



British Geophysical Association

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British Geophysical Association Committee

Meeting, Wednesday 5th May 2004, 11 am.

Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, London.

Present: Peter Maguire (chair), John McCloskey, Tine Thomas, Lucy Mathers, Sheila Peacock, Jon Bull, Jane Stimpson, Anthony Morris, Wyn Williams.

Apologies: Philippa Berry, Mike Kendall

1. The Committee welcomed Lucy Mathers (De Montfort), temporarily taking over secretarial duties in place of Philippa Berry.
2. Minutes of the last meeting.
These were accepted and signed.
3. Matters arising
 - (a) Affiliated Groups
Peter Maguire had spoken to the Royal Society and Mike Kendall (Secretary of the UK IUGG committee) regarding the procedure for nominating UK national correspondents to IASPEI, IAGA and IAG. The UK IUGG committee appoint the representatives, but the BGA are one of the nominees. Mike Kendall is still to find out when the nominations are required. The current Geodesy national correspondent is soon to step down from the IAG. Peter Maguire will contact Philippa Berry concerning

the next IAG representative to be nominated by the BGA. **ACTION PKHM.**

(b) Structure of the BGA committee

Peter Maguire has still not contacted Nigel Cassidy regarding the EIGG representative. Peter Styles will discuss with the Geological Society's representation on the Committee. This matter will be discussed at their forthcoming Council meeting. Peter Maguire leaves the RAS Council after their forthcoming meeting (14/5/04). There will subsequently be no RAS council member on BGA committee. Peter Maguire will inform the RAS council of this matter. **ACTION PKHM.**

(c) Expansion of BGA to include Republic of Ireland geophysicists
The Republic of Ireland currently has no BGA equivalent. It was proposed that geophysicists be contacted with regards to setting up a “liaison” of geophysicists within Ireland. In order to promote collaboration it was proposed that the postgraduate meeting in 2005 take place in Dublin. Wyn Williams noted that this had tentatively been pencilled in for Edinburgh, but agreed Dublin was a good idea, in which case the 2006 meeting will not be pencilled in to take place in Edinburgh. Peter Maguire will first write a short note to Alan Jones concerning the proposed meeting in September 2005 in Dublin. Tine Thomas will write to research workers in Ireland and invite them to attend this coming postgraduate meeting in Liverpool (September 2004). **ACTION PKHM, TT.**

(d) BGA leaflets

Jon Bull has passed the BGA leaflets to Peter Maguire. These should be discussed at a future date to see if an updated version should be produced.

(e) Support for the Association of Environmental and Earth Sciences

Peter Maguire has informed them that the BGA cannot provide funding. There is a meeting on 17th May. Peter Morris (not present) may attend. Peter Maguire may go if Peter Morris cannot attend. (Subsequently, Peter Morris was contacted and was able to attend). **ACTION PM**

(f) The BGA article for Astronomy and Geophysics has not yet been written. Peter Maguire will put it on his list to do over the summer.
ACTION PKHM.

4. Finance

Jon Bull handed a cheque to Tony Morris for £4000 in order for him to set up a new account. Some money remaining in the current account for loose ends will be transferred at a later date. Tony Morris mentioned that only one signature would be required on cheques, but there are multiple signatories. The UCAS document is the only major outlay at the present time and Trotman's will invoice BGA in due course. **ACTION TM.**

5. AGM report

Peter Maguire mentioned that the change to the constitution needs to be typed up. A new version is to be typed up to reduce addendums to the document. The AGM will again take place during the February meeting New Advances in Geophysics Meeting, and it is intended that it settle at this venue. **ACTION PKHM and LM.**

6. UCAS document

This is likely to be distributed to all schools and elsewhere: e.g. career advisers, libraries. It was noted that there are 7 or 8 courses in the country with Geophysics in the title and over 400 with Geology in the title. BGA has written the foreword to the advert, which will appear this year only. The 1/2 page advert cost approximately £1600 to appear for 3 years. Peter Maguire chose Chris Birt's "why I did geophysics" text as the most suitable, after comments from Committee members. The remainder of the advert (produced by De Montfort) must be finished by Monday (17/5/04) at the latest. The possibility of obtaining funding for the advert in the future, from universities offering geophysics courses, was discussed.

