

The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Unconfirmed minutes of the nineteenth meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 20 September 2005.

Present: Allan Rogers, Chairman
Chris King, Vice-Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit/Geological Society of London)
David Bailey, Secretary (British Geological Survey)
Cally Oldershaw, ESEF(EW) Development Officer
Gordon Riddler, Treasurer (Applied Earth Science Division, IOM³/MIRO)
Mike Bassett (National Museums and Galleries of Wales)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts)
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association/Rockwatch)
Liv Carroll (MIRO/Capita Symonds)
Dale Johnston (Geological Curators' Group)
Tim Parry (*vice* Ian Thomas, National Stone Centre & Quarry Products Association)
Alan Rhodes (Association for Science Education)
Sandy Smith (Open University)
Kay Stephenson (*vice* Colin Osborne, Royal Society of Chemistry)
Roger Trend (Geographical Association)
Malcolm Walker (Royal Meteorological Society)
Peter Warren

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from representatives of the following member organisations: Challenger Society, Committee of Heads of University Geosciences Departments, Earth Science Teachers' Association, Environment Agency, Gemmological Association/Gem Testing Laboratory, Health and Safety Executive, Meteorological Office, Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers, UKRIGS.

2 Chairman's introduction

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited round-table introductions.
- 2.2 The Chairman had hoped to report that the Forum had attained charity status. Unfortunately, while the paperwork had been completed, it had been lost in transit and it would be necessary to resubmit.
- 2.3 A successful meeting had been held in Cardiff on 14 September to discuss ways of promoting earth science education in Wales (see Agenda Item 13.4)
- 2.4 Sponsorship was needed for a brochure describing the aims of the Forum and listing its affiliated organisations.

3 Minutes of the eighteenth meeting, 19 July 2005

As part of the submission to the Charity Commission, the minutes of the eighteenth meeting had been circulated shortly after the eighteenth meeting, accepted as a true record by correspondence and endorsed by the Trustees. No further corrections were identified. David Bailey to upload a copy to the ESEF(EW) website.

Action: David Bailey

4 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the eighteenth meeting.

5 Annual Meeting and Constitution

- 5.1 The Chairman reminded members that the All-Party Parliamentary Earth Sciences Group (APESG) would be holding a Conference on the theme of natural disasters on 8 November

2005. Sir David King would give a keynote address and the chief scientific adviser to DFID would also speak. APESG were drawing up the invitation list. The guest list would have to be limited as the venue would only hold about 100 delegates.

- 5.2 The Forum's Annual Conference would be held in spring 2006 to avoid a clash with the APESG conference. The theme would be 'earth science education and society' but the title was not yet finalised. Gordon Riddler reported that a consortium of major companies was setting up a project to benchmark activities that promoted earth science careers. He had suggested to the consortium that the Forum's Annual Conference could help to address this issue and they had indicated, in principle, their willingness to provide support. It was now necessary for the Forum to formulate a costed proposal.
- 5.3 Chris King reported that he had recently attended the 'Offshore Europe' conference at which similar problems in relation to maintaining a viable workforce were highlighted.
- 5.4 Alan Rhodes noted that the pharmaceutical industry had invested major resources in education to ensure a continuing flow of recruits. Their experience might provide a good model for the earth sciences and a speaker from the pharmaceutical industry could be invited to address the conference.
- 5.5 Peter Warren said that recruitment was a particularly acute problem for smaller companies that were unable to recruit outside the UK. Gordon Riddler added that even the major companies with global reach were beginning to experience difficulties in recruiting high-quality graduates. The problem would be exacerbated for the extractive industries because of new regulations requiring key personnel to demonstrate specific competencies.
- 5.6 Roger Trend asked if the conference would address earth science education at school level, as well as professional-level training. The Chairman confirmed that all levels of education should be included.
- 5.7 It was **AGREED** that the Officers should book a venue late in March. London venues were preferred; suggestions included the Houses of Parliament and Departmental conference facilities. The Chairman said he would approach the Minister of State for Higher Education to see whether the conference could be used to launch the Advisory Council for Earth Science Education, one of the recommendations in the report of the first Annual Conference. The Chairman asked members to send in their suggestions relating to the programme and venue by correspondence. **Action: Forum members**

6 Finance report

The Chairman reported that there was still a small amount of money in the account but that new funding would be needed soon.

7 Development Officer's report

Cally Oldershaw tabled the report appended to these minutes as Annexe A.

8 ESEF(EW) website (www.esef.org.uk)

Members had been requested to provide information for the proposed diary and education pages, and to check that the existing list of links to affiliated organisations' websites was complete and up to date. **Action: All members**

9 Potential collaborative projects

Members were invited to describe current and forthcoming collaborative projects. It was agreed that collaborative projects should be discussed at greater length at the next meeting of the Forum. The Chairman asked members to table examples of collaborative projects in writing at future meetings.

Action: All members

10 SESEF update

- 10.1 Chris King reported that, since the Forum's last meeting, SESEF had confirmed continued funding for the post of full-time Development Officer and had advertised for a replacement for Hamish Ross. The closing date for applications was 30 September 2005.
- 10.2 Malcolm Walker reported that the Royal Meteorological Society, in partnership with SESEF and the City of Edinburgh Council, had funded a primary teacher to develop meteorology resources. The materials developed would be marketed in England and Wales soon. It was planned to employ a secondary teacher to develop similar materials for older children.

