



Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 2014

President's Message

The season has been flying by with some fascinating presentations and good attendance. The society is here to represent the members so your attendance is greatly appreciated. If you have any good ideas for the future then please do let us know and perhaps want to become involved in Council and help with the running of the society! At the last Council meeting, the long and tireless work of Allan Thomson was recognised with a presentation of an Outstanding Service Award, a fitting tribute to his many years of dedication.

The last meeting, 'Scotland's oil? How might an independent Scotland maximise its oil and gas revenues' was a fascinating insight into some of the potential practicalities of independence in the case of a 'Yes' vote. Wherever your allegiances lie, there is no disagreeing that our mineral resources need to be managed in the most effective way to ensure that we maximise their recovery. The record investments in oil and gas recently are extremely encouraging signs but to ensure this continues, new discoveries need to be made and new wells need to be drilled. The government has been engaging with the Oil and Gas industry and has made some positive changes in the budget with allowances for HPHT developments that could unlock up to £6bn of investment with the development of fields such as Culzean and Jackdaw that are extremely costly due to the technical challenges they present.

However, the worryingly low levels of exploration need to be turned round. Exploration over the last three years has been at its lowest in the entire history of the industry in the UK, with only 15 exploration wells drilled in 2013. Closing what HM Treasury sees as a loophole, 'bareboat chartering' tax changes follow a UK government consultation launched after the Autumn Statement. It has been estimated to add at least £130m to the drillers' costs. The impact on the industry could be significant due to the low forecast margins for many new and incremental projects and by making it more expensive to charter offshore assets, international demand for scarce drilling rigs could take them away to more attractive tax regimes.

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YPLC 2014

For the third time the Department of Earth Sciences, University of St Andrews hosted the Scottish Heat of the YPLC. This year there were six candidates who submitted entry forms and made their presentations on 5 March 2014. Support from an audience of about twenty-five, consisting of students and lecturers provided the competition with a real live atmosphere.

Candidates and their Titles in alphabetical Order:

Emeka Anyiam-Osigwe, University of St Andrews
Orogenesis: A Testament to Plate Tectonics

Tina Beadle, University of St Andrews
The Dangers of a Growing Demand

Ronald Guthrie, University of St Andrews
Under the Sea! The Dawn of Deep Sea Mining

Emma Hunt, University of St Andrews
Development of the eudialyte-rich Unit 0 marker horizon through peralkaline magmatic layering, Ilímaussaq Complex, S. Greenland

Alistair McDonald, University of St Andrews
The Offset Dykes of the Sudbury Impact Structure: An Enduring Geological Puzzle

Gareth Webb, University of St Andrews
Biomining: Using Micro-organisms to Extract Metals from their Ores

All of the competitors put up a great display of presentation and in depth knowledge of their chosen subject, giving the judges a very difficult job, but in the end Alistair McDonald came first and will represent Scotland at the National Final in London on Wednesday, 9 April 2014, where we all wish him every success. The winner received £250, second place (Tina Beadle) received £150 and third place (Gareth Webb) received £100. The other three competitors (Emma Hunt, Ronald Guthrie and Emeka Anyiam-Osigwe) received £25 and all competitors will receive certificates. The winner collects his certificate at the National Final and the other competitors have already received their certificates. Prizes in addition to that provided by IOM3 are made available through the generosity of The Mining Institute of Scotland Trust, who sponsor the event.

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President's Message *cont'd*

The history project is progressing well with a draft out for review and plans are coming together for the design and printing and it is expected to be on sale by the end of the year.

With two remaining meetings coming up in April (*The regeneration of the Polkemmet Colliery site and Mining the Deep Ocean*), if you have not yet been able to join us, I hope you are able to soon.

Alex Crossland

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EIG/FGIM 2014

This event is a joint conference organised by EIG (Extractive Industry Geology) and held in conjunction with FGIM – the North American Forum on the Geology of Industrial Minerals. The call for papers has resulted in upwards of 50 submissions, which is an excellent response and bodes well. The registration forms for both the EIG and FGIM delegates are now available on the EIG website (<http://eigconferences.com/page12.html>).

Two forms are available, one for UK and Europe based delegates and the other for the North American FGIM delegates.

Following many requests, payment by credit card (a £5 administrative charge applies) as well as international bank transfers has been implemented. Normal payment by cheque or BACS is still valid. **The Early Bird Discount** of £75 ends on the 30 April, so register now!

Oil and Gas Division Update

Of the people that responded to the 2011 and 2013 Division membership surveys the majority were located in the North East of Scotland and the South East of England, with approximately the same number of respondents from each area. This response rate aligns with the locations of the major operating and contracting companies. The Division Board has been actively seeking new Board members to represent both the geographical spread of the membership and the interests of members. I am very pleased to advise you that the Board has two new members, Weronika Sweich and Sehban Husain. Weronika was nominated by IOM3's Younger Members Committee to represent younger members working in Oil and Gas. Weronika is currently working on her Engineering Doctorate in the field of heavy oil recovery at the Petroleum Centre of the University of Surrey. Sehban is a consultant Materials and Corrosion Engineer currently working for BP out of the Sunbury office supporting deepwater subsea operations off Angola. Sehban and Weronika are ideally placed to represent Division members in the South East of England and a video conferencing link has been established to facilitate Board meetings.

