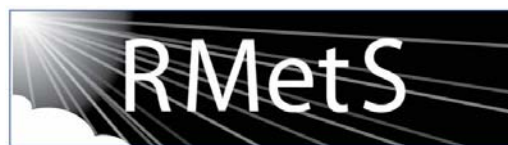


## Meteorological Observing Systems Special Interest Group



Royal Meteorological Society

**Committee Meeting**  
held from 12.30 to 16.15 on Thursday 20th March 2014  
at 104 Oxford Road, Reading.

### Minutes of the Meeting

Those present:

Steve Colwell, Chairman

Mark Dutton, Newsletter Editor

Mike Brettle, Treasurer

Suzy Bingham, Secretary

Ian Strangeways

Keri Nicoll

Alan Hewitt (Surface Observations, Met Office. Introduced to committee before next AGM when he will be nominated to replace SBI as secretary.)

#### Item 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Stephen Burt & Dave Bullock.

#### Item 2. Agreement of agenda

The agenda was agreed.

#### Item 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting & AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were agreed as being correct.

#### Item 4. Items arising

Actions from the previous committee meeting were considered and the following matters were discussed:

*Rain gauge raffle* – At the 2013 RMets Amateur Meteorologist Symposium, MD organised a SIG stand where he raffled an EML rain gauge, signed-up 29 new members & raised £145. MD was thanked for his hard work.

*New committee member* – MD has contacted, but not yet had a reply from, Mark Wilkinson (James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen) to invite him to join the SIG committee. The SIG has offered to pay travel expenses for Mark for one trip/year to attend a SIG committee meeting & the plan is to use skype for the other committee meeting. The bandwidth at RMets HQ is sufficient to skype one person at a time.

*RMetS exhibition* – The Society has invited representatives from Local Centres & SIGs to take part in an exhibition during the drinks reception, after the AGM in May 2014, to highlight past & present activities. SC suggested he'd be attending the AGM so would man a SIG stand.

**Action:** SC to contact Marcia about a SIG stand & to ask for more details of the event.

#### **Item 5. Treasurer's report**

MB tabled a statement of the SIG's accounts showing the net assets to be £4415.03. MB's report covering the period 12/09/2013 to 20/3/2014 stated that the SIG's overall financial position remained healthy. The main items of interest were that the rain gauge for auction at the Amateur Meteorologist's Symposium was paid for by the SIG (£145) & that membership from new members at the Symposium (£155) balanced this amount out. MB noted that the SIG could pay reasonable expenses if required to allow meeting organisers to invite speakers & could also pay for travel to one committee meeting/year for Mark Wilkinson who is based in Aberdeen.

#### **Item 6. Newsletter Editor's report**

MD reported that he had produced an Autumn Newsletter which covered:

- EMS2013 Event, Reading UK
- RMetS Second Amateur Met Conference, Reading
- Research News - Measuring energetic particles from met weather balloons, University of Reading
- Manufacturers - BIRAL, Electrostatic Eavesdropping on Thunderstorms

MD suggested that possible future Newsletter articles could include:

- Update on precipitation data – Antarctica (BAS, EML, CS, TerraData, etc)
- Manufacturers – EML to launch a new amateur (Hobbyist) rain gauge
- Research – EML/Newcastle University, three year KTP project investigating wind effects on rainfall measurements.
- SPICE (WMO) intercomparison – FMI (Arctic Circle visit Dec 2013), cover photo.
- Space Weather article.
- Met Office news.
- Aston University news on urban met measurements.
- A link to IS's AWS for Mars article in 'Weather'.

Deadline for the spring Newsletter articles is 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Action:** SC to write introduction to SPICE, the solid precipitation intercomparison.

**Action:** MD to ask Mike at EML to write an introduction to the KTP project.

**Action:** SBI to email those in the Met Office who may have news for the Newsletter.

**Action:** AH to contact Aston University for any articles to be included.

**Action:** SBI to email MD upcoming meetings for Newsletter.

**Action:** MB to look into an article about the new operating system for the Campbell Scientific ceilometer.

### Item 7. Past meetings

There was an RMetS national meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013 on 'Space weather –the importance of observations' at Imperial College London. This was jointly organised by SBi & the Royal Astronomical Society. 86 people attended & positive feedback was received from the speakers & audience. A special edition of 'Weather' on space weather will be published around September 2014 which follows on from this meeting.

