



Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

September 2013

President's Message

Welcome to the September 2013 edition of the Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) *Newsletter*.

We have just experienced one of the best summers, weather wise, for a number of years and I hope you were able to enjoy it. There haven't been any technical MIS meetings over the period but business continues with the 2013-14 programme completed.

We have continued to foster contacts with Glasgow University students when Allan Thomson and myself met with two of the University staff with the aim of outlining the benefits for students by joining IOM3. A seminar will be held at the University of St Andrews in October.

A meeting was also held with the two other Scottish local societies' representatives to encourage more interaction across the societies. Currently, only the R W Thomson Lecture is a joint event.

Recently, the National Mining Memorial Centre at the National Mining Museum Scotland was officially opened. I was unable to attend but the MIS was represented by the Secretary.

Progress in the recovery of the Scottish opencast industry is probably somewhat slower than had been hoped for. Although Hargreaves have taken control of the former Scottish Coal sites which they wish to operate, only critical staff have been taken on so far and coal production has yet to start. Former ATH sites are operating and it is hoped that the other sites in the company's portfolio will follow suit sooner rather than later.

The 'History of the MIS' project is still ongoing with the intention to put the material produced to date on the MIS website for a period to allow members to comment on, and perhaps add to, the content before finally publishing a hard copy.

This will be my last message as President. I've enjoyed the experience more than I had expected and would take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted me during the year. I intend to be in Aberdeen in October to hand the Chain of Office over to Alex Crossland.

[Cont'd](#)

R W Thomson Lecture

This year's R W Thomson Lecture will be held on 29 October 2013 at Edinburgh Napier University (Craiglockhart Campus). The event will be hosted by the Scottish Plastics and Rubber Association but is supported by all the local societies in Scotland. Professor Geoff Gibson, Newcastle University will deliver a presentation entitled *Inventors and Inventions in the World of Advanced Composites*. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm with formal proceedings starting at 7.00 pm.

History Project

Richard Crockett provides an update on progress with a written history of The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS). The publication is taking shape under the following sections:

FOREWORD (under development)

INTRODUCTION (draft complete)

Chapter One: OVERVIEW – THE PLACE OF THE PROFESSIONAL (draft complete)

Chapter Two: THE SCOTTISH COAL INDUSTRY – CHALLENGE AND CHANGE (draft essentially complete)

Chapter Three: THE SCOTTISH COAL INDUSTRY – TECHNICAL PROGRESS (draft substantially complete)

Chapter Four: OTHER SCOTTISH MINE PRODUCTS (under development)

Chapter Five: OIL AND GAS (under development)

Chapter Six: MINING AND ENGINEERING VOICES (under development - Individual members are invited to give short accounts of their career experience in approximately 1,500-2,000 words)

In order to enable members to look at the composition of the publication it has been agreed that draft sections will be posted on the website. This action should enable members and others to see what has been assembled and give them an opportunity to make their own contribution where they can add detail, correct detail or offer new items.

President's Message Cont'd

And finally, taking the opportunity to blow my own trumpet, I cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats (965 miles) in June, passing through historical mining areas such as Cornwall, the Forest of Dean, the coal fields of Lancashire and Ayrshire and past, hopefully, the future gold mining area of Tyndrum all of which made the last year as the MIS President even more special.

Ian Purdie

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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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9 OCTOBER 2013 – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO THE TOM PATTEN BUILDING, HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH & UWS, PAISLEY

TECHNICAL MEETINGS

13 NOVEMBER 2013 – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO HW-U, EDINBURGH & UWS, PAISLEY

Offshore Structures Life Extension Programme

Speaker: Andy Duncan, HSE

11 DECEMBER 2013* – 5.30PM AT THE ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY, ABERDEEN

Renewable Energy in Scotland

Speaker: Iain Todd, Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group

8 JANUARY 2014 – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO HW-U, EDINBURGH & UWS, PAISLEY

Shale Gas

Speaker: Mike Richards, Aberdeen Drilling Management

12 FEBRUARY 2014 – 7.30PM AT THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WEST MAINS ROAD, EDINBURGH WITH VIDEO LINK TO BP, ABERDEEN & UWS, PAISLEY

The geology and history of surface mining in East Ayrshire

Speaker: John Crone, Geologist

11 MARCH 2014* – 6.30PM AT THE MARCLIFFE HOTEL, ABERDEEN

Scotland's Oil? How might an independent Scotland maximise its oil and gas revenues?