ACTION PKHM, LM.

7. RAE

Peter Maguire noted that it is essential that the BGA has some input into the RAE process. The panel configuration and recruitment document identifies how the panels are to be set up. Geophysics may feature in 3 to 4 disciplines, the major two being Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences. The others are Archaeology and Planetary Science. Peter Maguire noted that the BGA must compile a robust response to the document before 19/5/04 (not including nominations, since these are to be done at a later date), and obtain the support from those active in other committees that will endorse BGA recommendations for nominees. Those bodies not currently on the list, but who would be supportive should also be recommended to HEFCE. The autonomy in sub-panels must be stressed in the response. The recommendation that 2-3 geophysicists should be included on both the Earth Science and the Environmental Science panels is to be mentioned. **ACTION PKHM, JM.**

8. Publicity / Education

Peter Maguire noted correspondence from David Bamford (ex-BP) regarding lack of sufficiently 'qualified' maths students entering geophysics courses. The number of students is at an all time low since the 1980s. BP's investigations show that it is not that the lack of students with suitable maths qualifications, or the curriculum, but that the oil industry and geophysics are "invisible" in schools. Publicity strategies were then discussed. There should be an advertising campaign run by groups such as the BGA in order to raise awareness of geophysics in schools. BP and other companies may be willing to fund this activity. In order to get the companies together and to find out what teaching resources and

advertising methods would be effective, a one-day meeting funded by the BGA in London around January/February 2005 was proposed. A first draft of a plan for what the day should entail, including possible attendees and speakers should be sent to committee members by the end of May. Tine Thomas agreed to take the lead on organising the meeting. Wyn Williams John McCloskey, Jane Stimpson, and Tony Morris agreed to support Tine where required, Peter Maguire to advise where necessary. **ACTION TT.**

It was decided that the quotations obtained for the UCAS documents should also be placed upon the BGA website. **ACTION WW.**

9. Future meetings

(a) Report on EGU 2004.

50-60 people attended the RAS reception. The numbers were down from previous years, which was a little disappointing. It was believed that over 150 delegates attended the Bullerwell lecture following reception, which was deemed to be excellent since the lecture was not advertised in the printed programme. The efforts of 'fly posting' for advertising the event by Sheila Peacock were praised, and it was mentioned that this method of advertising was effective and would be advised at subsequent meetings. Sheila mentioned that, if possible, the Tuesday should be the latest day in the meeting for the Bullerwell lecture, due to the very heavy schedule of talks, posters and other events. The lecture should, if at all possible not clash with other EGU lectures covering a similar topic.

Postgraduate meeting.

Tine Thomas reported that she has sent out e-mails to all universities. She has had responses from most Northern universities, but not many Southern universities (except Southampton and Plymouth) and will repeat her e-mail to those. It was originally planned for 14-16th September, but she is now looking at 20-21st September since original date clashes with the ESC conference in Potsdam. Whether enough accommodation will be available for participants at such a time needs to be checked. The 'big name' speaker for the event is still to be chosen. Members of the committee who are intending to attend the meeting should let Tine know in due course, as an assessor for the student prize still needs to be found. **ACTION TT and committee members.**

(b) New advances in Geophysics 2006.

Jon Bull noted that arrangements for the meeting for February 2005,

organised by Barry Parsons, James Jackson and Paul Cross, are in hand, but will check by e-mail that they have started sending out invitations. The BGA AGM will again be held during the meeting. **ACTION JB.**

Peter Maguire noted that committee members should start thinking about ideas for the February 2006 meeting, possibly to do with small-scale geophysics or the absence of scale. Committee members should discuss the meeting with colleagues to come forward with possible subject areas. These ideas will be discussed at the following BGA committee meeting in November. **ACTION all committee members.**

(c) Bullerwell 2005.

Committee members made nominations. Peter Maguire will circulate the list to the committee and an e-mail vote shall follow. This will take place over the summer, and it is intended that the decision be made before the end of August 2004.. **ACTION PKHM.**

10. AOB

None

11. Date of next meeting

Provisionally Wednesday 3rd November 2004.

The meeting closed shortly after 1:00 pm.