11 Government policy issues

Nothing to report.

12 Charity Commission

As noted under Agenda Item 2, the application for charitable status would have to be resubmitted. The Chairman asked those Trustees present to ensure they had endorsed the application before leaving the meeting. It was **AGREED** that Lorraine Craig, Bernie Rickinson and Angela Yeoman should be asked if they still wished to act as Trustees.

13 AOB

- 13.1 *'Away-days'*: Malcolm Walker proposed the Forum should consider holding 'away-days' to focus on specific issues, such as potential collaborative projects. Gordon Riddler supported the idea and suggested that SESEF could also be invited. The Chairman asked MW to put forward a proposal. **Action: Malcolm Walker**
- 13.2 *Qualifications and Curriculum Authority*: Chris King reported that the QCA was revising the specifications for A-levels in geology. The first meeting would be held on 26 September 2005 and would be attended by several Forum members.
- 13.3 *Henry Cohen collection*: Gordon Riddler reported that the son of the late Henry Cohen was looking for a home for his father's collection of rocks and minerals and invited members to contact GR if they were interested. David Bailey said that BGS would be interested in acquiring the collection and would discuss arrangements outside the meeting.
- 13.4 *ESEF in Wales*: Unconfirmed minutes of the first meeting of the Forum's Welsh group on 14 September were tabled. It had been agreed that the group be known as ESEF-Cymru and would operate as a working party of the Forum as a whole and not as a separate entity. Forum members would be welcome to attend meetings of ESEF-Cymru and vice versa. It was **AGREED** that the next meeting of ESEF-Cymru would be held at 4 p.m. on 24 January 2006 in the National Museum of Wales. Mike Bassett would draw up an invitation list and approach potential sponsors. **Action: Mike Bassett**
- 13.5 *Congratulations*: Cally Oldershaw had two titles in *The Independent's* top ten list of geology books published 2 September 2005 with data supplied by Waterstone's. *Gemstones* by Cally Hall (Dorling Kindersley) at no. 4 and *Gemstones and Crystals* by Cally Oldershaw (Phillip's) at no. 7. Cally had also contributed to a third.

14 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be at **1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 6 December 2005** at IOM³ in 1 Carlton House Terrace (subject to confirmation that a room is available). The focus of the meeting will be on potential collaborative projects and the Annual Conference programme.

The next meeting of ESEF-Cymru will be at **4 p.m. on 24 January 2006** in the National Museum of Wales.

David Bailey 20 September 2005

Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Development Officer's Report 19 September 2005

General

1. Action points in the minutes of the last meeting have been addressed

Meetings attended, Reports and Projects

1. Meeting at National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff (NMGW) 14 September

New Members and *Proformas*

1. Completed *proforma* has been received from new member: The Geology Trusts
2. Completed *proforma* has been received from: Quarry Products Association

Email dissemination included:

1. ASE Annual Conference, Reading January 2006 (ASE)
2. SESEF Development Officer post (SESEF/ESEU)
3. A studentship in Geodiversity (Capita Symonds)
4. Note to Forum members on the Virtual Quarry Project (QPA)
5. ESTA and UKRIGS Conference (ESTA/UKRIGS)
6. Free teaching job advertising to all schools and agencies via www.teachers.eu.com (ESTA/ESEU)
7. Dioramas for Science Learning Centres (ESEU)

Annual Conference 2005/6

1. Initial discussions on topics and speakers have taken place.
2. Provisional date – Spring 2006.

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences

1. List of all meetings held has been circulated to Forum members and has been put on the ESEF(EW) website.
2. Suggestions from Forum Members for meetings have been passed to the Officers of the Group. Further suggestions welcome.
3. The inaugural meeting of the new Parliamentary session took place on 14 June. Officers of the Group are:

Chair: Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP

Vice Chairs: Duke Montrose and Martin Caton MP

Treasurer: Lord Oxburgh

Allan Rogers is the Professional Adviser to the Group.

Cally Oldershaw is the Administrative Secretary to the Group.

4. Future meetings:

18 October: 'The Falklands - Another North Sea? The Geology and Politics of Oil Exploration in the South Atlantic' Speakers: William Marsden Former Ambassador to Argentina and Director, Americas, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Dr Colin Phipps (Chair, Desire Petroleum). Robert Gatliff (British Geological Survey) will also be present.

8 November: 'Natural Disasters Day' international meeting held in conjunction with the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology (POST). Speakers confirmed. Keynote speech will be given by Sir David King (Chief Scientific Adviser, HM Government).

15 November: 'Repair or Rebuild?' Speakers: Chris Wood (English Heritage), Alan Thompson (Capita Symonds).

6 December: Christmas meeting (tbc).

ESEF(EW) in Wales

1. The inaugural meeting took place at the National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff on Wednesday 14 September.
2. The launch event will be in late January 2006 with a meeting for key stakeholders (maximum 50), followed by a keynote speaker and reception for a wider audience (maximum 380 attendees).

Charity Commission

Following the ESEF meeting of 19 July, relevant papers were signed by potential trustees present. These were then sent to Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP for signing and returned safely. They were then sent to Lord Oxburgh for signing. They have not been received and searches of offices have not been successful. Forms will have to be filled in again and the process repeated. This has caused a delay in the application for Charity status.

End
19 September 2005
Cally Oldershaw