



## British Geophysical Association

Council Room  
Royal Astronomical Society

### Executive Committee Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

## Minutes

### Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received from absent members. The panel introduced themselves for the benefit of Dr Fletcher (LF) as a new member.

#### Present:

Prof. Mike Kendall (MK) – Chair  
Prof. Christine Peirce (CP) – Secretary  
Prof. Peter Clarke (PC) – Treasurer  
Dr Mimi Hill (MH) – Newsletter Officer  
Prof. John Brodholt (JB) – Co-opted member  
Dr George Tuckwell (GT) – Co-opted member  
Dr Lyndsay Fletcher (LF) – Parent Society Representative – Royal Astronomical Society

#### Absent with apologies:

Prof Gillian Foulger (GF)  
Prof. Andreas Rietbrock (AR) – Meetings Officer  
Dr Ian Stimpson (IS) – Education Officer

### 1 Minutes of the BGA Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011

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

**Document 220911\_BGA//01  
Filed with minutes.**

### 2 Matters arising from the minutes

The Chair noted for the record, on behalf of the BGA, its thanks to Dr Sheila Peacock (retiring Secretary) and Dr Anthony Morris (retiring Treasurer) for their many years of dedicated service to the BGA. Dr Peacock was particularly thanked for attending the Postgraduate Meeting in Oxford and assisting with the best poster and talk selection, even though already retired.

#### Item 1) Appointment of Secretary and Treasurer

An Extraordinary meeting of the BGA Committee was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July to confirm the appointment of the new Secretary (CP) and new Treasurer (PC). See item 3.

#### Item 2a) Bullerwell lecture

The Chair reported that the Bullerwell lecture at the EGU was reasonably well attended despite there being no reception afterwards due to cost. Around 40 people attended and the Chair introduced the speaker, Dr Adrian Muxworthy.

#### Item 2b) Postgraduate meeting

See item 10.

#### Item 2c) 2012 NAG meeting

The 2012 NAG meeting will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February at the Geological Society in London and will be convened by Dr. Bernd Kulesa of Swansea University. The meeting is entitled “The Geophysics of the cryosphere and glacial products: properties, processes, and technical advances” which is particularly topical given the NERC’s investment in this area of science in recent years.

**ACTION:**  
**Meetings Officer to communicate with Dr Kulesa and the Geological Society  
to resolve the organisation responsibilities for this meeting.**

**Item 2e) BGA financial support for Dynamic Topography, IUGG Mathematical Geophysics and Volcanoes and Volcanic processes meetings**

The Treasurer reported that following BGA support, the RAS has provided £2000 for the *Dynamic Topography* meeting, which did not subsequently apply for any further support directly from the BGA. The BGA logo was very prominent in all the materials for that meeting. *Mathematical Geophysics* has requested support and it was agreed to offer £500 to be spent as the meeting conveners see fit but with the condition that the BGA logo and materials (e.g. the newsletter) are prominently displayed. Similarly, a request from the *Volcanoes* meeting was supported at £500. The Chair has authored a 1000 word document promoting the BGA's aims and objectives which could be published at these meetings or in the RAS A&G or similar magazines. A shorter summary of a few paragraphs in length is also in development. See item 13.

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to create final version of BGA statement of aims and objectives, and shorter publicity statement.  
Secretary to contact the convener of the Mathematical Geophysics meeting and offer financial support.**

**Item 2f) Ethiopia Geophysics meeting**

When the BGA committee was initially approached for financial support for this meeting there were some concerns raised regarding sponsoring a meeting to be held overseas. Further clarification was sought and the concerns resolved. It was agreed to offer £500 to the conveners of this meeting to be spent as the meeting conveners see fit but with the condition that the BGA logo and materials (e.g. the newsletter) are prominently displayed. However, since the original request was speculative, it was agreed that the conveners of this meeting also need to submit a formal proposal/request.

**ACTION:**  
**Secretary to contact the meeting convener and request a formal proposal.  
Once received approval will be by Chair's action.**

**Item 3) PESGB Schools outreach**

Concerns have been raised regarding the nature of the follow-up on deployment of the funds and the on-going support of the seismometers provided to schools. It was agreed to ask Paul Denton for a brief report on the status of this project, the funds and suggestions of where to go from here. The BGA's role is to administer the programme and receive and review proposals. It was agreed that a review of the 400 stations already deployed needs to be made to ascertain how many are still working and how they might be used to provide useful data to the research community. See item 9.

