



# Newsletter



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May 2010

## President's Message

As the evenings grow longer, and we naturally want to spend more time outside, the evening lecture programme of The Mining Institute of Scotland draws to a close for another year. The presentation topics ranged from innovative technology with applications for any fluid carrying tubulars, to the history of borehole surveying in mining and oil industries. It is always interesting to find out how many technologies have applications across both the mining and petroleum industries. The presentations are available to view via the website for those unable to attend meetings in person.

One distinct advantage that The Mining Institute of Scotland (and indeed the IOM<sup>3</sup>) has over other Engineering Institutes is the ability, and necessity, to have a broad outlook. It is hoped that this is what the membership enjoys although the low turnout at many meetings makes this difficult to confirm. The MIS Council work hard to ensure that the Institute serves its members well. Many Council members have served on Council for a long period, and I am delighted to be able to tell you that our Secretary, David Seath has been awarded an Outstanding Service Award from the IOM<sup>3</sup>.

There cannot be any members who have attended an Institute event and not been met by a smiling David who has been a member of Council for over 25 years, including serving as President in 1993/94. David has been our Secretary since 1999 and as the Presidents come and go each year, David remains as a constant keeping us all right, but allowing each President a relatively free reign. In addition, he is currently Chairman of the Mining Institute of Scotland Trust, a member of the IOM<sup>3</sup> Secretaries' Committee and is involved with scrutinising applications for Fellowship. He is also a Trustee of the Scottish Mining Museum.

David has been particularly welcoming to the inclusion of Petroleum Engineering under the 'mining' banner and this has brought much fresh blood into the Institute. This encompassing approach will surely ensure the longevity of the Institute. MIS Council plan to host a dinner in David's honour - a small token of our appreciation for all his work for the Institute.

Margaret Copland [margaret.copland@bp.com](mailto:margaret.copland@bp.com)

## Industrial Visits

The Industrial Visit in April was to Rubber Atkins to learn about the elastomer manufacture and moulding process and included a tour of the factory floor where many different oilfield elastomer products are made.



Members' visit at Rubber Atkins

The benefits of having Younger Member Reps are beginning to show when an extra industrial visit was arranged at the request of our student members who were interested in finding out about oilfield sand control equipment. Beran Tanilir kindly arranged a visit to Schlumberger in Aberdeen where Completion Engineers gave a presentation followed by a tour of the workshop to view the equipment.



Members' visit at Schlumberger

**AN INSTITUTE EVENT IS THE PLACE TO MEET FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES BOTH OLD AND NEW, WHY NOT JOIN WITH US?**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **TECHNICAL MEETINGS**

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS SESSION. THE FIRST MEETING OF 2010/11 WILL BE THE RETIRED MEMBERS' LUNCH TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT THE SCOTTISH MINING MUSEUM.

THE PROVISIONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2010/11 ARE:

24 SEPTEMBER 2010\* AT SCOTTISH MINING MUSEUM  
13 OCTOBER 2010  
10 NOVEMBER 2010  
8 DECEMBER 2010\* AT RGU, ABERDEEN  
11 JANUARY 2011\* AT MARCLIFFE HOTEL, ABERDEEN  
12 JANUARY 2011  
9 FEBRUARY 2011  
9 MARCH 2011

IN ADDITION, THE SCOTTISH LOCAL SOCIETIES ARE ORGANISING A PRESTIGE LECTURE ON 27 OCTOBER 2010 WHEN PROFESSOR BILL BANKS, PRESIDENT OF THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION (SCOTLAND) WILL SPEAK. THE VENUE FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE IN EITHER EDINBURGH OR GLASGOW. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF YOUR NEWSLETTER AND ON THE WEBSITE. INFORMATION ABOUT SCOTETA CAN BE FOUND ON ITS WEBSITE ([HTTP://WWW.SCOTETA.COM](http://www.scoteta.com))

Video-conference links usually enable Technical Meetings to be attended at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh; BP, Aberdeen; or University of West of Scotland, Paisley. Anyone wishing to attend at BP must make contact beforehand with Lisa Bayfield ([Lisa.Byfield@uk.bp.com](mailto:Lisa.Byfield@uk.bp.com)).

