Bull was thanked for his

service as Treasurer. A representative of BGA on the Geological Society Committee is required: Peter Styles is willing to do this temporarily. **ACTION PKHM**

(c) Postgraduate meeting

Liverpool University will host the BGA Postgraduate Meeting in September 2004.

Advertising must start now. Tine Thomas to liaise with Jon Bull and Leeds people to get information and mailing list of PhD supervisors. BGA to underwrite the cost of prizes and the expenses of a "big name" visiting speaker. **ACTION CT**

(d) "New Advances in Geophysics" 2005

"Continental Deformation – impact of satellite techniques on observations and modelling", to be organised by Barry Parsons, Paul Cross and James Jackson. Peter Maguire to fix dates with RAS (10th and 11th February, probably). BGA Committee agrees to 2000 pounds from the Gray–Milne fund being to support this meeting. Jon Bull will liaise with the organisers to ensure the meeting gets off the ground. **ACTION JB**

(e) 2004 Bullerwell Lecture

"Continental Breakup – Implication for Planetary Tectonics" to be given by Cindy Ebinger at EGU, Nice, in April. It will be preceded by an expanded RAS reception at which an announcement of the expansion of Geophysical Journal International to cover Planetary Science will be discussed. The BGA Committee has been asked to suggest names of people to be sent invitations. **ACTION PKHM and Committee**

(f) 2005 Bullerwell

BGA Committee members to bring suitable names to May meeting – PLEASE! **ACTION All Committee Members**

(g) Expanding BGA to include Republic of Ireland geophysicists.

Initial enquiries had yielded positive results. It was agreed to mention this at the AGM, then to approach the parent societies if necessary to make a formal approach to the body that overseas the Irish Geophysical Society (or equivalent). **ACTION PKHM**

(h) BGA Leaflets

Jon Bull to pass his stock to Peter Maguire; the Education one will have to be discarded because it is now out of date. **ACTION JB**

(i) Statistics of take up of places on geophysics first degrees.

There are now only nine, soon to be eight, first degree courses with geophysics in the title, with student numbers as low as in the early nineties.

4. UCAS book entry

Graham and Trotman, publishers of UCAS guidebook, have approached BGA Committee to provide an 800–word introductory paragraph to the geophysics section, in exchange for us placing an advertisement for geophysics in the book, at cost 840/year for three years

minimum. They are also seeking 400 words from a recent first-degree graduate about their career. We agree to underwrite this and seek industrial sponsorship for the adverts. Peter Maguire to write the paragraph. He (and anyone else) to seek a recent graduate to provide a statement, which would be assessed by the committee, the 'best' one being chosen.. Copy deadline "sometime in March". (Subsequent to the meeting, PKHM will confirm the procedure with G&T before further action required) **ACTION PKHM**

5. AOB

- (a) Association of Environmental and Earth Sciences, as set up by Geological Society initiative; RAS has agreed to support it for a year. GeolSoc will appoint a person to manage the communications/website, paid for by subscriptions from the participating societies. BGA (Peter Maguire) will respond that it supports the principle but cannot provide funding because it is not a fund holder but a joint association between its two parent bodies, who are already supporting the Association. **ACTION PKHM**
- (b) Gray–Milne Fund – Jon Bull reported. At present the Gray–Milne did not support the Bullerwell Lecture (GeolSoc sponsored it and RAS underwrote the reception, for which EGS ultimately paid) but this might change due to developments between EGU and GJI / RAS; hence possible future call on Gray–Milne.
- (c) Membership of BGA – Peter Maguire reported: RAS "A" and "G" categories are being questioned; of ~600 "G" members only ~190 are "interested in geophysics" i.e. members of BGA. Peter Maguire proposed to write a short article for "Astronomy and Geophysics" to encourage RAS members to sign up for BGA. GeolSoc reports a similar number of "interested in geophysics" members, but there is some overlap (members of both) hence membership of BGA may be about 100. **ACTION PKHM**

The meeting closed at 10.30 am.