



British Geophysical Association

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British Geophysical Association Committee

Meeting, Thursday 5th May 2004, 11 am.

Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, Picadilly, London.

Present: Peter Maguire (chair), Tine Thomas, Lucy Mathers, Sheila Peacock, Anthony Morris, Aftab Khan, Wyn Williams, Mike Kendall.

1. Peter Maguire opened the committee meeting.
Apologies were given for Peter Morris, Mike Hapgood, and Philippa Berry.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
These were accepted and signed.
3. Matters arising
 - (a) Annual Report
Currently, the RAS and the Geological Society request the BGA annual report at different times of the year. In order to avoid presenting essentially two separate annual reports, it is proposed that the BGA annual report be tied to the BGA AGM and then sent to the RAS. The committee agreed that the next annual report (March 2006) will be compiled by Peter Maguire and circulated to group secretaries for comment, before it is required to send to the RAS and Geological Society.

(b) Improving links with RAS

It was intended that Peter Maguire give a presentation on BGA activities at the May meeting of the RAS, but he cannot attend. Therefore, it is proposed that Peter Maguire collate a document describing BGA position with respect to the RAS including contacts and closer links. **ACTION PKHM.**

(c) BGA constitution

The BGA constitution has been placed on the BGA website.

Affiliated Groups

BGA nominated Philippa Berry as the IAG National Correspondent. Mike Kendall reported that this has been delayed until the IUGG funding situation has been decided (see November 2004 minutes, item 9(e)). Peter Maguire mentioned that the RAS had sent a request for comment on funding and a note was sent from the BGA strongly suggesting that the status quo should remain, i.e. that the Royal Society should be the adhering society, but that if it was to offload that responsibility, then the RAS and the Geological Society are the relevant societies to take on that mantle.

Bank Forms

Tony Morris announced that the paperwork required for sorting out the bank mandate have all been signed and completed.

(d) Postgraduate Meeting 2005 (Galway)

Tine Thomas and Peter Maguire have passed on the relevant documents and information to Colin Brown.

4. Committee Officers

Peter Maguire mentioned that he had talked with Philippa Berry, who recently suffered another stroke and cannot continue as secretary because of continues illness. Lucy Mathers agreed to take over secretarial activities for three years (to February 2008).

Mike Kendall (Representative for Seismology and Physics of the Earth Interior) will retire at the 2006 AGM. He and PKHM will identify the next representative, if possible. **ACTION PKHM/MK**

Elected members, Peter Maguire (President) and Wyn Williams will also be retiring from post at the 2006 AGM. Notifications of positions will be placed on the mailing list over the summer (at least prior to the November committee meeting), in order to find replacements. **ACTION,**

LM/PKHM.

The normal position regarding the president of the BGA is that the outgoing president nominated new president. The committee agreed.

ACTION, PKHM.

5. Finance

Tony Morris reported on the current organisation and structure of the BGA accounts. After lengthy delays, the new bank mandate has now been processed.

It was agreed by the committee to remove the nominal (historical) subdivisions from the accounts, so that end of year statements simply list the previous annual accumulated surplus, credits and debits for the year, and the new end-of-year accumulated surplus.

It was agreed by the committee to approve the payment of £350 to Mike Kendall in support of a SPEI related meeting being organized by MK from the existing SPEI group fund, with subsequent closure of that fund and amalgamation of the remaining balance (£364.84) into the revised BGA account.

It was noted that there is currently no source of income to the bank accounts, other than bank interest. This item was discussed at length. It was decided that a proposal for the funding of committee activities, would be produced by the Treasurer in concert with the President and the committee. This proposal would be put to the RAS and the Geological Society.. **ACTION, TM to write draft proposal and send to PKHM and committee for comment.**

In the longer term it was proposed that industry might be approached to support various activities, for example, the postgraduate research in progress meeting.

6. Geophysics Education Review

Aftab Khan distributed i) a summary of activities to 5/5/05, ii) a report that will appear in the next issue of A&G and iii) a summary of the recommendations from the Open Discussion meeting that took place on 22nd April 2005, and presented a summary of progress so far.

Regarding 6.i), Aftab Khan noted that there are still a number of outstanding questionnaires, and the response has been poor from employers.

Regarding 6.iii), Aftab Khan noted that there is still a big problem with the awareness of geophysics within schools. It is also clear that university staff do not have time for significant outreach of geophysics in schools. There was support at the Open Discussion meeting, and follow-up e-mails for appointment of a geophysics schools liaison officer.

Aftab Khan also noted that up to 5% of a NERC grant may be allocated to use in outreach activities.

Peter Maguire thanked Aftab Khan. He added that he had recently attended the EGU meeting in Vienna and noted that the President of the EAGE had identified very similar problems concerning the teaching of geophysics in Europe.

Peter Maguire noted that the final report will be submitted at the end of summer 2005. At this point the steering committee (see document 6.i) will identify a small group to implement the recommendations and identify groups to be approached and how they should be approached. The report with a covering document (that changes depending on who the report is being sent to) will need to be presented. The procedures for implementing this will be identified at the following meeting (November, 2005).