**Item 4) IUGG subscription**

The Chair noted a correction that is required to the minutes. There are a number of bodies in the UK that may provide funding to the IUGG, not just the RAS and the Geological Society. The BGA also nominates the UK IASPEI representative of which a new one is required to replace MK. It was also suggested that a new representative for IAGA was also required due to the general lack of attendance of the current incumbent.

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to contact the RAS to see whose responsibility it is to appoint the representatives.  
If it is a BGA responsibility, Chair to circulate the email list asking for nominations or volunteers.**

**Item 5) BGA on Wikipedia**

PC reported that the BGA page on Wikipedia had now been updated as a preliminary step to a complete revamp.

**Item 6) Updating the Khan report "Geophysics in the UK"**

The Chair has approached Professor Khan who has agreed to update his report.

**Item 7) MSc funding**

The NERC, together with other research councils, has cut its funding for MSc taught programmes. The BGA was approached to champion a campaign to fight this cut-back. After some discussion at an earlier meeting it was decided that this was not an appropriate role for the BGA to take at this time. GT reported that the Geological Society had taken the view of industry and it was clear that the latter would not be stepping forward to bridge the funding gap, despite being the main recruiter of such graduates. In a tabled document from IS, he report that the Ground Forum is holding a community meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that IS would be asked to attend this meeting on the

BGA's behalf and report back.

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to contact IS and ask him to attend the Ground Forum meeting.**  
**Tabled document to be filed with the minutes.**

#### **Item 8) Website updating**

Having updated the BGA logo it was felt that the BGA website also needs updating and bringing to greater prominence on the RAS and Geological Society pages. Jenny Craddick has been approached to undertake this update, and has agreed to do so in principle, with an appropriate payment being offered.

**ACTION:**  
**Newsletter Officer to contact Ms Craddick and progress the website update.**

### **3 Minutes of the BGA Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

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

**Document 220911\_BGA//02**  
**Filed with minutes.**

### **4 Matters arising from the minutes**

#### **Item 2) Signatories on BGA bank accounts**

The Treasurer reported that he and the Secretary are now the sole signatories on the BGA accounts, together with Dr Morris as legacy to facilitate on-going access to the account until the first set of changes were made. Now these are complete, Dr Morris will be replaced as a signatory by the Chair. The Chair was provided with the appropriate forms to take to his local branch of NatWest.

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to complete final stage of account authorisation change.**

### **5 Chair's Report**

The Chair has been asked on several occasions what is the role of the BGA. In response the Chair has drafted a 1000 word document which he will shortly be circulating to the committee for comment. The document was primarily produced as a response to the lack of representation of geophysicists on the RAS council. LF noted that only 5% of the RAS 3500 membership are BGA members and, as a consequence, getting anyone voted to council would always remain difficult, even with a full voting turn-out of geophysical members. It was noted that the BGA recommends members for REF panels, has a role in promoting the subject and acts as a point of co-ordination for the community. It also provides advice to Government. It was agreed that in addition to the 1000 word document, a short version should be created for publicity purposes. It was concluded that the BGA's role should be: a) education; b) lobbying; c) relations with industry; d) relations with schools; e) input into the Schools support programme; f) support of the community and its activities; and g) publicity

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to complete the mission statement documents.**

The Chair reported that Sue Bowler has been approached to create the "Geophysics in Society" brochure and had agreed in principle. Financial remuneration negotiations were in progress.

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to complete the negotiations and inform the Treasurer.**  
**Chair to oversee the generation of the brochure.**

The Chair suggested that the BGA hold an annual "Geophysical image" competition as a means of soliciting from the community images for publicity materials, the website and the brochure. This was agreed and nature of the prize discussed. A prize fund of £250 was agreed, with the Chair approaching the parent societies for the possibility of offering an annual subscription to the society of choice of the winner, or even one or two runners up.

