



## **British Geophysical Association**

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### **British Geophysical Association Committee**

**Meeting, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005, 11 am.**

Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, Picadilly, London.

Present: Peter Maguire (chair), Roger Scrutton, Mike Kendall, Sheila Peacock, Aftab Khan, Tony Watts, Anthony Morris, Jane Stimpson, Tine Thomas, Lucy Mathers.

1. Peter Maguire opened the committee meeting.  
Apologies were given for Nigel Cassidy, Wyn Williams, and Mike Hapgood. Peter Maguire welcomed Tony Watts and Roger Scrutton.  
Roger Scrutton is co-opted onto the committee.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.  
These were accepted and signed.
3. Matters arising
  - (a) Improving links with RAS  
A revised agreement between RAS and BGA has been documented by Peter Maguire and David Elliot, Executive Secretary of the RAS.  
Acceptance still has to be agreed by Ed Nickless, Executive Secretary of the Geological Society. The agreement includes a statement of BGA activities, finances and organisation. Roger Scrutton is a member of the RAS education committee and aims to continue improving links between the RAS and BGA.

(b) EEON website launch

It was noted that the EEON website has now been launched. BGA meetings and information about BGA officers has been provided by Sheila Peacock and Wyn Williams who continue to provide liaison between EEON and BGA.

(c) BGA Website

Sheila Peacock noted that an offer had been made by Eva Boraly to update the BGA website. It was mentioned that Eva Boraly has since been offered a full-time job and Sheila Peacock was unsure if she would still be willing to undertake the task. It was also noted that the issue of maintenance would need to be addressed. It was agreed by the committee that, while the content of the website is up-to-date and correct, the website should look visibly more appealing. Peter Maguire suggested that we ask for funding from the parent societies to make the website look more professional. Tine Thomas noted that the RAS website has been recently improved, Aftab Khan suggested that the BGA website could follow a format compatible with that of the RAS or Geological Society. **ACTION: PKHM and SP to write a short note to the presidents of the RAS and the Geological Society requesting assistance to redevelop the BGA website.**

4. Committee Officers

Peter Maguire announced that Roger Scrutton had agreed to be nominated as President to be in post following the 2006 AGM.

Wyn Williams, Mike Kendall and Peter Morris will also be retiring from post at the 2006 AGM. Notifications of positions will be placed on the mailing list before the end of the year, in order to find replacements. Outgoing members should be instrumental in finding replacements  
**ACTION: PKHM, WW, MK, PM.**

5. Finance

In line with the agreement being discussed with the Parent Societies (See Matters Arising 1a), Tony Morris will produce a statement of estimated expenditure to be delivered to the Societies by December 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.  
**ACTION: TM.**

Tony Morris provided a brief overview of the current organisation and structure of the BGA accounts.

Tony Morris announced that the bank mandate would require alterations regarding new signatories. It was agreed that this would take place following the 2006 AGM.

It was noted that funding of the advert in the Trotman UCAS guide has now ended. It was decided that it was not to be continued. It was also

noted that the committee might wish to consider a Bond Account that yields higher interest than savings accounts.

Finally Peter Maguire suggested the committee might wish to consider a BGA membership fee in order to address the issue of no direct income to the BGA.

## 6. Meetings

### (a) Past:

#### i. Report on Postgraduate Research in Progress (Galway).

The Postgraduate Research in Progress meeting was held on Galway, Ireland on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2006. Peter Maguire reported that the meeting was substantially attended and a very enjoyable meeting. It has become a focus for UK geophysics for postgraduates and their supervisors. Approximately 65 postgraduate students attended this first joint Irish/UK meeting. A wide range of talks from many different disciplines was presented. The international speaker, Professor Roger Buck from the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, was very well received. Eve Daly, Colin Brown and Peter Maguire have written an article for A&G that will be published in December 2005.

### (b) Future.

#### i. Bullerwell 2006 (March 9<sup>th</sup> 2006)

Peter Maguire noted that Andy Jackson has confirmed that he will give the Bullerwell Lecture at the NAG meeting, March 2006. It will be the first time the Bullerwell Lecture has been given in the UK for about 5-6 years. The Lecture was to be given on the Thursday evening (March 9<sup>th</sup>), and it had been agreed with the RAS that this would be followed by a reception in the RAS rooms.

It was agreed that the 2007 Bullerwell lecture would also take place at the NAG meeting. Tony Watts suggested that the geophysics community be approached for nominations for this award; the committee agreed. Peter Maguire and Sheila Peacock will construct an e-mail to be placed on the geophysics mail list containing details of the Bullerwell Lecture prize, information on previous recipients (or a pointer to these details that are available on the website), and a request for nominations. It was noted that the issues of how recipients of e-mail should respond to this request should be addressed in order to ensure anonymity of nominations (the default

reply option will send a message back to the whole geophysics list). The e-mail should be sent before the end of the year, Peter Maguire will collate the list and distribute to committee members around the time of the AGM, the decision will take place at the May 2006 committee meeting.

**ACTION: PKHM & SP.**

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

The topic of the NAG meeting is "**Scale-Invariance and Scale-Dependence in Earth Structure and Dynamics**". The need for continuity of the Bullerwell lecture at this meeting was agreed by the committee.

The AGM will take place during lunchtime on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

A theme for the 2007 NAG meeting yet is to be decided. Peter Maguire will initiate a short e-mail-based discussion which is to be resolved around the time of the AGM.

