

BSRG AGM COMMITTEE MEETING 2015- minutes, 21st December 2015

1. Committee membership and composition

The following list shows the present committee membership. Three key positions (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) have terms of 3 years, and this is also the normal term for the Awards Officer and Industry Reps. The Postgraduate reps normally serve for 1 year. The Awards Officer co-ordinates collection and judging BSRG undergraduate sedimentology prize, MSc sedimentology prize and Harold Reading Medal.

Officers

Chris Jackson (Chair, 2013-2016): c.jackson@imperial.ac.uk

Dan Le Heron* (Secretary, 2011-2015): daniel.le-heron@es.rhul.ac.uk

Rhodri Jerrett (Treasurer, 2014-2017): rhodri.jerrett@manchester.ac.uk

Dan Parsons* (Awards Officer, 2011-2015): D.Parsons@hull.ac.uk

Marco Patacci (Website Administrator & JISC List Manager): m.patacci@leeds.ac.uk

Industry reps

Sanem Acikalin (Industry Rep., 2014-2017): sanemacikalin@badley-ashton.co.uk

Simon Lomas (Industry Rep., 2014-2017): Simon.Lomas@bg-group.com

James Churchill (Industry Rep., 2014-2017): James.Churchill@bg-group.com

Postgrad reps

Hannah Brooks, University of Leeds: eehlb@leeds.ac.uk

Luz Gomis, University of Manchester luz.gomiscartesio@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

Leah Nolan, University of Leicester: ln82@le.ac.uk

The two committee members indicated by asterisks (above) stepped down in 2015. Both these members had been co-opted back on to the committee for an extra year to ensure continuity. An election was held at the AGM for the two vacant Officer positions. The successful candidates were Ol Wakefield (who takes over from Dan Le Heron a Secretary) and Esther Sumner (who takes over from Dan Parsons as Awards Officer).

2. BSRG 2015 meeting in Keele

For the first time, the BSRG meeting was chiefly organised by a postgraduate: Hazel Beaumont, with the assistance of Dr Stu Clarke, at Keele University. The organisers did a stunning job with a lovely conference meal at Keele Hall. Three activities were available on the weekend prior to the meeting. Firstly, Sanem Acikalin (Badley Ashton) ran an abridged version of Badley Ashton's Reservoir Quality course, with the aim to help students improve their knowledge of reservoir quality and its importance in siliclastic reservoirs. Secondly, a core workshop which looked at the interaction of fluvial and eolian environments at different scales (led by Steve Banham and Ol Wakefield). The third option was a fieldtrip to Castleton (run by Jonathan Redfern, Ian Kane and Dave Hodgetts of Manchester University). We are very grateful to these individuals for their outstanding efforts and for giving their time, free of charge, to BSRG.

3. Postgraduate funding awards

In 2015 funds were distributed among nine recipients as follows.

Farrell Fund:

Orla Bath-Enright (University of Portsmouth) - The Burgess Shale: Short distance bustling commuters or long distance serene surfers? Fieldwork in the Burgess Shale, Canada (£500)

Gill Harwood Fund:

Janet Richardson (University of Leeds) – Antecedent fluvial systems on an uplifted continental margin: constraining Cretaceous to present-day drainage basin development in southern South Africa – Cosmogenic analysis of field samples from South Africa (£500)

Madeleine Vickers (University of Plymouth) – Early Cretaceous high latitude climate – Fieldwork in Spitzbergen, offshore northern Norway (£500)

4. Geological Society awards

An excellent number of individuals from the sedimentological community received prestigious awards this year from the Geological Society of London. These are listed below with their respective prizes.

Prof Sarah Davies (University of Leicester) Coke Medal

Prof Daniel Parsons (University of Hull) Bigsby Medal

Prof Alastair Robertson (University of Edinburgh) Prestwich Medal

Dr Esther Sumner (University of Southampton) Lyell Fund

Dr Stuart Archer (Maersk) Aberconway Medal

5. E-mail list, website, social media

BSRG continues to communicate very proactively to its membership via social media. Besides traditional e-mail (the JISC mail list 963 registered users), we also have a dynamic Facebook presence (with >620 members), and an increasingly established presence in the Twittersphere (Twitter: @brit_seds 192 followers at present).