**ACTION:**  
**Chair to contact the parent societies and advertise the competition via the BGA and geophysics email lists.**  
**Treasurer to include prize fund in annual budget.**

### **6 Treasurer's Report**

#### **i) Annual budgets**

The Treasurer presented the FY 2010 (which runs on a calendar year) accounts which were approved. An end of year combined balance between the BGA current account and the reserve account was £8840.62. The Postgraduate meeting at Bristol ran a £1.6K deficit which they have recently approached the BGA to cover. No accounts have been presented for the funds other than those that the BGA had provided directly

(£120 plus £200 prize money). After some discussion it was agreed that the BGA will provide an additional £1100 and that the remainder should be covered by Bristol. The Treasurer noted that in recent years only the prize fund and distinguished speaker's expenses for this meeting have been included in the annual budgeting. See item 10. It was also agreed that for the 2012 meeting, the organising committee would be informed what the maximum financial provision is and that it must be stuck to, and if necessary sponsorship found to cover any excess or overspend.

**ACTION:**

**Treasurer to reimburse Bristol £1100 by cheque.  
Treasurer to advise the 2012 organising committee.**

The 2011 and 2012 budget requests for submission to the parent associations were also presented and, with minor changes related to the meetings budget, were approved.

**Tabled documents to be filed with the minutes.**

**ii) Strategic spending and funding review**

The Treasurer noted that the BGA accounts now have a not insignificant surplus and that it is timely to discuss the strategic down-spend. Two options were suggested: a) supporting additional meetings and b) outreach and education. It was agreed that the Geological Society should be approached to appoint the BGA Education Officer to its Education Committee.

**ACTION:**

**Chair to approach the Chair of the Geological Society's Education Committee.**

**iii) Gray-Milne Fund**

The Treasurer reported that the trustees of the Gray-Milne fund had approached him for a view as to what should be done with the current (and growing) surplus in the current account of the fund with the suggestions that either a) it be down-spent in an appropriate manner; or b) it be reinvested as capital. Annually the BGA withdraws £2500 of the fund. After some discussion of the various options and the remit of the fund, it was agreed that the trustees should be approached and asked that the majority of the current surplus be used to support a community outreach and education programme to underpin the ongoing PESGB Seismometers in Schools programme, with all holders of seismometers invited to attend a community meeting, and with educational support and support products generated to ensure the ongoing operation and embedding within the teaching curriculum of such geophysical applications. It was agreed that, subject to approval by the Gray-Milne fund trustees, roll-out should be in late 2012 or early 2013. The Gray-Milne fund should be used to leverage other matching resources from bodies such as the Institute of Physics, companies like BP and Schlumberger, the PESGB itself and the parent societies.

**ACTION:**

**Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise and approach Mr Paul Denton of the PESGB Seismometer in Schools programme for his views.**

**Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise and approach Professor John Ludden of the BGS for interest in involvement.**

**Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise and approach the Industrial Liaison Committee of the Geological Society for industrial input.**

**Treasurer to approach the trustees of the Gray-Milne fund for their views.**

**Treasurer to use the Gray-Milne fund monies to leverage other resources.**

**iv) Other**

The Treasurer requested approval, which was duly granted, to enact internet banking for the accounts held in the NatWest. He also suggested that the official address on the accounts be changed from that of the previous Treasurer, to one of the parent societies at Burlington House. This was also agreed.

**ACTION:**

**Treasurer to enact internet banking and change of official address.**

## **7 Committee Membership and terms of office**

There being no current documented list of committee membership and terms of office a review was conducted. The constitution requires that there to 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 – term: Feb 2009-Feb 2012  
Prof. Christine Peirce – term: Feb 2010-Feb 2013  
Prof. Peter Clarke – term: Feb 2009-Feb 2012  
Dr Mimi Hill – term: Feb 2009-Feb 2012  
Prof Gillian Foulger – term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014  
Prof. Andreas Rietbrock – term: Feb 2009-Feb 2012  
Dr Ian Stimpson – term: Feb 2009-Feb 2012

Co-opted members:

Prof. John Brodholt – term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014  
Dr George Tuckwell (GT) – term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014

Parent society members:

Dr Lyndsay Fletcher – Royal Astronomical Society – term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014

Consequently there is a vacancy for 1 Fellow member, a parent society representative from the Geological Society and up to 2 co-opted members. Five replacements for retiring members are also required. It was also suggested that one of the Co-opted members be a Postgraduate or early-career Postdoctoral researcher and as such become the Postgraduate Representative. It was also noted that now would be an appropriate time to update the constitution of the BGA to add some flexibility to the committee membership. The Treasurer agreed to undertake the update for approval at the next meeting. PC, MK and MH all agreed to stand for another 3-year term of office. IS and AR would be similarly approached by the Chair

