

The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the thirty-first meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on 17 March 2009

Present: Chris King, Co-Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and UKRIGS)
Susan Brown (Geologists Association and Rockwatch)
Chris Carlon (Anglo American)
Joanna Mears (Geological Society of London)
George Meldrum (SESEF and Royal Meteorological Society)
Cally Oldershaw (Association for Science Education)
Peter Warren
Niki Whitburn (ESTA)
Toby White (Institute of Material, Mining & Minerals)
Martin Whiteley
Emma Woodley (Royal Society of Chemistry)

Speakers: Jacqui Malpas (Association of Welsh RIGS groups)
Hellen O'Connor (The Geology Trusts)
John Reynolds (UKRIGS)

Secretary: June Wright (BGS)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Allan Rogers, Co-Chairman, Judith Mansell (Royal Geographical Society), Andrew Rankin, Lorraine Craig, Sylvia Knight (Royal Meteorological Society), Hazel Rymer (Open University) and Chloe French (Scott Wilson)

2 Minutes of the 30th meeting 9 December 2008

The minutes were amended where necessary and accepted as a true record of the meetings and will be placed on the ESEF website.

Action: David Bailey

3 Matters arising

[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting.]

3.1 [4.1] *Subscriptions:* Letters requesting a contribution had been sent to all members. Some funds had been received and IOM3 are dealing with some electronic donations and purchase order number payments.

3.2 [4.2] *Secretarial duties:* June Wright to confirm the Secretarial duties with Cally Oldershaw

Action: June Wright to discuss with Cally Oldershaw

3.3 [4.3] *Colin Osborne retirement:* The new incumbent is due in post within weeks and a replacement Royal Society of Chemistry representative will be advised to replace Colin Osborne.

3.4 [10] *Government Policy:* No record could be found to substantiate the reports that geologists are in short supply. No further action required.

3.5 [4.4] *BGS Strategy:* Chris King had commented on behalf of ESEF and received a thank you letter from John Ludden (Executive Director, BGS). David Bailey was asked to send all present a copy of the BGS Strategy.

Action: David Bailey

3.6 [4.5] *Future meetings* Chris King has invited Andy Rankin to speak at the December 2009 meeting and is awaiting a reply.

Action Chris King

3.7 [13.6] 9 June 2009 meeting: Judith Mansell to be reminded to organise speakers on “Earth science in the geography curriculum – Key stage 3/4” for thirty-second meeting.

Action: June Wright

Standing Items

4 Finance

June Wright to request financial statements from IOM3 covering the previous 5 years for our records and to be advised of donations received this year.

Action: June Wright

5 ESEF Website

The last two meetings’ minutes are now on the website. It was suggested that links to each other’s pages be inserted to both the ESEF and SESEF web pages. David Bailey agreed to remain web editor.

Action: David Bailey

6 All Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences

Dates for future meetings have been agreed:

- 17 March 2009. All present were invited to attend the meeting later that evening.
- 9 June 2009. Anglo American to present Legislation and Exploration Licences and Stakeholder relationships.
- 20 October 2009. British Antarctic Survey to present — subject to be confirmed.
- 8 December 2009. Ideas welcome.

On 20 January, the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee held a meeting in collaboration with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences. Dr Steven Koonin and Steven Sorrell spoke on the subject of peak oil.

7 Potential collaborative projects

7.1 To develop further liaison with SESEF.

7.2 Future Morph through ASE are producing a careers video.

7.3 The Geological Society have been working with The Times and Science Council on the Big Bang event which was well received. It is hoped to repeat the event next year in Manchester.

7.4 The BGS Schools Seismology Project, which also took part in the Big Bang event, has its Scottish launch at Dynamic Earth on 1 April 2009. BGS is hoping to gain funding for a similar project in Ethiopia.

7.5 ASE’s consortium of science education organisations will be delivering the Improving Practical Work in Science programme over the next two years, funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. ASE has employed three staff members to manage, co-ordinate and promote their work. For further details contact the Director of the programme, mariannecutler@ase.org.uk

7.6 Emma Woodley informed the meeting that the Royal Society of Chemistry is continuing to work to encourage earth sciences.

8 AOB

SESEF update: George Meldrum informed the meeting that SESEF was in a very strong position, they are working with new partner organisations and are able to continue their support of a full time development officer.

Geological education in the voluntary sector

After the meeting Martyn Bradley introduced three speakers who gave very interesting talks from voluntary societies working in taking geology to the public:

Geology Trusts in the Gloucestershire region by Dr Hellen O'Connor
UK RIGS (Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites) by John Reynolds
Welsh RIGS by Dr Jacqui Malpas

Actions

Agenda item	Subject	Owner	Date due
30:4.2	Secretarial duties to be discussed	June Wright and Cally Oldershaw	
30:4.3	Colin Osborne replacement	Colin Osborne	
31.3.5	BGS Strategy to be sent to members	David Bailey	ASAP
31.3.6	Andrew Rankin to organise speakers for December meeting	Chris King	09 06 09
31.3.7	Judith Mansell to organise speakers for June 2009 meeting	June Wright	ASAP
31.5	ESEF website to be updated	David Bailey	ASAP
31.4	Finance details	June Wright	

June Wright, April 2009