6. BSRG activities throughout the year 2015

BSRG annual field trip: Field safety Leadership Course

This trip, which was led by James Maynard and Chris Thomas, was kindly sponsored by Exxon, and was held on 7th and 8th November in the Hastings / Eastbourne area. Given the importance of field safety in leadership, this year the trip was opened up to staff as well as to students, and was judged to be a great success.

Petrophysics short course

This course was held on December 5th and 6th at the University of Leicester. It was led by members of the European Petrophysics Consortium, including Sarah Davies, Sophie Harland, Erwan Le Ber and Laurence Philpott (Leicester) together with Johanna Lofi (Montpellier). The short course was kindly sponsored by IODP and LPS.

Ichnofabrics short course

This course was led by Jean Gerard of Repsol, and was held in the University of Manchester on 11-12th September, in collaboration with Ol Wakefield at the BGS. It was kindly sponsored by SEPM, Repsol, BP and Badley Ashton.

7. BSRG 2016

The 2016 meeting will take place in Cambridge University and is being convened by Lottie Gladstone (BP Institute), Neil Davies (University of Cambridge) and Stephen Vincent (CASP).

8. Finances

It was noted that the organisation is solvent. Income streams for 2015 included the AGM (£2091), the Field Safety course (£1503.83), the ichnofabrics workshop (£636.68) and the petrophysics short course (£86.91). It was noted and agreed that no-shows at some BSRG events in the past have exposed the organisation to unacceptable financial risk, with the 2014 postgraduate field trip losing £401.98 for this reason.

9. Forthcoming BSRG-supported events and conferences

- EGU- various sedimentological sessions- 17-22nd April 2016
- The Impact of Water on the Geology of Mars - Burlington House, London (11th May)
- IAS 32nd meeting - Marrakech, Morocco (23rd–25th May)
- Glaciated Margins: The Sedimentary & Geophysical Archive - Burlington House, London (2nd–3rd June) (William Smith Meeting 2016)
- AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition - Calgary, Canada (19th-22nd June) (including SEPM Research Group Meetings)
- Martian Gullies and their Earth Analogues - Burlington House, London (20th-21st June) (GSL ‘Year of Mud’)
- 2nd Virtual Geoscience Conference, 22-23rd September, Bergen, Norway.
- Rain, Rivers and Reservoirs, Edinburgh Conference Centre - Heriot-Watt University (27th–29th September) (GSL ‘Year of Mud’)
- BSRG AGM- Cambridge University, 18-20th December 2016

10. BSRG Prizes

- Perce Allen Award- recognising a substantial body of research in any field of sedimentology- was given to Alastair Robertson.
- Roland Goldring Award- recognising notable published research- Joris Eggenhuisen
- Reading Medal- for best postgraduate published paper- Marco Fonnesu (University College Dublin) - Short length-scale variability of hybrid event beds and its applied significance (Marine and Petroleum Geology, Vol. 67, November 2015, pages 583-603)

- The Master's Prize for best sedimentological project at the Masters degree level was awarded to Bonita Barrett-Crosdil (Bangor) – An investigation into the seismic response of gassy marine sediments: a synthetic model study
- The Undergraduate Prize was awarded Alexander Rolland (St. Andrews) – Hummocky cross stratification and ancient storms
- The Poster Prize for work presented at the 2015 meeting: Stokes et al. (UCD) – Bed-scale characterisation of large erosional deepwater channels: Grés du Champsaur, South Eastern France

11. AOB

There is a clear aspiration to develop an online repository for BSRG-related teaching material (e.g. lecture slides, practical exercises, datasets, etc). This will be pursued by the current committee. At the committee Business Meeting, which runs prior to the AGM, it was noted that one area of the community that BSRG does not, perhaps, adequately support is postdoctoral researchers. There was broad consensus from the membership that there is indeed an issue here, and the Committee will look into the mechanisms for providing grants to post-doctoral research staff, with proposals to be shared with the membership in due course. It was also noted that some very notable, long serving, and highly dedicate members on the community cannot be recognised under the current Awards structure. Therefore, it was proposed of establish an award along the lines of 'BSRG Commendation Award for Services to the Society'. The Chair acknowledged that a key priority for 2016 will be the establishment of a proper Constitution, which has been lacking for some time. This will also look into the structure of the committee, and how awards and prizes are given.

Daniel Paul Le Heron, 21st January 2016