



**British Geophysical Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**Geological Society of  
London**

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
13:00**

## Minutes

### Apologies and introductions

Apologies were received from absent executive committee members. Seven members of the BGA were present.

#### Present:

Prof. Mike Kendall (MK) – President and Chair  
 Prof. Christine Peirce (CP) – Secretary and Minutes Secretary for this meeting  
 Prof. Peter Clarke (PC) – Treasurer  
 Dr Mimi Hill (MH) – Newsletter Officer  
 Mr Paul Denton (PD) – Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer  
 Dr Ian Stimpson (IS) – Member without portfolio

#### Absent with apologies:

Prof Gillian Foulger (GF) – Website Officer  
 Prof. Andreas Rietbrock (AR) – Meetings Officer  
 Prof. John Brodholt (JB) – Outreach Representative – Co-opted member  
 Dr George Tuckwell (GT) – Industry Representative – Co-opted member  
 Dr Lyndsay Fletcher (LF) – Parent Society Representative – Royal Astronomical Society

### 1 Minutes of the BGA AGM 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011

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

**Document 100212\_BGA/01  
Filed with minutes.**

### 2 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3 President's Report

The President gave a brief introduction, for members present, to the aims and objective of the BGA and how it represents its constituents in governmental, research council and other in advisory roles, together with its relationship with its parent societies - the Royal Astronomical Society and Geological Society of London. The President then thanked Dr Kulesa and his co-organisers for running a well-attended NAG 2012 meeting. In particular the President commented on the following:

#### i) Providing advise to the House of Commons Committees

Over the past 12 months the BGA has provided more extensive advice and position papers to House of Commons Committees and, consequently, there has been an improvement in understanding amongst policy makers regarding the requirements and demands of geophysics-based scientific research and industrial applications. See agenda item 6.

#### ii) Geophysical input and advise to funding councils

Similarly, the NERC has been persuaded by members of the geophysical community to engage to a greater extent with solid earth geophysical research, which is not well-embedded in its 5-year research strategy document. An example is the programme of scoping studies for its Theme Action Plan - *Deep Earth control on the habitable planet*.

**iii) Nominations for international and national prizes**

In addition to encouraging BGA members to nominate colleagues for national and international prizes, the President noted that the BGA has its own prize – the Bullerwell Lectureship – which, this year, is Dr Matt King from Newcastle. Members were encouraged to nominate early-to-mid career colleagues for the 2013 lectureship for which the deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**iv) Organisation of national meetings**

The President noted that the BGA provides funding support for national meetings, including the in-progress NAG 2012 meeting during which this AGM was being held. Funds can be applied for by submitting a request to the Secretary in the first instance. Suggestions for the NAG 2013 should be submitted before the next Executive Committee meeting scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**v) Postgraduate meeting in Leeds – 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

At this annual meeting postgraduate students present their research in the form of posters and oral presentations for which prizes are awarded. A host is currently being sought for the 2013 meeting. A proposal has been received from the Near Surface Group of the Geological Society to combine their annual meeting with the BGA Postgraduate meeting from 2013. Options for a joint meeting are being investigated.

**vi) Provision of financial support for other meetings**

In addition to the annual NAG meeting, the BGA also provides funding for smaller-scale or subject specific meetings, following the same application process as the NAG meeting, although there is no specific deadline. Applications are considered on an ad hoc basis. Reports from any meeting that the BGA funds in any form must be submitted for publication on the BGA web site and in the newsletter. Up to £500 may be applied for.

**vii) Awards to UK geophysicists**

For report:

- a) Prof Roger Searle (Durham) has been elected as a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.
- b) Dr James Verdon (Bristol) has been awarded the RAS Runcorn Award for the best PhD.
- c) Dr Juliet Biggs (Bristol) has been awarded the RAS Winton Capital Award.

The President noted that the BGA community were not very good at nominating colleagues for prizes and awards, even to its two parent societies and, again, encouraged members to do so.

**viii) RAS geophysical forum**

The RAS has approached the BGA Executive for interest in initiating a Geophysics Forum, along the lines of its existing Astronomy Forum that provides advice to stakeholders, policy makers, research councils and fund holders. This forum comprises one nominated individual from each HEI with an astronomy department or research unit. The President canvassed the members present to ask if there was any interest in establishing something similar for geophysics in the context of the existing Chairs and Heads of University Geology Departments (CHUGD) group, which already has a similar role, although the RAS forum would have a more focused discussion remit. No definitive conclusion was reached by those present and, as such, the President agreed to raise the matter at the next meeting of CHUGD.

**ix) Reports from completed meetings**

Reports from the three meetings listed below were presented in the latest edition of the Newsletter that was tabled, and which would be posted on the BGA web site and circulated on the BGA email list on conclusion of the meeting.

- a) 2011 William Smith Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Geological Society “*Remote sensing of volcanoes and volcanic processes: integrating observations and modelling*”
- b) Magnetic Relaxation 2012 – 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> January 2012, University of Liverpool
- c) Afar-Ethiopia meeting – 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Addis Ababa

**BGA Newsletter  
Filed with minutes.**

**4 Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer noted that he had taken over from Dr Tony Morris at the last AGM and, as Dr Morris could not be present at that meeting, the accounts for FY2010 and FY2011 would be presented here. These accounts had both been presented to and approved by the parent societies. The Treasurer then proceeded to outline the sources of BGA funding (the Gray-Milne Fund, the RAS and the Geological Society) and that the BGA has an annual income of £8-9K which is primarily spent on the NAG and Postgraduate meetings.