**ACTION:**

**Chair to contact the Geological Society for a representative.**

**Chair to approach absent members for agreement to continue for another term of office.**

**Chair to email community via email lists to ask for nominations and volunteers for new members.**

**Chair to invite Mr Paul Denton to join the committee as a fellow member.**

**Treasurer to update the constitution.**

## **8 Roles and distribution of tasks**

Given the request from IS that he be permitted to stand down as Education Officer due to increasing work commitments in Keele, a redistribution of roles and tasks was considered as follows:

- i) Chair – Professor Mike Kendall – overall management and liaison with outside bodies
- ii) Secretary – Professor Christine Peirce – documentary record and organisation of committee meetings
- iii) Treasurer – Professor Peter Clarke – Finances
- iv) Meetings Representative – Professor Andreas Rietbrock – liaison with community, community meetings
- v) Schools Liaison and Outreach – suggestion to approach Mr Paul Denton
- vi) Industrial Liaison – Dr George Tuckwell – contacts with industry, funding, sponsorship, advice
- vii) Newsletter Officer – Dr Mimi Hill – the primary activity in this role is the compilation of the thrice yearly newsletter. However, oversight and management of publicity materials, the website, a twitter presence and a Wikipedia entry are also related. It was proposed that Professor Gillian Foulger be asked to act as Web Officer with responsibility for the web site and publicity.

Posts to fill:

Fellow member  
Postgraduate Officer

Professor Brodholt volunteered to help the Chair roll-out the new Schools Liaison and Outreach programme jointly with Mr Denton, should he agree to become a member of the BGA committee and to act as Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer.

Dr Stimpson was thanked for his service to the BGA as Education Officer. This role would now be subsumed within the remit of the Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer

**ACTION:**

**Chair to contact Mr Denton.  
Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise with Mr Denton to define the Schools outreach programme.  
Dr Hill to approach the RAS to gain access to the BGA website.  
Chair to approach Ms Craddick.**

## **9 PESGB / BGA School Seismology grants**

A tabled report was received from Mr Paul Denton regarding the future support of the School Seismology and Seismometers in Schools programme. Concerns for the future support of the infrastructure investment were raised in this report and, in particular, how teachers might be supported in continuing geophysical engagement with students in the longer-term and how useful data might be obtained. The Chair commented that inviting Mr Denton to be the BGA Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer would be a sensible way forward, including asking him to develop a plan for such a schools support programme to be funded from the Gray-Milne Fund and elsewhere.

**ACTION:  
Chair to contact Mr Denton.**

## **10 Report from the Postgraduate meeting in Oxford**

MH reported that the Postgraduate meeting held in Oxford was a great success with around 20 talks and 15 posters, and thanked Dr Peacock and Professor Mackenzie (the invited speaker) for their assistance with the selection of the best poster and talk, whose winners are noted below for the record. The Treasurer will now issue the prize cheques. The meeting was considered to be very well organised and to have achieved an impressive level of sponsorship (£4000). The organisers have reported a £600 surplus which they intend to forward to the conveners of the 2012 meeting, which are also noted below.

Prize winners:

Richard Walters (talk) is at Oxford Univ., Dept of Earth Sciences

Colette Couves (poster) is at Southampton Univ., School of Ocean and Earth Sciences

2012 location – Leeds

organisers Sandra Karl and Daniel Frost

A discussion then followed regarding the location for the 2013 meeting. Cambridge was suggested, having not organised it previously, and the Chair agreed to contact Professor James Jackson.

GT noted that the Near Surface Group of the Geological Society had approached him regarding combining their Postgraduate Geophysics meeting with that of the BGA. Various modes by which the meetings might be combined were discussed. GT was requested to acquire further information, such as expected participant numbers, from the near-surface group.

MH also noted that the BGA logo, although prominent on many things, had not made it to the front cover of the meeting booklet, and suggested that the Meetings Officer bring this to the attention of the organising committee for 2012.

