



Registered Charity Number 1179467

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

**14:00 – 15:13: Online via Zoom**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence: Hywel Griffiths

37 Attendees

#### **EXTERNAL REPORTS**

2. Minutes of the last meeting (9 September 2020 online via Zoom) (Appendix 1).

- a. Nominated by Stephen Tooth, seconded by Anne Mather

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

3. Appointments (no election necessary this year)

Standing for Junior Vice Chair, 2021-22:

**Dr Louise Callard.**

Nominated Prof. Andy Russell (Newcastle), seconded Dr Bethan Davies (Royal Holloway)

Standing for Treasurer:

**Dr Matt Westoby** (Northumbria)

Nominated Dr Richard Williams (Glasgow); seconded Dr. Mikael Attal (Edinburgh)

Standing for Secretary, Publications Committee

**Dr Lizzie Dingle** (Durham)

Nominated Dr Richard Williams (Glasgow); seconded Dr. Ed Baynes (Loughborough)

Standing for Vice Chair, ResearchSub-committee

**Dr Lucy Clarke**

Nominated Prof. Sue Dawson (Dundee); seconded Prof Tom Coulthard (Hull)

Standing for Vice Chair, Outreach Sub-committee

**Dr Hywel Griffiths**

Nominated Prof. Stephen Tooth (Aberystwyth); seconded Dr Marie Busfield (Aberystwyth)

AGM approved all new members of the Executive Committee.

## 2020-21 MATTERS ARISING

### 4. Chair's Business (Appendix 2)

Chair outlined the progress against our statement of strategy. Key elements of the strategy are:

- a. Promotion of geomorphological research through supporting the community
- b. Promotion of education activities and the wider public understanding of the science
- c. Promotion of professional geomorphology
- d. Strengthening the Society's financial base
- e. Provision of communications in appropriate formats

Noted that the year has been an extremely unusual year; there has been a shift from a mixture of physical and virtual meetings to entirely virtual meetings. Annual meeting and AGM has been virtual. Sub-committee meetings have been virtual. Little demand for grants for conference attendance and fieldwork.

Risk register: Despite the pandemic, many risk register elements remain unproblematic. Areas of financial risk have decreased: income stream from publishing royalties is secure; reduced expenditure from expenses/grants.

Financial overview: Surplus of £65k accrued during financial year to date, above planned reserves of £89k. Executive committee has had discussion about the Society's drawdown strategy.

Membership: Cost has been reduced by 25%. Membership numbers have declined with absence of in-person events and lower numbers of grant applications.

Postgraduate Forum: The Forum have made a substantial and excellent contribution to the BSG Annual Meeting, and have been very active across a range of other priorities.

Professional Geomorphology sub-committee: Focus has been on (i) mentorship scheme; (ii) spring CPD event; (iii) broadening the network.

Research sub-committee: During 2020/1 only 7 grants were submitted with a value of £13.5k compared to £33k in 2019/20. There are three new grants schemes (i) carers; (ii) OSL dating; (iii) special calls. Please nominate for BSG awards.

Outreach and education sub-committee: Four projects under the Digital Resources Grant round were funded. Nominations welcomed for 2021 Majorie Sweeting Award.

Communications and Publications sub-committee: ESPL is performing well (e.g. IF 4.133, decision time <40 days; Advisory Board will be more diverse from 2022); social media is performing well. BSG photo competition 2021 is running. Good engagement with second BSG league of landforms.

Other developments coordinated by EC:

- Website development has progressed; there will be changes in 2022.
- Liaison with affiliated organisations.
- Equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives.
- Planned changes to annual meeting (ESPL/Wiley symposium; increased remote participation; archive content for wider use).

BSG and the Climate Emergency: Draft BSG position, policy and advice on Climate Emergency was presented. This is currently being considered by the Executive Committee; it will then be shared with members and action will begin. The Society is seeking to assemble a diverse group to steer the BSG's response to the Climate Emergency; please contact Richard Jeffries if you are interested.

Outgoing committee members were thanked for their contributions to the Society.

Question 1: Stephen Tooth raised a question about face-to-face / online / hybrid conference format in the future. Discussions are ongoing about future meeting formats. The 2022 in-person meeting will attract a £20k subsidy.

Question 2: Matt Wesoby asked a question about Carbon offsetting. Richard Jeffries emphasised that priority of strategy was likely to be Carbon reduction and the variety of methods that could capture Carbon in the future for offsetting. The Carbon working group and advisory panel will propose approaches to the Executive Committee.

Question 3: Noted that there is interest in the Society seeking new contributions to Geomorphological Techniques.

#### 5. President's Report (Appendix 4)

Noted thanks to all who have contributed over the past year or so, particularly during COVID-19 period

The BSG Fellowship Scheme has proposed 0-3 fellows per year since the scheme began. Any current Fellow of the Society can nominate a member of the BSG to become a Fellow. Current membership = 48 (>10% of BSG membership; 41 male and 7 female; 30 Fellows are retired). The Society is keen to increase the diversity of the Fellowship and a meeting will be held in October to discuss strategy. New BSG fellows are: (i) Ann Wintle, Aberystwyth; (ii) Derek Jackson, Ulster; (iii) Tom Spencer, Cambridge; (iv) John Wainwright, Durham.

Noted thanks to Postgraduate Forum for their contribution to their contribution to the annual meeting. Gather Town was implemented professionally. The Society and geomorphology are in safe hands with postgraduate who will progress in academia and the profession.

Noted the success of the BSG Awards. Please nominate as many people as possible.

Tom Coulthard is thanked for his contribution to the Windsor workshop; he will stand down as Chair of the workshop in 2022.

## REPORTS

6. NOTED: Report of the Finance Sub-Committee (Appendix 3)
7. NOTED: Report of the Publications Sub-Committee (Appendix 4)
8. NOTED: Report of the Research Sub-Committee (Appendix 5)
9. NOTED: Report of the Outreach Sub-Committee (Appendix 6)
10. NOTED: Report of the Postgraduate Forum (Appendix 7)
11. NOTED: Report of the Professional Sub-Committee (Appendix 8)
12. NOTED: Membership Report (Appendix 9)

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

### 13. BSG Future Meetings Programme

- BSG annual conference:
  - September 2022, Northumbria University
  - September 2023, University of Edinburgh

14. Outgoing committee members (ending after 15 Sept 2021 AGM); their contributions are acknowledged and they are thanked: Prof. Anne Mather (EC, Chair), Dr Mikael Attal (EC, Honorary Treasurer), Dr Marco Van De Wiel (Vice Chair, Research Sub-Committee), Dr Tom Holt (Secretary, Publications Sub-Committee), Dr Chris Skinner (Vice Chair, Outreach Committee).

15. Any other business

16. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed, Northumbria University