



## President's Message

It has only been a few months since I last wrote and I am pleased to report two major successes for our Institute since then. Firstly, I am delighted to report that The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) won the Local Society of the Year award at the third time of applying. It is very gratifying seeing our progress and achievements over the last few years recognised at UK level, so thank you to all of you who contributed to the application and David Seath for pulling it together. David will be representing MIS at the Awards Dinner in London in July.

Secondly, after much hard work by all involved, the IoM<sup>3</sup> has accredited Shell's Well Engineering and Materials & Corrosion Initial Professional Development Scheme for Chartered Engineer applications. As far as I am aware this is the first UK oil company scheme to be accredited by IoM<sup>3</sup> and I am proud to see us punching our weight with Institutes such as IET and IMechE who already have a long association with the oil and gas industry.

Turning to more routine matters, the 2010/11 Technical Programme concluded in April with a very well attended joint meeting with the Edinburgh Geological Society. But no resting on laurels, planning for 2011/12 has already started so if you have an idea for a talk, or know a good speaker who might be interested, now is the time to get in touch. One of the benefits of being an IoM<sup>3</sup> Regional Society is a fairly broad technical remit, so talks are by no means confined to the Mining & Petroleum disciplines. In fact, to quote Monty Python "and now for something completely different" is what makes our meetings interesting. I look forward to seeing you at the next one, whatever that might be.

Craig Durham [craigdurham@btinternet.com](mailto:craigdurham@btinternet.com)

## Retired Members' Lunch

This re-arranged event sponsored by The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust will be held on Wednesday, 25 May 2011 at the Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange. Retired Members who have not yet informed the Secretary of their attendance must do so before the day. Friends and colleagues are welcome.

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

A priority for the Division is to increase accreditation of academic and industrial personnel development programmes. Significant progress is being made on this priority, reference the article in this newsletter. The member interest in becoming professional reviewers is very welcome, in line with the increasing membership of the Division (up from 436 to 988 over the last three years) the requests for Professional Qualifications are also increasing and the Division now runs a Professional Review Panel in Aberdeen every three months in advance of the quarterly Membership Committee meetings. Interviews with candidates in remote sites, e.g. Persian Gulf States are also undertaken from Aberdeen. If you have been thinking about applying for, or upgrading existing, professional qualifications there is help and support available from any of the Board members and the website.

Since the last newsletter both an open downhole metallurgy course and internal courses for Chevron have been run by Ed Wade, if you would like to register for the next open course please contact Ed at [Mx-service@btconnect.com](mailto:Mx-service@btconnect.com).

The bi-annual Offshore Europe conference and exhibition is in Aberdeen this September. The current expectation is for more than 40,000 attendees from across the world. The Division Board are working with IoM<sup>3</sup> to ensure an Institute presence at this event. If you go onto the website [www.offshore-europe.co.uk](http://www.offshore-europe.co.uk) you will see IoM<sup>3</sup> listed as a Supporter. The Division are hoping to have a number of Institute staff at the event, if you would like to meet Institute staff to discuss any matters, e.g. accreditation, professional qualifications etc. please contact Peter Davies at IoM<sup>3</sup> [Peter.Davies@iom3.org](mailto: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.

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## Local Society of the Year

It has been announced by IoM<sup>3</sup> that The Mining Institute of Scotland is the Local Society of the Year for 2011 in the larger society class.

This prestigious award is awarded on three criteria - Membership, Communication and Events with the emphasis on year-on-year improvement. There are two classes, based on the average attendance on the grant application form, which is submitted in the summer - <30 and 30 and above. The competition is open to societies that have submitted a valid application form and 2010/2011 programme.

The highlights from our application form include:

- Membership – 38 new members recruited, which enabled 10% overall increase in membership. Average attendance at meetings has increased by 5%.
- Communication – we publish newsletters, flyers, annual programme, annual report of Council, booklets listing meetings & events of all professional institutes, and we contribute regularly to *Materials World*. Information about all our activities is also available on our website. Video-conferencing is utilised between Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Paisley.
- Events – we host Retired Members' Lunches, Young Persons' Lecture Competition, student seminars at Robert Gordon University, a stand at TechFest aimed at families, two-day courses on metallurgy aspects of oil wells, and industrial visits.