Steve Bedford, Oil & Gas Division Chairman

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History of The Mining Institute of Scotland

After two years research, compiling, writing and editing, a draft version of the MIS history is now on the website www.mining-scotland.org/news.htm. This is by no means the finished article, which we intend to publish as a hard copy book and available for purchase by November (handily just-in-time for Christmas!). But before we can do that, members are invited to help with the following:

1. A suitable title. 'Hidden Riches' is currently the working title, but please read the draft and suggest your own ideas.
2. Proof Reading. Are there any errors that need to be corrected or omissions that need to be addressed? Do you have anything more to add? It'll be too late once the hard copy print run is complete, so this is your last chance.
3. Buy a copy. Or at least register a 'no commitment' interest so that we can gauge the size of the print run. Cover price to be confirmed but expected to be under £10.

If you can help with all or any of the above, or have any other comments about the project, please contact the Editor at rich.crockett@tiscali.co.uk or call him on 01896 750730.

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Scotland's Oil

The IOM3 Oil & Gas Division, with support from MIS, co-hosted a meeting with the Energy Institute (EI) in Aberdeen on 11 March entitled *Scotland's Oil: How might an Independent Scotland Increase Tax Revenue*. Presented by Derek Leith, Senior Partner, EY's Oil & Gas tax group, and Judith Aldersey-Williams, Partner at CMS, Aberdeen, they explained in an objective and non-partisan way the tax and legal issues that would underpin oil and gas licensing and revenues in an Independent Scotland.



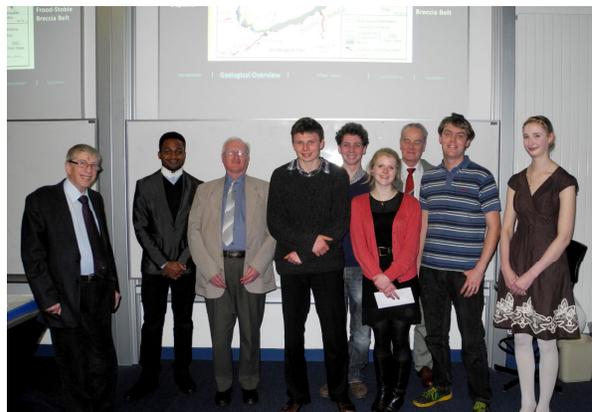
(left to right) Alex Crossland (MIS), Derek Leith, Judith Aldersey-Williams, Hugh Rees (EI)

YPLC 2014 **cont'd**

This year's World Final will be held in California.

Our thanks to the competitors for their efforts and preparation, to Graham Smith, Jim Wishart and Ed Wade as judges, and to the Department of Earth Sciences, University of St Andrews in hosting the event, an exercise they would be willing to repeat next year.

Allan J A Thomson



Competitors and Judges: (left to right) Graham Smith, Emeka Anyiam-Osigwe, Jim Wishart, Alistair McDonald, Ronald Guthrie, Tina Beadle, Ed Wade, Gareth Webb, and Emma Hunt

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 2014 ARE:

10 APRIL 2014 – 6.00PM AT LOCHSIDE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK
The regeneration of Polkemmet Colliery site
SPEAKER: ALAN BLAIR, FAIRHIRST

24 APRIL 2014 – 6.00PM AT GARVOCK HOUSE HOTEL,
DUNFERMLINE
Mining the Deep Ocean: Progress and Issues
SPEAKER: PROFESSOR DORRIK STOW, HERIOT-WATT UNIV

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

SOCIAL EVENT

7 MAY 2014 – 12.00NOON AT LOCHSIDE HOTEL, NEW CUMNOCK
Retired Members' Lunch (Ayrshire)

TRAINING COURSE

16 & 17 APRIL 2014 – 8.45AM AT ABERDEEN PETROLEUM
CLUB, MILLTIMBER
DOWNHOLE METALLURGY – SELECTION FOR OILFIELD
EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION AND INJECTION WELLS

Details on website at <http://www.mining-scotland.org/documents/MIS-9-Apr-14-flyer.pdf>

Women in Materials

Following successful events in London and Sheffield last year, the Women in Materials Steering Group have organised a third event, this time in Aberdeen.

The programme includes sessions on mentoring and applying for professional qualifications as well as presentations from women members about their careers. There is lots of time built in for networking too.

You can find details of the programme here:
<http://www.iom3.org/events/women-materials-seminar-0> - why not take a look now!

The event is free to attend and is open to all - men and women; members and non-members.

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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.