



## President's Message

Having been encouraged to attend The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS) meetings by my then manager, Martin Cox, little did I know where it would lead. I agree with the belief, expressed to me by Martin, in the benefits of broadening your network both of contacts and knowledge. In the time that I have been involved in MIS this has certainly proven to be the case and I am sure this will only be enhanced by my new-found status. As the ongoing history project progresses and I learn more about MIS, I realise what an honour it is to have been nominated as President and the great footsteps in which I follow.

This year my theme is 'The Next Generation' and I introduced it and my programme for the year at the AGM in October. I wanted to look at both the future of the energy industry and also the people to support this. One of the key aims of MIS is to engage with and encourage young people to look to employment in the extractive industries and great efforts are being made by members of MIS, in particular Allan Thomson, in encouraging student membership.

I greatly enjoyed putting together the programme for the year and I was very pleased to get Caroline Evans from Shell to present on the Brent Abandonments at our first technical meeting of the season. As 'Brent' is such an iconic name, this is a fascinating example of one angle of the future of the North Sea oil industry and with Caroline being a relative newcomer to the industry and MIS and working towards becoming chartered, a perfect presenter to demonstrate possible careers to new members.

I know from personal experience as an employee how difficult it can be to get your foot in the door and find the right opportunity and as an employer how difficult it can be to find staff with the right skills. It is particularly difficult now as the current up-surge continues to find people and I know when I interview, how favourably I look on individuals who take the time to get involved in 'extra-curricular' activities. So I can only encourage people to get involved, take the time to talk to other attendees (you never know who you may meet!) and I hope you find my programme interesting and engaging! Have a fun festive season and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

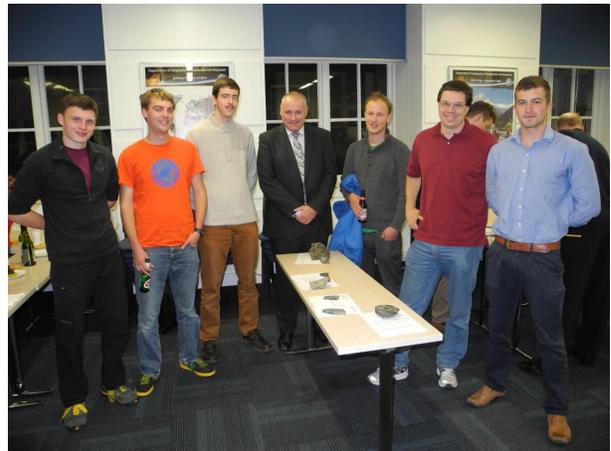
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## St Andrews Seminar

A Training Seminar was held on 17 October 2013 at the University of St Andrews. Ian Bowbrick, Director, Professional Development & Membership, IOM3 gave an informative talk on the IOM3 and what it had to offer the University and the Students.

Craig Durham, Past President MIS presented his talk *The Scottish Oil Industry Past, Present and Future* which proved to be very pertinent with all that has happened in the Oil Industry at Grangemouth and the different scenarios that might play out next year, with the forthcoming independence referendum.



Ian Bowbrick pictured with some of the students



Participants socialising after the seminar

## R W Thomson Lecture

This year's R W Thomson lecture, entitled 'Inventors and Inventions in the World of Advanced Composites', was given by Professor Geoff Gibson, who holds the Rowland Cookson Chair at Newcastle University. The advanced composites in the title refer to fibre reinforced polymer systems.

Given in front of an audience of around 80, including members of the Scottish Plastics and Rubber Association (SPRA), Scottish Association for Metals (SAM) and The Mining Institute of Scotland (MIS), it was a lighthearted and highly selective excursion through this broad field touching on materials, processes and some key inventors.

The talk covered various developments in composites beginning in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and continuing to the present day. The notable figures during the period were identified. Coming right up to the present day Geoff touched on some key developments that have had a big effect for aerospace. As pointed out by Geoff at the beginning of the talk this is an area where R W Thomson may well have worked if he were alive today, as the inventions in composites run strangely parallel to those in rubber a century earlier.

After a lively question session, Prof Geoff Gibson was presented with an engraved Quaich and a bottle of whisky by SPRA Past President, Fergus Hardie.

Although R W Thomson (1822-1873) died just before the formation of MIS he had invented a new method of detonating explosives using electricity, thereby saving many lives in the mining industry world-wide.

## MIS Trust

The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust has agreed to part fund of a proposed Lectureship in Mining Geology at St Andrews over a three year period. This proposal, being put before the University, will provide valuable liaison and continuity between the University, MIS and IOM3. More details of how this will work will follow in due course.

