



British Geophysical Association

Professor Peter Maguire (President)
Department of Geology,
University of Leicester,
Leicester LE1 7RH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44-116-252-3810
Fax: +44-116-252-3918
Email: pkm@le.ac.uk

Geological Society, Burlington House, London.

Annual General Meeting of the British Geophysical Association

Friday 11th February 2005, 12.45 pm

The President, Prof. Peter Maguire, was in the chair, and 8 other members were present.

1. Chair's report

Prof. Maguire reported that the BGA Committee had co-opted 4-5 people and hence elections to Committee positions were not necessary this year; a new President and people to fill some other positions will need to be found by the AGM in 2006.

He reported that BGA regularly sponsors three main events, which had taken place in 2005:

(a) New Advances in Geophysics meeting (as the February Royal Astronomical Society "G" meeting; evolved from the UK Geophysical Assembly) - this was now a major vehicle for presenting the highest quality UK geophysics. This year's meeting, entitled "Continental Deformation - Impact of Satellite Techniques on Observations and Modelling", was ongoing and was being a great success.

(b) The Bullerwell Lecture, now held during the annual General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union, where it served the function of showing European

colleagues that the UK is carrying out major geophysical research;

(c) Postgraduate Geophysics meeting - this has expanded from about ten to forty student participants, and the standard of presentations is as good as or better than that at international meetings.

This year's Postgraduate Meeting had included, for the first time, an international speaker (Prof. Ed. Garnero of Arizona State University) who had given an inspiring talk and assisted with the judging of the students' presentations.

The Bullerwell Lecture had been given by Prof. Cindy Ebinger of Royal Holloway, University of London and had been very successful in conjunction with the RAS reception, attracting about 100 people.

Last year's Advances in Geophysics meeting had been on "Oceanic Intraplate Volcanism" and had attracted a variety of excellent scientific presentations.

The BGA had taken on a new initiative in 2004 to review geophysics education in the UK, in parallel with the RAS' review of astronomy education. The RAS and Geological Society are sponsoring this review, which is being co-ordinated by Prof. Aftab Khan of the University of Leicester. A meeting to present findings and consider action to be taken has been set for Friday 22nd April 2005 at 2 pm in the Geological Society lecture theatre; all BGA members are encouraged to attend (see below).

2. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Tony Morris presented and explained the BGA's accounts. The expenses for BGA Committee meeting attendance were split between the Geological and Royal Astronomical Societies. This year's Postgraduate Meeting had had an overseas guest speaker, which had caused additional expense. The Geological Society had covered the expenses of the Bullerwell Lecture 2004. The BGA had made a three-year commitment to pay for an advertisement in the Graham and Trotman UCAS guide, involving large expenditures in 2005 and 2006. The current National Advances in Geophysics meeting was being funded by the Gray-Milne Fund, of which Jon Bull, the previous BGA treasurer, remains treasurer and one of the Trustees.

3. Geophysics Education Review

Prof. Aftab Khan reported that the Review steering group had advertised the review in "Geoscientist" and "Astronomy and Geophysics" and had sent questionnaires to current and past students in all departments running BSc and MSc geophysics courses, as well as to some departments not running geophysics courses. Information is coming in slowly; the questionnaires were sent before Christmas with follow-up

reminders having to be sent just now, in time for the next Steering Group meeting in March. The meeting on Friday 22nd April is open to all and gives the opportunity for the entire geophysics community to comment on the results to date. The BGA, RAS and GS will then consider actions. The Chair asked those present to encourage colleagues and students to complete and return the questionnaires. The BGA should try to increase the numbers of geophysics undergraduates and postgraduates.

4. Next year's meetings

(a) New Advances in Geophysics meeting, February 2006: the title, "Scale Invariance in Geophysics" has been suggested.

(b) Postgraduate Geophysics Meeting, September 2005: this will take place at University College, Galway, and be arranged by Colin Brown; postgraduate research students are encouraged to attend. The date has yet to be fixed but will probably be in the first week of September.

The meeting closed at 1.20 pm.

Correspondent : Dr. Sheila Peacock, University of Birmingham.