**ACTION:  
Chair to approach Professor Jackson with a view of hosting the 2012 BGA Postgraduate meeting.  
GT to approach the Near-Surface Group of the Geological Society to determine likely participant numbers.  
Treasurer to issue prize cheques.**

**Meetings Officer to remind organising committee for 2012 of the use of the BGA logo on all meeting materials.**

## **11 Nominations for the Bullerwell Lecturer 2012 – deadline 31st September 2011**

As of the date of this meeting the Secretary reported that she had not received any nominations for the Bullerwell lecturer for 2012, although the deadline (30<sup>th</sup> September) had not yet passed. The Treasurer noted that he intended to nominate Dr Matt King of the University of Newcastle and would forward the nomination form after the meeting. It was agreed that Dr King would be a good candidate and that if no other nominations were received, Chair's action would be taken to approve this nomination on behalf of the committee. Given the cost of holding a reception at EGU associated with the Bullerwell lecture, it was agreed to investigate having a special meeting at the Geological Society annually on the theme of choice the Bullerwell lecturer and to align the reception and community recognition of the lecturer with that. The Chair suggested that he try one final email circulation to encourage more nominations.

**ACTION:  
Chair to email circulate a final reminder for nominations.  
Meetings Officer to consider proposals for a special Bullerwell meeting.  
Chair to approve current nominee in the absence of any other.**

## **12 Geophysicist on RAS council**

The Chair reiterated comments in his report related to the importance of securing a Geophysics member of the RAS Council and noted that Professor Barry Parsons, although unsuccessful two years running in the elections, had subsequently been approached to stand. A response from Professor Parsons was outstanding. The Chair noted that, given the numbers of geophysicist members, it was unlikely than a geophysicist would ever be elected and that direct recruitment was the best approach to adopt. It was noted that there wasn't a geophysicist on the Geological Society Council either, despite two appropriate candidates being included on the ballot paper. The Secretary noted that she had received notification of a volunteer willing to stand for election. The Chair also noted that his term of office as Vice President (Geophysics) was coming to an end and a replacement needed to be found. This is another means by which to get representation on RAS Council as nominations tend to go through unopposed. It was agreed that the Chair would email the community asking for volunteers and nominations for both the RAS election and VP(G) nomination, and for the Geological Society election.

**ACTION:**

**Chair to email circulate community for RAS and Geol Soc election candidate nominations and nominees for RAS Council Vice Presidentship (Geophysics).**

### 13 Upcoming meetings

Noted for the record:

- a) Magnetic Relaxation 2012 – 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> January 2012 University of Liverpool. Financial support of £500 was approved subject to receipt of a formal request.
- b) 2011 William Smith Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October Geological Society – Remote sensing of volcanoes and volcanic processes: integrating observation and modelling
- c) Ethiopia Geophysics meeting. Financial support of £500 was approved subject to receipt of a formal request.
- d) Mathematical Geophysics. Financial support of £500 was approved in response to a formal request.
- e) NAG 2012 – 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> February Geological Society. Financial support included in the FY 2012 budget.
- f) In review by the Geological Society for 2012 onwards
  - i) Deep-Water Continental Margins – has been approved by the Geological Society.
  - ii) The Tonga-Kermadec Arc an archetypical oceanic subduction system – further information and clarification from by convenors is being sought by the Geological Society.

### 14 UK in IODP

The Chair reported that the UK's input into IODP was currently part of the NERC National Capability whose budget is undergoing assessment with a view of cut-backs. In response to a request from a member for the BGA to lobby the NERC to retain its subscription to the IODP, it was noted that there had been no ground swell positive response from the community in response to their views being sought. Since the NSF has withdrawn from IODP, the Chair noted that the NERC is most likely to shortly follow suit. After some discussion the committee agreed that its efforts would be better placed supporting its proposed schools liaison and outreach programme.

### 15 Newsletter

The Newsletter Officer presented the latest draft of the mid-year edition of the newsletter. It was noted that it contained an old version of the logo and that a short section requesting nominations for the RAS and Geological Society Councils and the Bullerwell lecturer should also be included. It was agreed that the section listing recent grant successes should be removed and replaced with highlight reports for recent significant projects that are either drawing to a close (e.g. Afar, Sumatra etc) or for noteworthy projects that have recently been funded (e.g. OSCAR). It was also suggested that a section be added to promote the NERC's theme action plan (TAP) "Deep Earth control on the habitable planet" in which the NERC Council has approved £250k for the first phase call for outline proposals. JB agreed to provide the Newsletter Officer with a short paragraph for inclusion in the current newsletter.