The Trust also agreed to part-fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Higher Geology student conference at Perth on 23/24 March 2014. The other sponsors are Maersk Oil Ltd and Dana Petroleum. The 'Scotland Rocks' Higher Geology student conference is organised by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) and the University of St Andrews. It brings together Scottish secondary school students taking Higher Geology, academic staff, industry, BGS, and other Earth science professionals. Schools taking part include: Bannockburn High School, Linlithgow High School, West Calder High School, Perth High School, Ullapool High School, Fortrose Academy, Dingwall Academy, Mintlaw Academy, St Machair Academy, Dundee College, George Heriot's School.

## YPLC 2014

It's time again to get your application in for the Scottish Heats of the IOM3 Young Persons' Lecture Competition, at least if you are under 28 on 1 June 2014. If you don't qualify, then why not encourage a younger colleague to enter with a chance to win £250, and represent Scotland in the UK final at the Armourers Hall, London. In addition to the winner's prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive £150, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will receive £100. As an added incentive, the UK winner will go on to the Young Persons' World Lecture Competition to be held in California, USA.

Our local heat will be held on **5 March 2014** in the Irvine Lecture Theatre, University of St Andrews. Entry Forms and further details are available from the Secretary ([D.Seath@btinternet.com](mailto:D.Seath@btinternet.com)).

The aim of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition is to provide an atmosphere of friendly competition for young Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science Scientists and Engineers so that their presentation skills will improve whilst addressing an informed audience.

The Competition, sponsored by IOM3 with support from the Worshipful Company of Armourers & Braziers, consists of a number of lecture competitions organised by the local societies, from which six entrants, one from each region, will be selected to compete in the National Final. The competition is open to anyone who is following, or has followed, a course in any aspect of Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science, Science and Engineering. However, students and graduates from industry or academia must be age 28 or under on 1 June 2014.

Each entrant will give a presentation lasting not more than 15 minutes on a subject of their choice about any aspect of Materials, Minerals, Mining, Packaging, Clay Technology and Wood Science & Engineering. Marks will be awarded for (a) structure of the lecture, clarity of explanation and argument; (b) standard of presentation, clarity of diction, personal enthusiasm for the subject, ability to deliver lecture spontaneously; (c) clarity and relevance of any visual aids used; (d) calmness and competence in handling judges' questions; (e) technical content of the presentation; (f) ability to deliver a concise meaningful summary at the end of main points; and (g) clarity and relevance of the entrant's abstract. Marks will be deducted for over-running of lecture time. Travelling expenses will be paid for by MIS.

Should you wish to enter, please note that the Entry Form has to be returned to the Secretary by **17 February 2014**. For this local event it has been decided to use the Abstract for selection of the final six (6) candidates going forward to make their presentation on 5 March. As more than six entries are anticipated, candidates must give careful thought to the content of the 150 word maximum Abstract.

## Downhole Metallurgy Course

The MIS is pleased to be repeating this popular two-day Downhole Metallurgy Course on 16/17 April 2014. Presented by Ed Wade of MetalEcosse, the course provides a structured approach to the selection of casing, tubing and downhole equipment in different well environments. This course is a must for anyone with an interest in understanding this critical aspect of well integrity. To book your place email [MX-service@btinternet.com](mailto:MX-service@btinternet.com) or call Ed Wade on 01334 476234. IOM3 member discount applies. A flyer will be posted on the MIS website next month.

**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

8 JANUARY 2014 – 5.30PM AT BP, ABERDEEN WITH VIDEO LINK TO BP, 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, Independent Geologist

11 MARCH 2014 – 6.30PM AT MARCLIFFE HOTEL, ABERDEEN

##### *Scotland's Oil? How might an independent Scotland maximize its oil and gas revenues?*

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

10 APRIL 2014 – 6.30PM AT THE LOCHSIDE HOUSE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK, AYSRSHIRE

##### *The regeneration of Polkemmet Colliery site*

Speaker: Alan Blair, Fairhurst

24 APRIL 2014 – 6.30PM AT THE GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL, DUNFERMLINE

##### *Mining the deep ocean: progress and issues*

Speaker: Professor Dorrick Stow, Heriot-Watt University

#### OTHER EVENTS

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

16/17 APRIL 2014 – 8.45AM AT ABERDEEN PETROLEUM CLUB  
**Downhole Metallurgy Course**

#### SOCIAL EVENT

7 MAY 2014 – 12 NOON AT THE LOCHSIDE HOUSE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK, AYSRSHIRE

**Retired Members' Lunch (Ayrshire)**

## Arkwright Scholarship

An Arkwright Awards Ceremony was held in Glasgow on 25 October 2013. Our most recent Arkwright Scholar, Farhaan Sayed, was presented with his award. Ian Purdie represented The Mining Institute of Scotland at the event, where he met Farhaan's parents along with the Headmaster of Kirkcaldy High School.