Speaker: Derek Leith, Ernst & Young and Judith Aldersley-Williams, CMS

OTHER EVENT

5 MARCH 2014* – 1.30PM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
Young Persons' Lecture Competition 2014

* No video-conference link available

Oil & Gas Division Update

These are exciting times for the UK oil and gas industry. According to Oil & Gas UK's Economic Report 2013 investment on the UKCS is at an all-time record of £13.5 billion this year, resulting in thousands of jobs being created across the UK. Much of this is down to a sea change in the way the industry is regarded by the Government, no longer primarily as a source of tax revenues, but as an engine for economic growth, a driver of technology across Britain and a source of export earnings. This was evidenced at the recent Offshore Europe conference and trade fair in Aberdeen with over 1,500 exhibitors and over 60,000 attendees. Unfortunately, as we were tragically reminded recently with the helicopter crash off Shetland, people continue to be killed and seriously injured in the Oil and Gas Industry. Much of the UK oil and gas infrastructure has passed the original design life and a significant proportion of the investment is going into activity to maintain integrity and increase uptime. Core themes for the Oil and Gas Division are safety, integrity, professional development and encouraging young people into oil and gas engineering. The Division has recently produced a set of poster boards aligned with these themes and covering the historical development of oil and gas in the UK from the first wells in the 19th century to the present global leading industry. The Boards are currently on display at IOM3 headquarters (1 Carlton House Terrace, London) and will then go to the IOM3 office in Grantham, Lincolnshire in the East Midland oil and gas fields. Recently the British Geological Survey released an estimate of 1,200 trillion cubic feet of gas in the onshore Bowland shale formation of Northern England. If the shale gas can be economically produced, the Institute of Directors predicts the development of a UK shale gas industry of equivalent scale to the offshore oil and gas industry.

In November the Board of the Oil and Gas Division will be refreshing the five-year plan for the Division and agreeing deliverables for 2014. The Division exists to serve the interests of the members and an electronic survey has been drafted to ascertain membership interests. However you don't need to wait for the survey, please feel free to contact any of the Board members with feedback, requests or offers of help. As always, I would like to finish by commending the Division website at www.iom3.org. The website has recently been updated with educational and recruitment links. You will also find links to the full Oil and Gas UK economic report and the UK Onshore Operators Group for the latest news on shale gas developments.

Steve Bedford.

Oil & Gas Division Chairman

Arkwright Scholarship

The UK has a growing shortage of Engineers as home grown talent fails to keep pace with demand. The UK also has the lowest proportion of female Engineers in Europe. The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK that aims to inspire future leaders in engineering. The Trust does this by awarding Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, through a rigorous selection process, to high-calibre students in Year 11 (England and Wales), S4 (Scotland) and Year 12 (Northern Ireland). Each scholar benefits from mentoring, access to undergraduate engineering scholarships and receives £600 over two years. In addition their school technology department receives £400 over two years. The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) has been supporting the Arkwright Trust for four years using funds donated by Ed Wade from his highly popular Institute accredited downhole metallurgy course. The MIS programme has been managed by Richard Crockett on behalf of the Institute. Each MIS sponsored scholar is resident in Scotland and has expressed an interest in taking an undergraduate course that could lead to career in the extractive industries sector.

A current MIS Arkwright scholar, Catriona Sinclair, is studying for her Highers at George Watson's College in Edinburgh. Catriona says: "the Arkwright scholarship programme has offered me many opportunities to learn more about engineering as well as showing me the real world applications of what I have learnt in school. These opportunities have included open days at universities across the UK, workshops, talks on a wide range of subjects and also the link with The Mining Institute of Scotland. Through The Mining Institute of Scotland I was offered a week of work experience at BP during the summer holidays, which I eagerly accepted. During my week at BP I learnt about the work of different types of engineers through shadowing and a very impressive site visit to the Weatherford facility. I also enjoyed some great presentations from John Donaghy and David Young, two sandwich students who looked after me during my time at BP. I have gained a huge amount of knowledge across a wide range of subjects, many of which I had never even heard of before. I also got to see what it is really like in a large company such as BP. This will all hopefully allow me to make a much more informed choice about what it is I would like to do when I leave school next year and also what I might like to consider as a career in the future."