Tine Thomas commented that she has received requests for minutes of the Open Discussion meeting. Aftab Khan recommended that document 6.ii be sent to interested parties.

7. Meetings

(a) Past:

i. Report on NAG February meeting.

Peter Maguire commented that 6-7 people attended the AGM, which was held during the NAG meeting. It was agreed to schedule the AGM at the

NAG meeting in future years.

Peter Maguire reported that the NAG meeting was successful and well attended and that a proceedings volume and/or a report for A&G had been requested from the organizers although Sheila Peacock noted that she had received no confirmation to date.

Sheila Peacock noted that it should be the responsibility of the meeting organiser to write a report of the meeting for A&G. It was agreed by the committee that this should be a requirement for future years.

ii. EGU and Bullerwell 2005 (Vienna)

Peter Maguire commented that posters were difficult to find at the new venue for the EGU meeting in Vienna, also that the commercial stands were far away from other activities.

Peter Maguire noted that this year's Bullerwell lecture, given by George Helffrich was excellent. However, even though it was tied to the RAS reception (attended by 60-70 people), only 20 to 25 people attended the lecture itself. The meeting had been well advertised on the EGU web site and was at the top of the programme volume as a keynote speech, but George's name was not provided. No further information (e.g. abstract) had been provided. This year it was on a night where there were no other major lectures (although there were EGU committee / section dinners), and there will always be attractions elsewhere for the participants.

(b) Future.

i. EGU and Bullerwell 2006

Peter Maguire recommended that the Bullerwell lecture should not take place at EGU in 2006, but back in the UK, due to the difficulty its organization, its not being a mainstream event at the meeting, and the low turn out on a number of occasions. He strongly suggested that as a UK lecture, it would be advantageous for the BGA to bring it back to the UK.

A number of issues were discussed. It was agreed that Bullerwell 2006 would take place at the NAG meeting in 2006. It was agreed that this arrangement would be reviewed for future years.

It was also agreed that the Bullerwell lecture should also become more mobile, and be given at one or two more locations around the UK during

the year. The means whereby this might be done were discussed. For 2006, the lecturer will be approached to see if he/she would be prepared to give the lecture at other locations.

It was noted that the RAS must be informed of these discussions.

ACTION PKHM.

ii. New Advances in Geophysics March 9/10 2006 (+AGM).

The AGM will take place at the NAG meeting in March 2006. The topic of the NAG meeting is "**Scale-Invariance and Scale-Dependence in Earth Structure and Dynamics**". Arrangements are going according to plan and there were no issues to discuss.

iii. Postgraduate meeting September 1st/2nd 2005 (Galway)

The Postgraduate Research in Progress meeting will take place in Galway, Ireland. The arrangements are going according to plan.

Aftab Khan wondered if there would be room in the programme to facilitate discussions on Geophysics Education. It was agreed that the Geophysics Education steering committee design and produce a poster on the outcomes of the review, once the report has been completed.

ACTION, Geophysics education steering committee.

iv. Bicentennial Geological Society meeting

Mike Kendall reported that both he and Sheila Peacock attended the Geological Society meeting on organisation of the 200th anniversary celebrations meeting on 10-12 September 2007 at the QE conference centre. This will be a 3-day meeting, 2 days concentrating on science and 1 day aimed towards the general public. All geological society sub-groups and working groups will provide activities at this meeting.

Sheila Peacock outlined the requirements of the BGA. These are to provide a list of names for all relevant sessions. The current list has been circulated, but they have not received comments. Mike Kendall and Sheila Peacock will review the list and circulate to the committee for comment before submitting them to the Geological Society. **ACTION SP, MK, committee.**

Peter Maguire asked if they were aware of monies required from the various associations. Mike Kendall explained that this never arose during the meeting. Peter Maguire noted that we would need to discuss this during the November BGA committee meeting, since NAG 2007

considerations will begin at that meeting. **ACTION LM to add meeting agenda item for November.**

8. AOB

(a) EEON website launch

Peter Maguire commented on the launch of the new Earth, Environment and Ocean Network (EEON) website (<http://www.eeon.org.uk>). This is a conglomeration of geological, environment and geophysics groups and societies. The motivation came from the Earth Sciences not having a single voice with research councils, media etc., and is primarily designed for information storage and retrieval, with links to appropriate material. BGA has agreed to be involved and support EEON. **ACTION SP, WW to check website details and provide liaison between EEON and BGA.**

(b) BGA website

Wyn Willams wondered if it was worth having a fundraising effort to raise money to redevelop the BGA website. Peter Maguire expressed concerns at present. At some point in the future, industry will be approached resulting from the outcomes of the geophysics education review, and it was considered unwise to approach them for this item as well at this time. However this is something to bear in mind for the future, and current site is suitable so long as the content remains up-to-date.

(c) Geological Society Education Committee

Aftab Khan made the committee aware that the Geological Society will be shortly appointing an education officer and an education committee, however is as yet unsure of the details of their role. It may be that the experience of the BGA will be able to provide useful input to the Geological Society.

9. Date of next two meetings

Wednesday November 2nd 2005, Wednesday May 3rd, 2006.

The meeting closed at 2:35 pm.

Lucy Mathers
Secretary