### Item 8: Future Meetings

- *Weather on other planets: measurements & interpretation.* IS, SBi, AH. This meeting has been postponed after low numbers registered for the initial date in November 2013. It was noted that the British Interplanetary Society hadn't yet refunded the registration fee due to it being *postponed* rather than *cancelled*. IS has contacted the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) & the British Astronomical Association (BAA) to ask if they would like to help organise/publicise the event. RAS have offered to hold the meeting (free venue) as one of their specialist discussion meetings in London on the third Friday of a month. BAA are happy to publicise to their members. The committee agreed that IS should ask RAS if we could hold the meeting as a discussion meeting in autumn 2015.

**Action:** IS to continue discussions with RAS to hold meeting in autumn 2015 & to send RAS the list of speakers.

**Action:** SBi/AH to publicise (Astrium, ESA, amateur astronomy groups in London, etc) the event after IS has confirmed details with RAS.

- *Weather measurements for renewable energy sources, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Whitelee Wind Farm, near Glasgow.* MB, SB & KN. MB reported that he had been jointly organising this meeting with the Scottish Centre. Five speakers were confirmed (3 from companies, 1 amateur meteorologist, 1 Met Office) & the Whitelee Wind Farm meeting room, which had a limit of 30 people, had been booked. There's a cafe next to the meeting room for lunch.

**Action:** KN to ask a colleague at Reading University if they would like to speak about wind data.

**Action:** MD to ask a contact at Durham University to speak on geothermal measurements.

**Action:** MD to ask Mark Wilkinson if he knows of someone who would like to speak on hydroelectric.

**Action:** MB to forward MD email of invitation which has been sent to other speakers.

**Action:** MB to maybe ask someone to give a general introduction to renewables.

- *Summer visit, third Friday in July would be ideal.* A summer visit was discussed. Rothamstead has occasional public seminars although the one already organised for this summer wasn't directly related to surface met measurements & so it was decided to keep this location in mind for a summer visit in the future. CEH Wallingford was suggested as an appropriate excursion as the SIG had not visited for a number of years & there was a new met site. IS offered to contact

CEH to arrange a SIG visit & tour. It was suggested that the AGM should be held on the same day.

**Action:** IS to contact CEH for a SIG summer visit & talk/tour, preferably on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in July.

- *Future measurements for climate monitoring, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, RMetS national meeting at Imperial College London. IS, SC. The US Climate Reference Network speaker has been confirmed & will speak over the internet. A list of possible subjects & speakers was discussed: (1) general overview (IS), (2) The US Climate Reference Network (Tom Karl, NOAA), (3) Ocean buoys & Argo floats (Southampton, possibly as two separate talks), (4) Radiosondes (KN or other from Reading University), (5) Satellite measurements (Met Office), (6) The Global Climate Observing System (Tim Oakley or SC).*

**Action:** IS to send MD email of the meeting's details so that MD can forward to contact at Southampton.

**Action:** SBi to invite Roger Saunders, Met Office, to speak.

**Action:** KN to invite her colleague to speak on radiosondes otherwise for KN to speak herself.

- *Summer visit 2015. SB suggested the SIG could help to organise/attend the planned History Group's one day meeting in May 2015. This is to be held in Oxford & is broadly on the history of scientific instruments in atmospheric science. At least one session will cover the bicentenary of the Observatory's records. It may be held in or close to Green-Templeton College where the current met observing site is located. There's a possibility for evening dinner too. It may also be a planned excursion for the SE Centre. A Friday in May is currently the preferred date, TBC. The committee discussed this possibility & agreed that this would certainly be worth while pursuing.*

**Action:** SB to pursue further.

- *Advances in precipitation detection & measurement, 2016. To include results from SPICE (Solid Precipitation Intercomparison Experiment). SB, MB, MD.*
- *UAV measurements.*
- *Lightning detection. As a follow up to the meeting held in 2002.*
- *Air pollution monitoring.*
- *Rothamstead for a summer visit/AGM.*

#### **Summary of meetings:**

- [TBC: Summer visit & AGM, CEH Wallingford, July 2014]

- Weather measurements for renewable energy sources, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014, Whitelee Windfarm Visitor Centre, near Glasgow. Organised jointly with Scottish Centre.
- [TBC: Committee meeting, 12:30 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014]
- Future measurements for climate monitoring, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, RMetS national meeting, Imperial College London.
- [TBC: Summer visit, May 2015, Oxford, to be organised with History Group.]
- Weather on Other Planets: measurements & interpretation, Autumn 2015.

#### **Item 9. Any other business**

The committee thanked SBi for all of her efforts as secretary.

#### **Item 10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will be held at RMS HQ, Reading at 12:30 on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 (TBC).

**Action:** SBi to book a room through RMS HQ.

The meeting closed at 16:15.

Suzy Bingham, Secretary  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2014