Meanwhile, Farhaan Saeed will become the fourth student to be sponsored by The Mining Institute of Scotland. Farhaan is a student at Kirkcaldy High School and will meet the President, Ian Purdie, at the Arkwright Awards Ceremony to be held in Glasgow on 25 October.

President Elect

At the AGM on 9 October 2013 Alex Crossland will become the next President of The Mining Institute of Scotland when he succeeds Ian Purdie. Alex is a qualified Petroleum Engineer with over eleven years' experience including international on and offshore operations, research and development project work and senior level management.

Following graduation from the University of Nottingham with BEng in Environmental Engineering he moved to Heriot-Watt University where he was awarded an MEng in Petroleum Engineering.

His first permanent appointment was with Reeves Wireline in Nottingham before promotion to a post in Aberdeen. Alex then moved to Total E&P UK where he was Well Service Supervisor. Two years later he moved to Reed Well Services Limited as a Project Manager. At the beginning of 2011 he joined his current employer, EV Cameras, firstly as District Manager before being promoted to his current post of Region Manager.

When not at work he is a keen skier, snowboarder, kayaker, cyclist, runner and photographer. In addition, he has served for several years on Council and was President of the Society of Petroleum Engineers Student Chapter at Heriot-Watt University.

Benevolent Funds

There are two funds available to assist members, ex members and their dependents who are in need.

These are The Institution 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.

IOM3 members renewing their subscription are requested to include a donation to the Members Benevolent Trust (MBT) to allow the Trust to be able to continue with its work.

The MBT is currently looking for potential trustees. The MBT Board meets twice a year, in early March and early November, in London and pays reasonable travel expenses. Additionally, Trustees usually attend the AGM in early July. Between these meetings Trustees are consulted by email on actions on new applications and changes in circumstances of existing beneficiaries. It is not overly onerous but can be very rewarding. Any members interested in becoming a MBT Trustee should contact Jim Wishart for further information.

COUNCIL 2012/13

PRESIDENT: IAN PURDIE*

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: ALEX CROSSLAND*

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: MARK FRIEL*

SECRETARY: DAVID SEATH

TREASURER: IAN PURDIE

BENEVOLENT FUND: JIM WISHART

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)

MARTIN DOWNING (INDUSTRY LIAISON)

CRAIG DURHAM* (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)

JOE HEFFERNAN (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)

STEVE JEWELL (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)

JON LATIMER

KEN MACKIE MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)

BABS OYENEYIN* (P&DE DIVISION BOARD)

GRAHAM SMITH (CONFERENCE ORGANISER)

JIM SOMERVILLE (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)

ALLAN THOMSON (MIS TRUSTEE)

VACANCIES (2)

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

SPECIFIC ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS.

Election of Council

The Council of The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) hereby invites nominations for election to the Council from Corporate Members, Associate Members and Technician Members. There are several vacancies to be filled at the AGM on Wednesday, 9 October 2013 as two of the current Council have resigned in addition to the existing vacancies.

The Council shall receive for inclusion in any Corporate Member ballot list the name of any Corporate Member submitted in writing and duly signed by not less than two Corporate Members; in any Associate Member ballot list the name of any Associate Member submitted in writing and duly signed by not less than two such Associate Members and in any Technician Member ballot list the name of any Technician Member submitted in writing and duly signed by not less than two Technician Members where available, within MIS.

The Council shall prepare and issue to Corporate Members, Associate Members and Technician Members in MIS as appropriate, a ballot list of those individuals properly nominated to stand for election to the Council in the categories of Corporate Member, Associate Member and Technician Member respectively. The result of the ballot shall be reported to the Annual General Meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no ballot shall be necessary where there are no vacancies in any category or where the number of nominations is less than or equal to the number of vacancies in any category.

Nevertheless, should there be nobody seeking nomination through the above process, the Council has the power to co-opt members on to Council. Therefore, if any members (regardless of grade) would like to offer their time to serve on Council then an informal discussion can be held with any of the existing Council members. Contact details for all Council members can be found on the website (www.mining-scotland.org).

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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.

Retired Members' Lunch

The Retired Members' Lunch was held on Wednesday, 11 September 2013 at the National Mining Museum Scotland, Newtongrange, Midlothian. Thirty-six members and guests attended. The President gave a short address on current developments within the society. Among the attendees were six Past Presidents (George McAlpine, William Miller, David Seath, Richard Crockett, Richard Devéria and Martin Cox). Martin Cox is currently the Vice President of IOM3.