Due to Richard Crockett's personal commitments, Jim Wishart will act as Farhaan's mentor during the period of his Scholarship.



Farhaan pictured with Ian Purdie receiving his award

## Younger Members

Council is delighted to welcome the many 'younger members' that have joined the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (with The Mining Institute of Scotland as their local society). Following contact with the University of Glasgow, the University of St Andrews and Fife College the continued interest in membership has been maintained. IOM3's first Student Chapter has been established at Fife College. Allan Thomson continues to co-ordinate and liaise with these further education establishments. It is anticipated that more 'younger members' will join us later this year from the Robert Gordon's University.

## COUNCIL 2013/14

**PRESIDENT: ALEX CROSSLAND\***

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: MARK FRIEL\***

**JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT: JON LATIMER\***

**SECRETARY: DAVID SEATH**

**TREASURER: IAN PURDIE\***

**BENEVOLENT FUND: JIM WISHART**

**YOUNGER MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE: BERAN TANILIR**

**STEVE BEDFORD (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**GORDON BEETHAM (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**SIMON BRASSEY**

**MARGARET COPLAND (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**RICHARD CROCKETT (ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS)**

**MARTIN DOWNING (INDUSTRY LIAISON)**

**CRAIG DURHAM\* (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**JOE HEFFERNAN (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**KEN MACKIE MBE (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**BABS OYENYIN\* (OIL & GAS DIVISION BOARD)**

**GRAHAM SMITH (CONFERENCE ORGANISER)**

**JIM SOMERVILLE (UNIVERSITY LIAISON)**

**ALLAN THOMSON (MIS TRUSTEE)**

**VACANCIES (5)**

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

**SPECIFIC ROLES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS.**

**ALTHOUGH ALL THE ABOVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED THERE ARE VACANCIES THAT WOULD ENABLE OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE ABOVE LISTED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US.**

### SECRETARY'S ADDRESS

**Mr David Seath BSc(Hons) CEng FIMMM**  
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Dunfermline  
KY12 8YG  
Tel/Fax: 01383 432856  
Email: [D.Seath@btinternet.com](mailto:D.Seath@btinternet.com)

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

## Oil & Gas Division Update

Firstly, thank you to everyone who responded to the Oil and Gas Division survey. The Division Board was very pleased to see strong support for the re-branding from Petroleum and Drilling Engineering to Oil and Gas. The survey responses were very consistent with those from the previous surveys conducted in 2009 and 2011. One finding that caught my eye was that 90% of the respondents had visited the IOM3 website but only 33% had visited the Division microsite. All the Technical Divisions have been challenging IOM3 to improve the website and I am pleased to advise you that IOM3 has engaged a company to undertake this work. The Company has reviewed the websites of other Institutes and meeting with the Institutes to identify best practices and pitfalls to avoid. The project team is on track to refresh the IOM3 website for next year. Meantime I would commend the current Division website to you as a very useful source of information, including: links to other relevant sites, up to date news and educational material. The Division site can be accessed from the IOM3 website [www.iom3.org](http://www.iom3.org) by clicking on the 'Technical Groups' tab in the top right hand corner of the home page or by clicking on the 'Technical Communities' tab in the networking section. Once you are on the technical groups' home page the Oil and Gas Division is listed on the left hand side with the other groups. The Division Board is currently finalising the 2014 programme in line with survey results and will issue a full survey summary.

At every opportunity oil and gas companies raise the need for more Engineers to fill existing vacancies and meet future demand. Allan Thomson has built up a student forum at Fife College from students taking HNC or HND courses in Petroleum Engineering. To support the coursework the Oil and Gas Division arranged for a group of 23 students and one of their lecturers to attend the ICoTA Well Intervention Conference and trade exhibition in Aberdeen. On arrival the students received a seminar on well intervention before visiting the trade fair and attending some of the technical programme. The feedback was very positive, and could be summed up by the comment: "I knew about the requirements for well servicing from my course but I was not aware of the full scope of well intervention and the potential exciting career opportunities, I am now considering a career in well intervention". The students were able to make contact with potential employers and we will look to see some of them soon in the Industry.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and successful 2014. If your New Year resolution is to get a little more involved with the Division, I would love to hear from you.

Steve Bedford

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