



Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 3

September 2010

President's Message

The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) year is on the turn with our Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for 13 October. This is your Institute so please make an effort to attend. At the AGM, Craig Durham will be installed as the new president. Many of you may be enjoying Craig's regular column 'Material Matters' in the IoM³ *Materials World* magazine and will have realised that his is not one to hide his thoughts on a subject! There is more information about Craig elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although our President changes annually, the remainder of the Office Bearers changes much more infrequently and give support and encouragement to each new President as they take office. In particular, I would like to say "thank-you" to David Seath, our Secretary and Ian Purdie our Treasurer. I was particularly pleased that during my tenure, David was awarded an Outstanding Service Award from the IoM³. This was definitely well deserved. Without David, I'm not sure if MIS would still be in existence today.

However, The Mining Institute of Scotland is alive and kicking. Our membership numbers are up, our accounts are healthy and we are working hard to engage not only our current members, but the next generation of engineers through activities such as the Arkwright Scholarship scheme and TechFest. We are engaged in wider IoM³ activities and are collectively working with the other IoM³ Scottish Local Societies. One output of the alliance is the instigation of a joint prestige lecture, the first of which will be held in October. This is in addition to our normal schedule of technical meetings, in which I hope you will find something of particular interest. We try to produce a balanced range of topics each year and if you have any ideas for the future, please get in touch.

Serving as your President has been a privilege and an honour. As I mentioned in the January newsletter I come from a fishing background, so to use suitable analogies, the MIS is on an even keel, we have a keen and competent crew and there are no signs of storms ahead.

Very best regards

Margaret Copland margaret.copland@bp.com

Little Green Goblins

The Mining Institute of Scotland's roving reporter and STEM Ambassador Craig Durham recently helped out at the Scottish heats of Greenpower 2010 where he encountered an entry sponsored by the Scottish Association of Metals (SAM). The Simpson Primary School car took part in the Shell Greenpower Challenge Race at the Grampian Transport Museum, Alford on 11 June 2010. Members of the P5, 6 & 7 Science & Engineering Club built their Goblin class electric car over 12 weeks and then raced it against 25 other teams in a series of four car heats. They completed all six of their heats with battery power to spare and for the pupils who took part it was a great day-out and a tremendous introduction to practical engineering. SAM's John Wilcox facilitated the IoM³ sponsorship grant.



Above: Team Simpson hurtles round the final bend. Below: with Principal Teacher Robbie Taylor



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

THE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2010/11 ARE:

30 SEPTEMBER 2010* - 6.00PM AT LOCHSIDE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK

The Geology and History of Opencasting in East Ayrshire
SPEAKER: JOHN CRONE, SCOTTISH COAL CO LTD

13 OCTOBER 2010 – 5.30PM

AGM & Presidential Address: *Chartered Engineer - why bother?*

SPEAKER: CRAIG DURHAM, NEXEN PETROLEUM

10 NOVEMBER 2010 – 5.30PM

Integrating Numerical & Geological Data in Sand Prediction Studies

SPEAKER: PHIL TAYLOR, HELIX RDS

7 DECEMBER 2010* - 6.00PM AT RGU, ABERDEEN

Mechanical Properties that Matter

SPEAKER: ED WADE, METALCOSSE

18 JANUARY 2011* - 5.30PM AT MARCLIFFE HOTEL, ABERDEEN

Buzzard Field Development: 4 years on

SPEAKER: GEOFF LEECH, NEXEN PETROLEUM

9 FEBRUARY 2011 – 5.30PM

Young Persons Lecture Competition

9 MARCH 2011 – 5.30PM

Underground Coal Gasification - the acceptable face of coal mining?

SPEAKER: PETER DRYBURGH, WARDELL ARMSTRONG

13 APRIL 2011 - 7.00 P.M. AT BGS, MURCHISON HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Gold in Scotland! - Scotgolds Grampian Gold Project

SPEAKER: CHRIS SANGSTER, EDINBURGH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

IN ADDITION, THE SCOTTISH LOCAL SOCIETIES HAVE ORGANISED

THE R W THOMSON LECTURE 2010 ON 27 OCTOBER 2010* AT

7.00PM, WHEN PROFESSOR BILL BANKS, PRESIDENT OF THE

ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION (SCOTLAND)

WILL BE THE SPEAKER. THE VENUE WILL BE EDINBURGH NAPIER

UNIVERSITY, CRAIGLOCKHART CAMPUS.

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).

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

Petroleum and Drilling Engineering (P&DE) Division Update

Sadly we have seen another major incident in the Oil and Gas Industry with eleven workers losing their lives, a drilling rig sunk and the largest oil spill in US history as a result of the blowout on the Macondo well in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. This incident has been played out in graphic detail in the media and on websites, with a link to the live feed from the subsea robots from our Division web site. While none of the incident investigations have yet completed and reported their findings it is clear that there will be lessons to be analysed and addressed. UK and European elected bodies have requested information and assurance that a similar event could not occur within the European Union. The UK Oil and Gas Industry has established a number of Work Groups and questionnaires have been issued to Companies working in UK waters on topics including: personnel competency, blow out preventers, and the effectiveness of the UK well examination and verification schemes. Primary objectives of the P&DE Division are to support professional development, knowledge sharing and competence assurance. The Macondo well blowout can only re-emphasise the importance of these objectives.

A number of the forthcoming technical presentations in the MIS calendar are directly relevant to P&DE members and I encourage members to attend or contact a Council member to arrange a video link - 45% of the respondents to the Division 2009 Member Survey stated that they were looking for networking opportunities.

The Division web site (accessed via the 'Technical Communities' tab on the IoM³ website home page www.iom3.org) has recently been praised by IoM³ for the quality and refresh rate of the content. Of the 43 IoM³ technical community sites the P&DE site has always been in the top ten (based on visit frequency) and this year has moved from 6th to 5th place. The website can only ever be as good as the material on it, so please send your contribution to Margaret Copland.

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President Elect: Craig J Durham CEng MIMMM

Craig Durham joined the oil industry in 1987 after graduating with a Masters degree in Petroleum Engineering from Strathclyde University, having previously studied Civil Engineering at Bristol University. His first job was a well site drilling engineer on Britoil's Thistle Platform, and since then has held various technical and managerial positions in both the operator and service sectors. He is currently Lead Completion Engineer with Nexen Petroleum in Aberdeen. As well as an active board member of the Petroleum & Engineering Division of the IoM³ and has recently started writing the 'Material Matters' column for *Materials World*. Married with twin son and daughter, he enjoys gardening in the summer and the rest of the year endures Aberdeen Football Club where he is a season ticket holder.

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

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

Connecting Council

Council is divided along geographic lines and although Council meetings take place by video link, there are few occasions when everyone is in the same room. David Seath's Outstanding Service Award provided the opportunity to hold a dinner in his honour, preceded by a Council meeting, on 26 May 2010 at the Dakota Hotel, South Queensferry.



The Secretary receives his Award from the President



Pictured L-R: Martin Cox, Martin Downing, Graham Smith, David Seath, Margaret Copland, Ian Purdie, Gordon Beetham, Craig Durham, Richard Deveria, Alex Crossland

Benevolent Fund

There are two funds available to assist members, ex-members and their dependants who are in need. These funds are The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Members Benevolent Trust and The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust Benevolent Fund. Anyone requiring assistance (or just as importantly who knows someone in need of assistance) is invited to contact Jim Wishart (Tel. 01592 750552) for an informal discussion. In the event of Jim being unavailable please contact the Secretary.

Institute members renewing their subscription should consider including a donation to the IoM³ Members Benevolent Trust to allow that Trust to be able to continue with its work.

P&DE Division Update *cont'd*

Due to insufficient funding IoM³ cancelled the planned Congress for Malaysia. This was disappointing as the Division had worked with members in Malaysia and a number of quality abstracts had been submitted. The Division is currently working to have an IoM³ presence at Offshore Europe 2011

A regular plea from those involved in recruitment is for more quality UK Engineering graduates. To address this it is important to encourage young people to take the right subjects and courses. To help with this the Division has organised a week's work experience for The Mining Institute of Scotland's Arkwright scholar, Neil Mitchell. Neil will have the opportunity to see what Engineers do on a day to day basis in a major oil and gas operating company. This will be followed by Richard Crockett and Bill Inglis visiting the Gordon Schools in Huntly to discuss opportunities in Mining and Oil and Gas with pupils. If you know someone who is considering a career in the Oil and Gas industry and would like to see what Engineers do on a day to day basis then please contact one of the Board members, alternatively if you can offer the opportunity for someone to come and see what Engineers do in your area please get in contact.

The Division Board is actively looking for new members and so if you are interested please contact Steve Bedford. As always the Board is keen to get your feedback.

Steve Bedford steve.bedford@uk.bp.com

TechFest 2010

On 18/19 September 2010, The Mining Institute of Scotland will again host 'The Black Stuff' at the TechFest Family Activity Weekend in Aberdeen. This popular annual event provides an opportunity to educate the wider public about our industry and promote the importance of oil and coal to the UK energy mix. Visit www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk/tis/ for details or if you would like to help out contact Craig Durham at craigdurham@btinternet.com. This is an ideal opportunity to be an ambassador for your profession and add engineering to the list of potential careers for local children.

While the Victorians (and Georgians) didn't hang about.....

.....these days it sometimes seems like watching paint dry. Members with longer memories may recall that back in 2003, The Mining Institute of Scotland, along with other interested parties, pressed for recognition that potential future opencast coal extraction, envisaged in the structure plan for the southern part of Midlothian, might well take into account the fact that there was an evolving plan for reconstructing the old rail link from Millerhill to Gorebridge and on into a central Borders terminal between Galashiels and Melrose. Although envisaged as a passenger line, the additional opportunity of taking coal – presumably destined for Longannet – off the Edinburgh by-pass and on to rail via Morningside seemed too good to miss.

While a future for coal extraction in this part of the world obviously still has to run the gauntlet of partisan politics and likely huge opposition from the growing dormitory belt on the Edinburgh south side, progress toward the rail link itself has continued, albeit at a snail-like pace. George Stephenson and his go-getting contemporary railway pioneers with their roots in the coalfields of northern Britain would have shaken their heads in disbelief,

The Scottish Parliamentary committees first started their detailed examination of the project in – if memory is correct – in about 2001 but the enabling legislation did not become law until 2006. Nearly another four years passed before the provisions of the Waverley Railway Act were formally initiated in March 2010. The first tentative signs of activity undertaken on behalf of Transport Scotland are now visible along the line of rail with utilities being shifted and some site investigation in progress but the main construction contract will not be let until late 2011 with an opening date pencilled in for August 2014.

When the operatives in high-viz jackets and with their JCBs eventually appear, we can, we trust, be spared the 1840s antics of riotous navvies building the old line (including pitched battles with local colliers) thereby putting the local countryside into a state of alarm until a mixed force of dragoons and peelers intervened.

Richard Crockett

Errata

In the May 2010 issue we wrongly reported that Craig Durham had been awarded the IoM³ Douglas Hay Medal. In fact he was awarded the *Materials World* Award. However, Craig is the new *Materials World* columnist and his monthly comment can be found under the 'Material Matters' heading.