The Treasurer reported that there was a £2K surplus against budget at the end of FY2011, largely due to committee expenses claims being less than predicted, and the Postgraduate Meeting attracting significant external sponsorship. The end of year balance was of the order of £10K of which £5K has been moved to the reserve account to bring its balance up to £8K, pending roll-out of the BGA schools outreach programme. The budgets for FY2012 have been presented to, and have been approved by both parent societies, with £10469 and £2500 from the Gray-Milne fund being devoted to the schools outreach programme. To date £1400 has been spent so far this financial year supporting the IUGG, Ethiopia and Magnetic Relaxation meetings.

**Document 100212\_BGA/02  
Filed with minutes.**

## **5 Constitution**

A proposal for revisions to the wording of the BGA constitution were presented and agreed. The revised document will now be posted on the BGA web site until the next AGM, due to the required notice period required for changes, after which the new constitution will come into force.

The main changes to the wording reflect:

- a) the strengthening the relationship between geophysics and the other Earth sciences
- b) renaming the Executive Committee roles to better reflect remit and BGA activities and committee membership
- c) adjusting the notification of change period and mode of notification to make better use of the BGA web site.

**Document 100212\_BGA/03  
Filed with minutes.**

## **6 BGA brochure and mission statement**

The President reported that, to date, no real progress had been made on the RAS “geophysics” brochure, although the RAS had procured the services of Dr Sue Bowler to create it. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be meeting with Dr Bowler after the AGM to progress this.

## **7 BGA image competition**

The President outlined the BGA image competition and the deadline for submissions of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012. One use of the images might be BGA publicity material, the web site, and even the RAS brochure. Members present were encouraged to contact colleagues, PhD students and Post-Doctoral researchers in their departments and advertise the scheme and/or make submissions.

## **8 BGA prize for best undergraduate in geophysics**

The President noted that he will be contacting the Heads of all HEI departments in the UK that host geophysics-based degrees asking for expressions of interest in the “Best undergraduate in Geophysics” prize scheme that the BGA plan to roll-out for June 2013, along the lines of the Palas prizes for palaeontology, the Mineralogical Society awards and so on.

## **9 Nominations for a geophysicist on RAS and Geological Society Councils**

The President encouraged members to stand for office and for Council of the parent societies or to vote for those that have been nominated. Professor Barry Parsons (Oxford) has been appointed as the RAS Vice President (Geophysics) to succeed Professor Mike Kendall when his term comes to an end in May 2012.

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

The constitution requires that there 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 – President – term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015  
 Prof. Christine Peirce – Secretary – term: Feb 2010-Feb 2013  
 Prof. Peter Clarke – Treasurer – term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015  
 Dr Mimi Hill – Newsletter Officer – term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015  
 Prof Gillian Foulger – Web Officer – term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014  
 Prof. Andreas Rietbrock – Meetings Officer – term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015  
 Dr Ian Stimpson – Member without Portfolio – term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015  
 Mr Paul Denton – Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer – term: Feb 2012-Feb 2015

## Co-opted members:

Prof. John Brodholt – Outreach Representative – term: Feb 2011-Feb 2014  
 Dr George Tuckwell – Industry Representative – 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 a parent society representative from the Geological Society and up to 2 co-opted members. It was suggested that one of the Co-opted members could be a Postgraduate or early-career Postdoctoral researcher and as such become the Postgraduate Representative.

Dr Sue Bowler nominated Professor Dave Waltham (Royal Holloway) whose nomination was seconded by Mr Paul Denton. Professor Waltham was duly elected as a Co-opted member with term of office Feb 2012 –Feb 2015.

**11 Any other business**

There were three items:

**a) Phase 2 of the Seismometers in Schools Project**

The Schools Liaison and Outreach Officer outlined the activities that have taken place under phase 1, which has been very successful, with more than 500 seismographs now installed in schools. Phase 2 would concentrate on engaging with teachers in schools to actively use this instrumentation as part of the curriculum, and assist that by providing support and teaching materials. A 2-3 day meeting for teachers and potentially co-hosted by the BGS at Keyworth has been proposed in outline, and a formal proposal is currently being formulated for the BGA Executive to consider at its next meeting. The President will be writing to the Director of the BGS and the Chief Executive of NERC to elicit support, and use of the BGS facilities at little to no cost if possible. The Treasurer noted that a considerable percentage of the BGA resources in the next financial year will be devoted to rolling-out its outreach and schools liaison plan, including potentially recording the seismological impact of the Queen's jubilee concert using seismographs located in nearby schools.

**b) RAS monthly meetings**

Professor Richard Holmes, a geophysical member of RAS council, has brought to the BGA's attention the under-use of the RAS monthly meetings for solid earth geophysics topics, and that the RAS would like to see more involvement. Support is available for the travel and subsistence costs of up to two overseas speakers. The President suggested that if multiple proposals are received for the NAG2013 meeting, that the unsuccessful proposals could take advantage of this opportunity to support meetings in addition. The President also encouraged members present to communicate this meeting opportunity to their research colleagues.

**c) Jeffreys Lecture**

The President noted that the RAS Jeffreys Lecture has been redefined to be devoted to subjects of interest to solid earth scientists and that the RAS would welcome suggestions for future speakers.

**12 Date of next meeting**

2013 AGM – c. 13:00 on the 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Geological Society of London during the NAG 2013 Meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 13:20.