**ACTION:**

**JB to email the Newsletter Officer with a TAP paragraph for the newsletter.**

### 16 Any other business

There were four items:

**a) Prizes for the geophysical image competition**

It was proposed that the winner of the image competition should receive £100 plus a year's membership of the parent society of his/her choice, that the runner-up receive a year's membership of the parent society of his/her choice; and that the best 10 further images receive special mentions in BGA publicity – e.g. the website, the newsletter, at BGA sponsored meetings etc.. Overall image rights will need to be secured. The BGA

committee will undertake the judging.

**ACTION:**

**Treasurer to budget for prizes.**

**Chair to approach parent societies.**

**Chair to email circulate the community opening the competition with a deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> December.**

**b) RAS “G awards”**

The Chair noted that nominations for the RAS awards had been received and that given the lack of geophysics members on Council, that a member of the BGA committee might be co-opted to assist MK, AR, LF in the processes. The co-optee would most likely require RAS Council approval. CP volunteered her services.

**ACTION:**

**Chair to seek approval from RAS Council.**

**c) Geological Society library**

The Secretary noted that she had been approached by the Geological Society Library Committee to suggest publications that it should either retain or take as new into its collection. The Chair noted that it was not really within the BGA’s remit to do this, but suggested that he circulate the Bristol list of critical publications. This proposal was agreed.

**ACTION:**

**Chair to send Bristol publication list to the Geological Society by the mid-November deadline.**

**d) BGA Prize for the best undergraduate in geophysics**

MH suggested that the BGA adopt a similar scheme to Palas whereby Universities with undergraduate teaching in palaeontology are allocated an annual award and asked to nominate their best candidate, using their own defined criteria based on palaeontological study at undergraduate level, for that award. This was considered to be an excellent way to raise the BGA’s profile in the HEI sector. The Chair suggested that he approach the Directors of Undergraduate Study at all UK HEIs with geophysics-related programmes and ask for expressions of interest to be involved in such a scheme. The prize was discussed at length and it was agreed that a cheque to the value of £25 (subject to annual review of finances up to £50) plus a certificate be offered and that the parent societies be approached regarding adding a 1-year membership. The Chair also suggested that the Course Directors be asked for suggestions as to what the prize should be aligned to – e.g. best undergraduate geophysics-themed dissertation or best piece of coursework in a final year of study.

**ACTION:**

**Treasurer to budget for prizes.**

**Chair to approach parent societies.**

**17 Date of next meeting**

Committee meeting – c. 17:00 TBC on the 9<sup>th</sup> February at the Geological Society.

AGM – 12:00 TBC on the 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Geological Society.

Both meetings will take place at the NAG 2012 meeting. Items for the agenda are required by the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:00.

**Dr Robert Massey of the RAS** joined the meeting at 14:00 to outline the Astronomy Forum (which the RAS facilitates although it is not a member group per se) which aims to act as a discussion forum for the community, a sounding body to solicit community views or to bounce ideas off. The Forum meets 2-3 times per year. The RAS wants to encourage more engagement of its geophysical fellows in the society activities and is considering proposing a similar forum for that community too, whereby one representative from each HEI department with a geophysical remit is nominated to attend. The Chair noted that the CHUGD (Chairs and Heads of Undergraduate Geology Departments) already undertakes a similar role. The alternative is for the RAS and BGA to jointly run a one-off adhoc meeting.

**ACTION:**

**Chair to consider a proposal.**

Dr Massey left the meeting at 14:30.





**Council Room  
Royal Astronomical Society**

**British Geophysical Association**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

## **Summary of actions**

### ***2012 NAG meeting***

**ACTION:**

Meetings Officer to communicate with Dr Kulesa and the Geological Society to resolve the organisation responsibilities for this meeting.

### ***BGA financial support for Dynamic Topography, IUGG Mathematical Geophysics and Volcanoes and Volcanic processes meetings***

**ACTION:**

Chair to create final version of BGA statement of aims and objectives, and shorter publicity statement.  
Secretary to contact the convener of the Mathematical Geophysics meeting and offer financial support.

### ***Ethiopia Geophysics meeting***

**ACTION:**

Secretary to contact the meeting convener and request a formal proposal.  
Once received approval will be by Chair's action.