\* Video-conferencing links will not be available for these events

## **Petroleum and Drilling Engineering (P&DE) Division Update**

For 2010 the Division has two priorities, namely to sustain established successful activities and to respond to the membership needs identified through the 2009 survey. I am pleased to say that considerable progress has been made on both priorities this year. The Division has published a number of articles in *Materials World*, including a summary of the 2009 member survey. As per the feedback from P&DE members the front page of the Institute website [www.iom3.org](http://www.iom3.org) has now been re-designed to make it easier to find the Division (termed as one of the 'Technical Communities') micro sites and information on how to obtain Professional Qualifications. Recently Martin Cox presented the findings of the member survey to all IoM<sup>3</sup> Divisions and we expect them to follow P&DE with electronic surveys of their members. I am very pleased to advise that Craig Durham was the well deserved recipient of the IoM<sup>3</sup> publication award and is now a columnist for *Materials World*. I have no doubt that Craig will be raising important issues to both Petroleum & Drilling Engineers and the wider membership of The Mining Institute of Scotland.

Supporting Professional Development is a fundamental role of the Division and we have run four seminars and two courses (attended by 280 people in total) in this year covering: well completion design, subsea developments, gas well deliquification, safety and downhole metallurgy. On behalf of the Division, I would like to express my thanks to Ed Wade, Leigh-Ann Russell, Martin Cox, John Osborne and Werner Schinagl for giving up their time to present at these events. Further seminars are being planned for the autumn with UMIST, Heriot-Watt and Leeds Universities, and also the Midland Institute of Mining Engineers.

The accreditation of development programmes is another area of focus for the Division. Fifteen organisations attended the accreditation session run in November 2009 in Aberdeen. IoM<sup>3</sup> will be following up with each organisation.

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## **IoM<sup>3</sup> Awards**

Council is pleased to announce that two MIS members have been recognised in the IoM<sup>3</sup> Awards for 2009:

David Seath CEng FIMMM, Secretary was given an Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his work in the Scottish Mining Industry and in particular with The Mining Institute of Scotland, where he has held the post of Secretary for the last 10 years.

Craig Durham CEng MIMMM, President Elect receives the Douglas Hay Medal for his article *Barrels in the Wood*, about the early history of UK oil production from 1919 - 1945, which was published in *Materials World* in February 2009.

## **COUNCIL 2009/10**

**PRESIDENT: MARGARET COPLAND\***

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: CRAIG DURHAM\***

**JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: BABS ONEYEYIN\***

**SECRETARY: DAVID SEATH**

**TREASURER: IAN PURDIE**

**BENEVOLENT FUND: JIM WISHART**

**YOUNGER MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE: ALEX CROSSLAND**

**YOUNGER MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE: BERAN TANILIR**

**STEVE BEDFORD\* (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)**

**GORDON BEETHAM (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**MARTIN COX\* (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)**

**RICHARD CROCKETT (ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS)**

**RICHARD DEVERIA\***

**RAMSAY DOW MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**MARTIN DOWNING (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**JOE HEFFERNAN (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**STEVE JEWELL (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)**

**KEN MACKIE MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**ROBERT McLAREN (ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR)**

**COL ROBERTS (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**BRIAN SMART (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**GRAHAM SMITH (CONFERENCE ORGANISER)**

**JIM SOMERVILLE (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**ALLAN THOMSON (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**VACANCY (PUBLICITY OFFICER)**

**\* DIRECTOR OF THE MINING INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND**

**VARIOUS ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS**

### **SECRETARY'S ADDRESS**

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**[www.mining-scotland.org](http://www.mining-scotland.org)**

Members can receive all correspondence by email. Please contact the Secretary if you wish to receive correspondence electronically but currently don't.

## **Young Persons' Lecture Competition 2010**

The IOM<sup>3</sup> YPLC Scottish Heat was once again hosted by MIS and whilst the number of entries was down on previous years, the standard certainly wasn't. Three contestants gave talks covering a wide spectrum of topics. In third place, Kelly Richardson spoke about a failure investigation of a subsea tree control system. Second placed Yasin Hajzadeh of Heriot-Watt talked about a new approach to reservoir production history matching using the same probability theory that governs how ants find the shortest way to food! But in first place was Brian Mees of BP who spoke about oil well casing cement integrity and an investigation into cement channelling in two North Sea wells. Congratulations go to Brian who went on to represent Scotland at the National finals in London on 28 April. Unfortunately, Brian was unable to repeat his success in London.



*Thank you to Nexen Petroleum UK Limited who sponsored this year's heat.*

## **50 Club**

Following on from the article in the previous issue of your *Newsletter* several members indicated that they had passed 50 years' membership or were known to the Council as having 50 years' membership. The initial list of members includes:

James W Brown  
Donald J Cameron  
James R Cowan  
S Ian Hogarth  
George M McAlpine  
John Soutar  
Walter B Thomson.