**ACTION : PKHM**

iii. Postgraduate meeting 2006.

The Postgraduate Research in Progress meeting will be held in Edinburgh. Organisation has begun: accommodation has been reserved; a flyer and communications about the meeting will be distributed to the geophysics community shortly. Peter Maguire reported that Andy Jackson would be pleased to lecture also at this meeting. This had been agreed with the RAS, who felt that it was an excellent development to ensure the lecture was widely distributed. Contact needs to be made between the meeting organisers and Andy Jackson.

**ACTION: RS/WW to liaise with Eve Daly and Colin Brown to obtain relevant organisational information, and with Andy Jackson.**

Peter Maguire noted that we should start thinking about the location of the 2007 postgraduate meeting. A number of institutions were mentioned. This item should be resolved at the next committee meeting in May 2007.

(c) Bicentennial Geological Society meeting

Sheila Peacock and Mike Kendall provided the committee with an update on progress with regard to the organisation of the Bicentennial meeting of the Geological Society of London. The list of speakers for the Earth and Planetary Interiors session has now been mostly addressed. A document providing the current situation of all sessions was distributed to the committee. Further suggestions must be forwarded to Sheila Peacock immediately.

Sheila Peacock noted that a paleomagnetism speaker is still required.

**ACTION: committee to provide SP and MK with any suggestions.**

Names of poster sessions and poster session convenors are required before the next steering committee meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. Tony Watts mentioned that it seemed quite early to tie down all of the poster sessions at this stage. He suggested that some of the poster sessions (2-3) could remain open in order to incorporate any interesting geophysical issue that may arise between now and the 2007 meeting. Sheila Peacock noted that while the exact timescale is still unknown, there would be a requirement for knowing the themes in time for the call for papers. At this stage the approximate number of poster sessions for the "Earth & Planetary Interiors" theme is around 10, and the number of posters expected per poster session is 10. **ACTION: committee members to review document and provide SP & MK with additional suggestions.**

It was noted that a number of other sessions would be relevant to the geophysical community. Peter Maguire asked whether there was a mechanism for introducing suggestions regarding the other sessions. It was agreed that any suggestions be provided to Sheila Peacock who would then communicate these suggestions to the relevant session leader.

Sheila Peacock mentioned that as soon as meeting is publicised, the BGA should be active in encouraging the geophysical community to attend.

Peter Maguire thanked Sheila Peacock and Mike Kendall for their efforts on behalf of the BGA.

Peter Maguire asked if they were aware of monies required from the various associations. Sheila Peacock noted that they have not yet requested funding from the various groups.

Peter Maguire asked if there might be a means of advertising and promoting the BGA at this meeting. Sheila Peacock and Mike Kendall replied that this had not yet been discussed. Sheila Peacock mentioned that they will receive more information about the organisation of the posters for day 3 soon; it may be possible to display a large glossy poster. This would require funding. **ACTION: SP and MK will send an e-mail to Bruce Yardley, chairman of the Organising Committee on this matter.**

## 7. Geophysics Education Review

Aftab Khan provided the committee with a short recap of progress so far. This activity began in summer 2004, an open meeting was held in April 2005. A report of the open meeting was published in A&G and Geoscientist. A few more comments and questionnaires have been received as a result of these articles. However, the main conclusions have not changed. An article was published in "Science in Parliament" and this will bring the issue to the attention of MPs.

Aftab Khan noted that a full review report is in preparation. A draft executive summary was issued to the committee prior to this meeting. This will serve as an introduction to the report. Aftab welcomed comments from the committee on the concerns and recommendations sections. The main comments were to include one or two striking graphics, add a quotation from a senior individual in the concerns section, and to include a single strong statement to capture attention from the start

(an abstract of the summary). Sheila Peacock suggested adding the words “and directly with major employers” to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last recommendation.

**ACTION: all committee to provide any further comments to AK.**

It was also noted that different versions of the executive summary should be prepared, targeting various different recipients of the report. At the time of distribution current “buzzwords” or statements could also be added.

Aftab Khan will complete the executive summary before 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005, in order for it to be presented to the RAS and Geological Society council meetings. The report should be complete by the end of the year and submitted to the BGA committee. **ACTION: AK.**

Peter Maguire suggested that a small sub-group be set up in order to address issues of how to proceed now that we have gained this information. For example, to whom the report should be sent, when and how it should be presented, what we want to achieve, the possibility of an appointment of someone to deal with these issues, etc. It was proposed and agreed that the sub-group consist of Peter Maguire, Tine Thomas, Roger Scrutton and Aftab Khan. Other individuals may be asked to join this group as required. The programme for these decisions to be made is end of February. **ACTION : PKHM, RS, AK, TT.**

A number of other discussions took place regarding improving the awareness of geophysics. The main points are summarised here. Promotion of geophysics in schools should be through Physics and Mathematics. Addressing this issue could also be of benefit to the RAS and the Institute of Physics (IoP). Once the report is published, a number of new or follow-up articles could be prepared, for example for Science in Parliament. Aftab Khan noted that the IoP has a Physics Education Journal and it may be worth preparing an article for that journal. Jane Stimpson mentioned that articles of the nature of “a day in the life” are well received by school children when contemplating their future careers.

8. AOB

None.

9. Date of next two meetings

Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, Wednesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.



The meeting closed at 3:15 pm.

**Lucy Mathers**  
**Secretary**