The prize is up to £1,000 to organise a prestigious event this year and 2 members of our local society have been invited to attend the Premier Awards Dinner, which takes place on 12 July 2011.

## Under scrutiny

Shell's Graduate Engineer Development Programme for Well Engineering and Materials & Corrosion disciplines was recently awarded IoM<sup>3</sup> Initial Professional Development (IPD) accreditation and to mark the occasion David Arthur, Head of Membership Services, IoM<sup>3</sup> and Craig Durham, President, MIS held a rollout session at Shell's North Sea HQ in Aberdeen. This was followed by a Scrutineer & Mentoring training session for over 20 members who expressed an interest in helping with this important part of the professional registration process. The IoM<sup>3</sup> is unique in requiring professional Member applications to be independently scrutinised, in addition to the referees' reports, which gives a high level of confidence in the probity of successful candidates. However, recent increases in applications has put some strain on the relatively small pool of oil & gas industry experienced scrutineers so it was encouraging to see a high level of interest from those wishing to 'put something back' in to the Institute to which we are all proud to belong.



Pictured from left to right is Craig Durham, Sue Cushnaghan, Paul Dumont, David Arthur.

## Scottish Georesources in a changing world

The Mining Institute of Scotland and the Central Scotland Regional Group of The Geological Society are organising jointly an event to be held at British Geological Survey, Murchison House, Edinburgh on 15 November, 2011. This one-day conference focuses on the challenges and opportunities facing the Scottish minerals industry. The conference themes are: maintaining energy minerals supply; sustainability in constructional materials; sourcing and protecting specialist mineral supplies; and minerals and technologies for the future. If any MIS Members are interested in presenting, then please submit an abstract (<250 words) to [info@georesources2011.com](mailto:info@georesources2011.com) or contact Graham Smith ([caplaw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caplaw@hotmail.co.uk)). For more details of the conference visit [www.georesources2011.com](http://www.georesources2011.com).

## Future direction for The Mining Institute of Scotland

Albeit The Mining Institute of Scotland has existed since 1878 it has not done so without change. Despite having one of its most successful years in 2010/11 the future requirements must be examined on a regular basis. Council has embarked upon a review of governance and organisation, which will challenge the current arrangements. The intention will be to develop your Institute into an ongoing professional body that is sustainable and fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Members' views will be sought during 2011/12.

## **COUNCIL 2010/11**

**PRESIDENT: CRAIG DURHAM\***

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: BABS OYENEYIN \***

**JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: IAN PURDIE \***

**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)**

**SIMON BRASSEY**

**MARGARET COPLAND\* (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)**

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

**RICHARD CROCKETT (ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS)**

**RICHARD DEVÉRIA\***

**RAMSAY DOW MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**MARTIN DOWNING (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**JOE HEFFERNAN (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

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

**JON LATIMER**

**KEN MACKIE MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**COL ROBERTS (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**GRAHAM SMITH (CONFERENCE ORGANISER)**

**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**

### **SECRETARY'S ADDRESS**

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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.

## **Arkwright Scholarship**

Back in 2009, The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) financed its first award under the Arkwright Scholarship scheme. This went to Neil Mitchell, a student at The Gordon Schools, Huntly, Aberdeenshire. What follows is an edited version of Neil's final report to MIS:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mining Institute of Scotland for sponsoring me over the past two years and for providing valuable information and work experience which I feel have greatly helped in my decision to pursue engineering as a career.

I used my first year scholarship award to take part in a Head Start course in July 2010 at Heriot Watt University. This course was based primarily on engineering. The course was very useful; it allowed me to see what the various different branches of engineering have to offer. It also showed me what university life is like.

