



British Geophysical Association Annual General Meeting 2007
(DRAFT minutes - were not formally approved at 2008 AGM)

Held on Friday 9th February 2007 at 12.45 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Geological Society, London

Chair: Roger Scrutton, President, BGA
Attended by 7 members excluding the Chair.
Apologies: Lucy Mathers, BGA Secretary

1. The Minutes of the previous AGM, on Friday 10th February 2006, were accepted.

2. President's Report

Roger Scrutton reported on the BGA's activities, which are summarised on the attached sheet (missing)

(a) Meetings

He drew attention to the upcoming BGA Postgraduate Research in Progress meeting to be held in Cardiff (3-4 September 2007) and to next year's "New Advances in Geophysics" meeting, to be held on 7th-8th February 2008, and the accompanying Bullerwell Lecture (the lecturer had not yet been selected). He has been presented with an idea for the subject of the 2009 meeting, geophysical fluid dynamics. The BGA is also involved in the 2007 Bicentennial Meeting of the Geological Society (10-12 September, QE2 Centre, London).

(b) The BGA is represented on the science committees of both of its parent societies.

(c) Elections to replace retiring members of the Committee were not being held because the Committee wished to modify the BGA's constitution, for which two months' notice would be required. The meeting agreed that Sheila Peacock should continue as Meetings Secretary beyond the end of her term, until 12th September 2007, the end of the GeolSoc Bicentennial Meeting, on the committee of which she represents the BGA. A new Meetings Secretary will be co-opted by the Committee at that date and confirmed in office by election at next AGM.

3. Treasurer's Report

Antony Morris explained the new financial arrangement with the parent societies, that the BGA receives a block grant in response to a budget request from the treasurer. This grant covers travel and subsistence for Committee members on BGA business. The block grant is split between the parent societies but BGA funds are administered by the RAS. The expenses of the Bullerwell lecture and the prizes for the postgraduate meeting are paid directly by the parent societies.

The BGA has a bank account containing the profits of past meetings (UKGA) which is gradually running down. Expenditure from it included the three-year advert in the Graham and Trotman guide to undergraduate

courses, and an honorarium of 500 pounds to Aftab Khan for his work on the Education Review. The meeting agreed that the BGA should not renew the Trotman advert without evidence that it was effective, which might be collected as part of the work following from the Education Review.

The meeting accepted the Treasurer's report and accounts.

4. Education Review follow-up

Roger Scrutton reported that Aftab Khan, who had prepared the Education Review, had received an Award for Service from the Royal Astronomical Society, for which he was congratulated. The report had included a recommendation that geophysics be promoted at school level: school teachers present at the launch had suggested that age 13 was the most effective time, when GCSE subjects are chosen.

After some delay a round-table discussion between the BGA and officers of the RAS, Geological Society and Institute of Physics had taken place. The IoP has agreed to become involved and the Geophysics Promotion Officer will probably be resident at the IoP in order to exploit the excellent infrastructure, school contacts and experience there. The BGA will therefore become a joint association of the IoP, RAS and GeolSoc, by means of a petition to the IoP from those BGA members who are also IoP members. The Association for Science Education had expressed support but was not able to contribute financially. External funders are being approached and it is hoped to advertise the post in mid-2007. The post will be initially for three years FTE: it was asked how the effort will be sustained thereafter. It was suggested that a Royal Society Fellowship be sought to extend the promotion post; and that the Earth Science Teachers Association might give support.

The meeting welcomed this report, noting that there was a false perception in the community that nothing had happened since the launch event last summer.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm.