



Newsletter



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March 2011

President's Message

This is only my second 'President's Message' and already we are well into the 2010/11 technical programme. These talks have been very well attended, particularly the joint meetings with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Energy Institute. It is great to see the IOM³, via The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS), being promoted alongside these Institutes which are already long established here in the North East of Scotland.

However, the MIS does much more than hold a series of technical meetings each year and I would like to draw your attention to some upcoming events that aim to promote the MIS beyond our usual member profile.

In September Offshore Europe 2011 rolls into Aberdeen, when the P&DE Board will host an IOM³ delegation to the 3-day event. The aim is to increase IOM³ visibility more widely within the oil and gas industry, particularly those companies in the high end oilfield materials technology and equipment manufacturing sectors.

Shortly after that the MIS will host the R W Thomson Lecture, an annual public lecture inaugurated last year by the Scottish IOM³ affiliated local societies in honour of the Scottish Engineer and Inventor. This will be part of the annual Techfest in September Science and Engineering festival, at which we have exhibited these past three years.

Finally, on 15 November, MIS along with the Central Scotland Regional Group of The Geological Society will hold a Conference on *Scottish Geo-resources in the 21st Century*. This will be the first MIS conference for several years so I am particularly pleased to see it make a return. Further details can be obtained from Graham Smith (caplaw@hotmail.co.uk).

Of course, these events are only possible because of the effort put in to organise them, and the people who attend. So firstly I would like to thank those on Council who make it happen and secondly ask you, our members, to give them your support.

Further details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, or you can always contact me or the Secretary. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Craig Durham

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Petroleum and Drilling Engineering (P&DE) Division Update

It has been a busy start to 2011 and this has put the Division on track to deliver against our three priorities for 2011:

1. Sustain and build upon established successful Division activities.
2. Accreditation of company initial development programmes and academic programmes.
3. Institute presence at Offshore Europe 2011.

Technical seminars on completion engineering, subsea engineering and gas well deliquification were delivered to over fifty students at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. Presentations from leading practitioners on the latest applications are valuable learning opportunities for students and these seminars were very well received. Our thanks go to Leigh-Ann Russell, Mark Murawiecki and Abbas Delevar of BP for delivering these seminars.

Following the success of previous downhole metallurgy courses an open course has been organised for March 2011; this course is full but names are being taken for the next course. In addition to the open courses Chevron are running Institute recognised downhole metallurgy courses for their personnel.

Accreditation of the P&DE related development programmes for both Shell and BP are progressing well with the Shell programme expected to be accredited in mid 2011. The Institute accreditation staff are scheduled to visit Trinidad in March 2011 to re-accredit the P&DE programmes at the University of the West Indies and discuss accreditation of the P&DE programmes at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition while in Trinidad the accreditation staff will be meeting with BP as part of the accreditation of the BP development programme.

Preparations are well underway for Offshore Europe 2011. The Institute (IoM³) will have staff at the event and is one of the Supporting Associations for the event: the IoM³ logo can be seen on the front page of the publicity material at www.offshore-europe.co.uk.

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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:

9 MARCH 2011 – 5.30PM

Underground Coal Gasification - the acceptable face of coal mining?

SPEAKER: PETER DRYBURGH, WARDELL ARMSTRONG LLP

6 APRIL 2011* - 6.00 PM AT GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL, DUNFERMLINE

Mining between Ceres and St Andrews

SPEAKER: JOHN MCMANUS, ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

13 APRIL 2011 - 7.00 PM AT BGS, MURCHISON HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Gold in Scotland! - Scotgolds Grampian Gold Project

SPEAKER: CHRIS SANGSTER, EDINBURGH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

27 APRIL 2011* - 6.00 PM AT LOCHSIDE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK

New Waste Disposal Directive

SPEAKER: WARDELL ARMSTRONG LLP

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 Byfield (Lisa.Byfield@uk.bp.com).

* Video-conferencing links will not be available for this event

SOCIAL EVENTS

THE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2010/11 ARE:

11 MAY 2011 – 12 NOON AT LOCHSIDE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK

Retired Members' Lunch (Ayrshire)

25 MAY 2011 – 12 NOON AT SCOTTISH MINING MUSEUM, NEWTONGRANGE, MIDLOTHIAN

Retired Members' Lunch

Buzzard Goes Forth

As the European Energy Capital, Aberdeen is well represented by the main professional Institutes, with technical meetings and talks on most evenings of the week from October through to May. Rather than overlap, the Energy Institute (Aberdeen, Highlands & Islands Branch) and The Mining Institute of Scotland decided to hold a joint meeting on a topic of mutual interest: *The Buzzard Field, Four Years On*. Over 140 people turned up to hear Geoff Leech of Nexen Petroleum talk about the UK's largest producing oil field and how it has performed almost 4 years to the day since it came on stream in January 2007. By a quirk of nature and chance, the original appraisal wells missed areas of high H₂S, meaning that when development wells were drilled in to this part of the field, the resultant production would exceed the export pipeline H₂S limit. A fourth platform alongside the existing process facility, designed to sweeten the crude before export, has now been installed and commissioned.



Pictured is Craig Durham, President MIS, presenting Geoff Leech with a commemorative quaiach. Denis Pinto, Chair, EI Highlands & Island Branch, is on the right.

IOM³ @ Offshore Europe 2011, 6-8th September 2011

Offshore Europe is the largest Oil & Gas conference outside North America and is held every two years in Aberdeen, Scotland. This year, the IOM³ is an official supporter and will be sending a delegation under the auspices of the Petroleum & Drilling Engineering Division. If any MIS Members intend to present, exhibit, or attend and would like to meet up with the 'Head Office' delegation, then please contact martincox71@btinternet.com. For more details visit www.offshore-europe.co.uk

On Collision

To an incomer to the Scottish Borders it was interesting to observe the edgy rivalry between small towns based upon muscular rugby football and the annual Common Riding horse festivals (with occasional falls from the saddle into Tweed or Teviot). In a sense, the whole history of the Southern Uplands is rooted in conflict and collision going back to the activities of the Border Reivers and, much further, into its geological past. In an informal talk given in Galashiels, your writer won a modest laugh when he pointed out that that place would clearly have been on the Scottish side of the lapetus Ocean which finally closed at the end of the Silurian. In contrast, Hawick, now a mere 30 km down the A7, would have ridden in on the back of proto-England. To have made the same wisecrack in that old grey mill town might have been a little tactless.

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COUNCIL 2010/11

PRESIDENT: CRAIG DURHAM*

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JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: IAN PURDIE *

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JIM SOMERVILLE (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)

ALLAN THOMSON (MIS TRUSTEE)

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

VARIOUS ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS

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

On Collision cont'd

Could the evidence for such significant continental collision and the resulting structural suture in this part of Scotland one day focus the mind of prospectors favoured with large exploration budgets and with freedom to think outside the box? A geologist coming to the Southern Uplands for the first time might at first feel everything is a bit bland. The local Ordovician and Silurian stratigraphic sequence is not well-exposed and perhaps a bit monotonous even when seen in fresh outcrop. However, closer examination reveals a much more turbulent past. Patient mapping over 150 years or more has revealed the existence of intense structural complication, once thought to demonstrate tight isoclinal folding, but now known to owe more to imbricate faulting. Modern plate tectonic models can also make sense of the previously puzzling basic and ultrabasic rock suite south of Girvan by postulating that a sliver of Ordovician sea floor was caught up in the structural jumble of the collision zone.

Alongside such structural dislocation, there are clues to an associated magmatic province only partially exposed by subsequent denudation. Several medium-sized granite intrusions are found, especially in Galloway. A great pile of andesite – a volcanic suite almost diagnostic of continental collision and crustal subduction – occurs in the Cheviots and elsewhere. Inevitably a comparison is suggested with other plate convergences and their associated magmatism. Such terrain is often also accompanied by rich sulphide mineralisation, typically of porphyry or contact metasomatic type, and embracing a wide variety of non-ferrous and precious metals.

Excepting the well-known historic production of metal ores from the Lowther Hills around Wanlockhead and Leadhills, the Southern Uplands has not had a strong reputation as a mining area comparable with, say, Cornwall or the Pennines. Nevertheless, historic production of ore, very often of sulphide type, and including commodities as varied as copper, lead/zinc, silver, iron, manganese, antimony, and baryte has been recorded from a surprising number of small workings extending from Girvan in the southwest to near the Berwickshire coast. Perhaps only the result of hydrothermal remobilisation and concentration of minor constituents already present in the sedimentary overlay but, just possibly, a hint of larger and deeper exploration targets yet to be revealed.

Richard Crockett

Retired Members' Lunch

This event postponed from September 2010 has been re-arranged for Wednesday, 25 May 2011 at the Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange. Retired members are encouraged to bring friends and colleagues to the event, which is once again sponsored by The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust.

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

If you would like to meet with IoM³ staff while they are in Aberdeen please advise Peter Davies at the Institute (Peter.Davies@iom3.org).

The Division Board are keen to know members views and will be posting a survey in the second quarter of 2011. The results of this survey will be used to help define the Division plan for 2012. As always please look out for Craig Durham's articles in *Materials World*, if you have any comments or ideas for topics please contact Craig. Margaret Copland continuously updates the Division website (found on www.iom3.org via the 'Technical Communities' tab at the top right hand corner of the Institute home page) and is always on the lookout for new material. If you have material that you think other members would be interested in please forward this to Margaret. Finally if you would like to get involved in the Division programme please contact any of the Division Board members.

Steve Bedford steve.bedford@uk.bp.com

2011 BP Seminars Series for Universities

The BP seminar for this year was held at Robert Gordon University on Wednesday, 2 February 2011.

The seminar which is the fourth in the series is sponsored on annual basis by the Institute of Mining, Metals & Minerals (Petroleum and Drilling Division) and is open to all students from Robert Gordon University & Aberdeen University as well as young professionals in the North East.

Over 50 participants attended the event and benefited from the presentations by three guest speakers:

Mr Mark Murawiecki, BP SubSea Team Lead who spoke on *Challenges of Subsea Development*

Ms Leigh-Ann Russell, Wells Manager at BP Aberdeen who spoke on *Deepwater Well Construction*

Dr Abass Delevar, BP Projects Petroleum Engineer who spoke on *Gas Well Deliquification*

Our big THANK YOU to BP for their continuing support.

Babs Oyenevyn CEng MIMMM

The Road to San Paulo: YPLC 2011

HOURA WINS THE YOUNG PERSONS LECTURE COMPETITION 2011

Ms Houra Mouzaffar, a PhD Student from the Institute of Petroleum Engineering at Heriot-Watt University has won The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) Heat of the 2011 Young Persons Lecture Competition. The event was held at BP Head Office in Dyce, Aberdeen on 9 February, 2011. Her presentation entitled *Evaluating the Performance of Kinetic Hydrate Inhibitors using a Novel Crystal Growth Technique* was unanimously selected to be the best of the four presentations at the event by the panel of three judges: Craig Durham of Nexen and current MIS President, Babs Oyenevyn of Robert Gordon University, and Beran Tanilir of BP. Houra wins the first prize of £200 and goes on to represent Scotland at the UK National Competition in London in June, 2011. The winner there goes on to San Paulo, Brazil.

Mr Devashish Sharma of the School of Engineering at Robert Gordon University won the second prize of £150 with his presentation entitled *WellWatcher Flux, Distributed Temperature Sensing in Deepwater Completions*. The third prize of £100 is shared by two other candidates from Robert Gordon University, School of Engineering: Amol Bali with his presentation entitled *Optimisation of Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage [SAGD] for improved recovery from unconsolidated heavy oil reservoirs* and Chingiz Saghozin with his presentation entitled *Performance Evaluation of Condensate Reservoirs*.

Craig Durham, MIS president, commented after the event: "The young professionals are the future and judging by the quality of the presentations today, it is going to be an exciting future indeed".



L-r: Amol Bali, Babs Oyenevyn, Houra Mouzaffar, Craig Durham, Chingiz Saghozin, Devashish Sharma