Certificates will be presented at the Retired Members' Lunch in September or posted to members thereafter.

## P&DE Division Update *cont'd*

Meantime IoM<sup>3</sup> accreditation department is very busy with the following new accreditations in the oil and gas area, academic institutions: Newcastle School of Marine Science and Technology, Leeds University and Robert Gordon University; companies: Shell Expro, Petronas, Shell Malaysia and Chicago Bridge and Iron. Existing accreditations with Heriot Watt University and the University of the West Indies are in the process of being renewed this year.

Two key events to look out for in September are the Materials Congress in Kuala Lumpur and Techfest in Aberdeen. Congress has a specific session on materials for Oil and Gas applications and it is not too late to send in an abstract for a paper. The MIS Trust will consider sponsoring up to three attendees to Congress. Following the success of previous years Craig Durham has been invited back to Techfest to host a stand over the weekend public event. For those who have not been to Techfest, this is the North East of Scotland's annual festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics held over 10 - 27 September 2010. The festival includes lectures, schools programmes, public exhibition and access to many facilities. It is a major series of events attracting thousands of people. Full details can be found at: [www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk](http://www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk).

Finally as always, can I commend to you the Division micro site accessed via the 'Technical Communities' tab on the IoM<sup>3</sup> home page: [www.iom3.org](http://www.iom3.org). Margaret Copland keeps the site up to date with useful information and links. Margaret is always on the lookout for fresh material and will be very pleased for you to contact her. The Division Board is looking for a new Board member to take on the lead role for communications, if you are interested in this role please contact Steve Bedford. As always the Board is keen to get your feedback.

Steve Bedford  
[steve.bedford@uk.bp.com](mailto:steve.bedford@uk.bp.com)

## Obituaries

It is with sincere regret that Council record the deaths of several members of The Mining Institute of Scotland since the last issue of this *Newsletter*.

### **Sydney J Booth** CEng FIMMM (1925 – 2009)

Sid started his career at Central Workshops, Newtongrange and moved to work in Easthouses Colliery. He then left there to take up studies at Jordanhill College, returning to Midlothian to lecture at Esk Valley College.

### **John T Mackie** CEng FIMMM (1938 – 2010)

John was an undermanager at Barony Colliery, then Deputy Manager at Killoch Colliery before becoming Colliery Manager at Barony Colliery. Moving to Fife, John was Colliery Manager at Seafield Colliery and then a Production Manager. He then moved to HQ to be Head of Technical Services before becoming Opencast Director for Scotland. John was President of The Mining Institute of Scotland in 1987/88.

### **George M Caldow** CEng FIMMM (1930 – 2010)

George was an undermanager and then Deputy Manager at Castlehill Mine. He became Colliery Manager at Comrie Colliery and then moved to Seafield Colliery. George was Senior Mining Engineer, Scottish Area when he retired.

### **David O Davies** CEng FIMMM (1927 – 2010)

David started his mining career in South Wales. He was undermanager at Mardy Colliery before moving into lecturing, firstly in England and then Strathclyde University. David was President of The Mining Institute of Scotland in 1989/90 and Secretary 1992/99.

### **James Stevenson** CEng FIMMM (1929 – 2010)

Jim was manager at Prestongrange Colliery and Deputy Manager at Monktonhall Colliery. He became Area Industrial Relations Officer for Scottish Area before moving to Hobart House. Jim returned to Scotland as Assistant Director and was President of The Mining Institute of Scotland in 1986/87.

## Student Activities

The BP sponsored spring lectures to the Robert Gordon University Oil & Gas MSc class proved popular once again as over 60 students attended the lectures held over consecutive Thursdays in February. Leigh-Ann Russell gave an *Introduction to Completions*, while John Osborne and Werner Schinagl spoke about *Subsea Development Challenges* and *Gas Well Deliquification* respectively. For many students this is their first contact with MIS, and in common with previous years, a number of them took up the offer of 'free IOM<sup>3</sup> membership' for the duration of their studies. Thank you to Steve Bedford for providing the speakers and Alex Crossland and Beran Tanilir for representing MIS in their capacity of Younger Member Reps.

A number of the Oil & Gas Engineering students are looking for suitable subjects to research for their MSc thesis. If you have a particular problem or data set that needs collating and analysing over the summer, please get in touch with Professor Babs Oyenevyn at RGU ([b.oyenevyn@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:b.oyenevyn@rgu.ac.uk)).