Through The Mining Institute of Scotland and its connections with BP, a week-long work experience was organised for myself with the intention of seeing the role of a graduate engineer after leaving university. I met some interesting people at BP who talked to me about their university experience and explained what their job involved. I also received personal advice from some BP employees on what university courses they would most recommend to study. Throughout the week I feel I gained good in-depth knowledge of what the oil industry involves and I learned what all the different engineers' key roles are within the company.

I plan to use my second year scholarship money to help pay for a laptop that will assist me with my university education and hopefully it will be useful when it comes to the course specifications.

I would like to finish by thanking The Mining Institute of Scotland for sponsoring me over the past two years as part of the Arkwright Scholarship Trust and particularly Dr Richard Crockett, who provided an invaluable source of encouragement to me throughout. The Institute's input has greatly influenced me in choosing engineering as a future career and they have done a great deal on my behalf to organise the work experience and coming in to talk to some fellow pupils at The Gordon Schools, Huntly. I hope to remain in contact during, and after, my university career."

Neil has received unconditional offers for the university courses that he applied for at Robert Gordon University, Heriot Watt University and Strathclyde University. He has still to decide which of these offers he will take up. I am sure all members of MIS and IoM<sup>3</sup> will wish to join me in wishing Neil well for his future career.

Richard Crockett CEng MIMMM

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

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](http://www.iom3.org) via the 'Technical Communities' tab at the top right hand corner of the IoM<sup>3</sup> 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.

As I close this update I would like to thank everyone involved in the delivery of Divisional activities, without the efforts of members such as Ed Wade, Mike Adams, Susan Cushnaghan, Craig Durham, Martin Cox, Babs Oyenehin, Margaret Copland and Steve Jewell the Divisional activities would not be delivered. 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](mailto:steve.bedford@uk.bp.com)

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### TECHNICAL EVENTS

THERE ARE NO MORE TECHNICAL MEETINGS BEING HELD IN 2010/11. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE INDUSTRIAL VISITS ORGANISED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

FOLLOWING THE VERY IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATION MADE BY CHRIS SANGSTER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SCOTGOLD RESOURCES LTD IN APRIL IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO VISIT THE GOLD MINE AT CONONISH, NEAR TYNDRUM, STIRLINGSHIRE.

ANOTHER VISIT WILL BE ORGANISED IN THE ABERDEEN AREA.

DETAILS OF BOTH INDUSTRIAL VISITS WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE.

#### SOCIAL EVENTS

THE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2010/11 ARE:

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

*Retired Members' Lunch*

## Gold in Scotland

This presentation at the Technical Meeting held on 13 April, 2011 was given by Chris Sangster, Chief Executive Officer, Scotgold Resources Limited.

Scotgold Resources Limited has its primary focus on gold in Scotland. It has three Crown Exploration Licences in SW Grampians. Within this area is the Cononish gold and silver deposit containing an estimated 163,000 oz gold and 596,000 oz silver. The deposit is a high grade resource expected to yield 11.7 g/t gold. The economic grade for extraction in small underground operations is 8 g/t.

Chris listed several interesting facts about gold and stated that worldwide mined supply is currently around 2,400 t per year. The current price is around \$1,450/oz, which is a record high. He also identified countries with the largest production, where the largest occurrence and largest mine are located, stated total recorded output (65% of this mined after 1950), and listed the major gold mining companies.

Cononish was discovered in 1984. Exploration (1985 to 1991) included 101 surface diamond drill holes, 54 underground diamond drill holes and 1,280 metres of underground development. Feasibility completed from 1990 to 1995. The mine was bought by Caledonia Mining in 1995. Planning approval was granted in 1996 but the mine was put on care and maintenance due to low gold price. The mine was a Scotgold Resources Ltd acquisition in May 2007.

Cononish is a conventional underground hard rock narrow vein mine, which has an adit entry with spiral ramp up and down dip. The method of working will be sub-level open stoping on retreat. Blasted rock will be moved by LHD vehicles and then diesel trucks along and out of the adit for processing.

Chris also described the processing operation, tailings management facility, current planning status, results of the 2009 scoping study, the impacts of the mine on the local economy and concluded with a description of other Scotgold exploration projects.



Cononish Mine Adit Portal