### ***IUGG subscription***

**ACTION:**

Chair to contact the RAS to see whose responsibility it is to appoint the representatives.  
If it is a BGA responsibility, Chair to circulate the email list asking for nominations or volunteers.

### ***MSc funding***

**ACTION:**

Chair to contact IS and ask him to attend the Ground Forum meeting.  
Tabled document to be filed with the minutes.

### ***Website updating***

**ACTION:**

Newsletter Officer to contact Ms Craddick and progress the website update.

### ***Signatories on BGA bank accounts***

**ACTION:**

Chair to complete final stage of account authorisation change.

### ***Chair's Report***

### ***Mission statement***

**ACTION:**

Chair to complete the mission statement documents.

### ***"Geophysics in Society" brochure***

**ACTION:**

Chair to complete the negotiations and inform the Treasurer.  
Chair to oversee the generation of the brochure.

### ***"Geophysical image" competition***

**ACTION:**

Chair to contact the parent societies and advertise the competition via the BGA and geophysics email lists.  
Treasurer to include prize fund in annual budget.

## Treasurer's Report

### *i) Annual budgets*

**ACTION:**

Treasurer to reimburse Bristol £1100 by cheque.  
Treasurer to advise the 2012 organising committee.

### *ii) Strategic spending and funding review*

**ACTION:**

Chair to approach the Chair of the Geological Society's Education Committee.

### *iii) Gray-Milne Fund*

**ACTION:**

Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise and approach Mr Paul Denton of the PESGB Seismometer in Schools programme for his views.  
Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise and approach Professor John Ludden of the BGS for interest in involvement.  
Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise and approach the Industrial Liaison Committee of the Geological Society for industrial input.  
Treasurer to approach the trustees of the Gray-Milne fund for their views.  
Treasurer to use the Gray-Milne fund monies to leverage other resources.

### *iv) Internet banking*

**ACTION:**

Treasurer to enact internet banking and change of official address.

## Committee Membership and terms of office

**ACTION:**

Chair to contact the Geological Society for a representative.  
Chair to approach absent members for agreement to continue for another term of office.  
Chair to email community via email lists to ask for nominations and volunteers for new members.  
Chair to invite Mr Paul Denton to join the committee as a fellow member.  
Treasurer to update the constitution.

## Roles and distribution of tasks

**ACTION:**

Chair to contact Mr Denton.  
Chair and Professor Brodholt to liaise with Mr Denton to define the Schools outreach programme.  
Dr Hill to approach the RAS to gain access to the BGA website.  
Chair to approach Ms Craddick.

## PESGB / BGA School Seismology grants

**ACTION:**

Chair to contact Mr Denton.

## Report from the Postgraduate meeting in Oxford

**ACTION:**

Chair to approach Professor Jackson with a view of hosting the 2012 BGA Postgraduate meeting.  
GT to approach the Near-Surface Group of the Geological Society to determine likely participant numbers.  
Treasurer to issue prize cheques.  
Meetings Officer to remind organising committee for 2012 of the use of the BGA logo on all meeting materials.

## Nominations for the Bullerwell Lecturer 2012 – deadline 31st September 2011

**ACTION:**

Chair to email circulate a final reminder for nominations.  
Meetings Officer to consider proposals for a special Bullerwell meeting.  
Chair to approve current nominee in the absence of any other.

## Geophysicist on RAS council

**ACTION:**

Chair to email circulate community for RAS and Geol Soc election candidate nominations and nominees for RAS Council Vice Presidency (Geophysics).

## Newsletter

**ACTION:**

JB to email the Newsletter Officer with a TAP paragraph for the newsletter.

**Any other business**

**a) Prizes for the geophysical image competition**

**ACTION:**

Treasurer to budget for prizes.

Chair to approach parent societies.

Chair to email circulate the community opening the competition with a deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**b) RAS “G awards”**

**ACTION:**

Chair to seek approval from RAS Council.

**c) Geological Society library**

**ACTION:**

Chair to send Bristol publication list to the Geological Society by the mid-November deadline.

**d) BGA Prize for the best undergraduate in geophysics**

**ACTION:**

Treasurer to budget for prizes.

Chair to approach parent societies.

**Geophysical Forum**

**ACTION:**

Chair to consider a proposal.